

Historical Perspective – The Story of His Glory

- I. Introduction: History is the "Story of His Glory"
- II. Key Articles: ***The Kingdom Strikes Back*** and ***Four Men, Three Eras, Two Transitions*** by Dr. Ralph Winter
- III. Power Point Presentation – The History of World Evangelization
 1. **The Kingdom Strikes Back! 10 Epochs of Redemptive History in two halves.**
 2. **The first half was covered in the Biblical Perspective through New Testament times. We continue now from the first century A.D. until the present.**
 3. **Winning the Romans, AD 0-400**
 - a. Paul, the Apostles, the Early Church Fathers and the Underground Church.
 - b. Constantine
 4. **Winning the Barbarians, AD 400-800**
 - a. Boniface
 - b. Saint Patrick
 5. **Winning the Vikings, AD 800-1200**
 - a. Vikings delighted in killing people in the churches, burning churches, selling monks into slavery.
 - b. Anskar (801-854) was the "Apostle of the North". Sadly, there were no visible, lasting results from his ministry.
 - c. Though England and the Continent were devastated by the Vikings, it was not a victory for paganism.
 - d. As the Vikings conquered the Romans their new Christian wives and the enslaved priests witnesses to them and won them over Christ.
 - e. Christianity spreads back to Scandinavia.
 6. **Winning the Saracens? AD 1200-1600**
 - a. The stain of the Crusades
 - b. St. Francis of Assisi and the Sultan of Egypt
 - c. Raymond Lull's martyrdom in North Africa
 7. **To the Ends of the Earth, AD 1600-2000**
 - a. 1792-1914: The Great Century (in historian LaTourette's words)

- i. Opened: William Carey forms Baptist Missionary Society
- ii. Ended: World War I
- iii. *“Imperfect as they were, those nineteenth-century missionaries turned what some thought to be a declining Caucasian religion into the largest and most dynamic religious faith in the world”* Ruth Tucker

8. Four Men, Three Eras, Two Transitions

- a. To the coast lands (1792-1910)
 - i. William Carey
 - ii. “Haystack” prayer meeting
 - iii. European dominance
- b. To the inland areas (1865-1980)
 - i. Hudson Taylor
 - ii. “Faith” mission agencies
 - iii. American dominance
- c. Unreached groups (1934- ?)
 - i. William Cameron Townsend
 - ii. Donald McGavran

9. William Carey – Father of Modern Missions

10. Hudson Taylor – Takes Mission work to new frontiers with the China Inland Mission

11. Unreached Peoples

- a. *“How come God doesn’t speak my language?”*
- b. *“God wants His lost children found!”*

**12. World Missionary Conference
Edinburgh 1910**

- a. Missionaries begin to explore the question: What will it take to finish the job in *the unoccupied fields?*

**13. 1945-1969:
The Twenty-Five Unbelievable years
(Ralph Winter’s phrase)**

- a. Returning veterans bring global consciousness
- b. Nationalism explodes
- c. Collapse of Western control (from 99% to less than 5%)

- d. Upsurge of Christianity in non-western world

14. The 21st Century? Some Major Issues for Mission Work

- a. AIDS / HIV
- b. Growing Poverty
- c. Urbanization
- d. Internet and Technology
- e. Tentmaker Witnesses
- f. “Closed” Countries
- g. Persecution
- h. Multicultural Teams
- i. Keeping the Plight of the UPG’s before the Church
- j. Colonialistic vestiges
 - i. “Missionaries can go anywhere”
 - ii. “Missionaries can do anything”
 - iii. “We are here to build things for God”
 - iv. Using stewardship as excuse for a controlling posture”

15. The Great Imbalance Chart

16. Map: The Nation of Nigeria

17. Map: Nigeria’s Nations

18. The 21st Century? Advances to Praise God For.

- a. Evangelicals are growing at nearly 5% per year and Muslims less than half that!
- b. Over 30% of Africa is Christian now!
- c. Over half the world’s mission force now comes from Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Pacific.
- d. Technology is making our job easier.
- e. There are so many churches now to share the challenge of reaching the remaining UPG’s

19. One for Nine!!! (There are only nine unbelievers per believer in the world today)

**20. Percent Unevangelized Per Country:
Nigeria only has 10% - 30 % to go but most of these are UPG’s**

21. Some Great News from Around the World Chart

22. “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.” (Matthew 24:14)

IV. Other Key Concepts:

A. Stages of Missionary Work:

1. Pioneer Stage - initial contact.
2. Parent Stage - expatriates train national leadership
3. Partner Stage - participating as equals
4. Participant Stage - missionary works by invitation

B. E-1, E-2 and E-3 evangelism:

1. E-1 evangelism takes place within the same culture and is the easiest and most effective kind. As compared to Acts 1:8 this would be like ministry in Jerusalem and Judea.
2. E-2 evangelism is moderately difficult and takes place in a different culture. Culture and language become barriers to the effort and require the adaptation of the evangelist/missionary to local realities. This is a clear threshold for the new converts needing their own congregation. As compared to Acts 1:8 this would be like ministry to Samaria.
3. E-3 evangelism is significantly difficult and takes place in a very different culture. Because the cultural and linguistic barriers are so great the adaptation is usually very lengthy for the evangelist/missionary. As compared to Acts 1:8 this would be like ministry to the “ends of the earth”.
4. Note: E-3 is clearly the greatest priority strategically as this is what is needed to bridge from existing ministries into the remaining unreached people groups in the hidden and extreme cultural/linguistic/geographic/political pockets of the world.

C. People Movement:

1. A people movement is an evangelistic chain reaction within a people (clan, tribe or caste – where folks are bound primarily by blood, intermarriage, and race) that results in the true Christianization (reborn in the spirit – Jn. 3) of a significant portion of their population.
2. Outside the individualist West these peoples are usually very interdependent, and any significant decision is made by group consensus after careful consideration.
3. To evangelize individuals and attempt to pool them artificially in to congregations is not only difficult, it disillusiones the group against the missionary and labels the convert as a traitor.
4. It is much better to evangelize in these regions as Peter did with Cornelius’ family and Paul did with the family of the Philippian jailer – they shared the gospel to them all together and let them respond as they normally would in a consensus. This way the whole group can be won and “the group mind is brought into a life-giving relationship to Jesus as Lord.” This has the added benefit of making Christianity appear more indigenous and less foreign.

D. Women's Key Roles in Mission:

It is undeniable that women have played a central role in God’s mission efforts throughout history. Hudson Taylor wrote in 1888 that “we are manning our stations with ladies.” The following are some of the ways that such women have been used so strategically.

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1. Women have stepped up when men couldn't or wouldn't like after the civil war and the World Wars earlier this century. Deborah is the quintessential Biblical example of this in the Old Testament.
2. Women have had special "ins" to ministry like Amy Carmichael getting in to the women's section of Hindu temples or sharing the Gospel within harems in Muslim controlled areas.
3. Women are naturally relation oriented and not doctrinally oriented. This allows them to get along well with a great variety of people.
4. Women often demonstrate perseverance when some men get discouraged for lack of results.
5. Women are compassionate and committed to healing. Their efforts in medical ministry are incalculable and they seldom seek recognition.
6. Women are the first choice for ministering to other women (Titus 2:3-5) and naturally relate well to children.
7. Women are considered non-threatening and can get away with ministry men cannot sometimes like teaching Imams about the scriptures by simply pointing them to Bible texts rather than arguing theology.
8. Their equal intelligence and often superior verbal abilities makes them excellent candidates for Bible translation.

E. Inverted Homesickness:

1. Samuel Zwemer (Famous missionary to Muslims) coined a most descriptive term to describe an emotional condition of pioneer missionaries. He said they had a "passion to call that country their home which was most in need of the Gospel" and that "before this passion all others died." It is a constraining, persistent, yearning to preach the Gospel where "Christ is not yet named" and where no man has yet laid a gospel foundation (Romans 15:20).
2. I completely understand what Zwemer was referring to and would, in my own words say "inverted homesickness" is longing to be "home" in one's country of ministry even while visiting one's birth or base country.

V. Key Bible Text:

- A. Revelation chapters 2 and 3. Jesus' Seven Messages to the Seven Churches of Asia Minor also outline all of Church History Prophetically.

Notes:

VI. Key Questions:

- A. How was prayer a crucial element in each wave of revival?
- B. What will the historians write about our generation?
- C. Do you think it is right that some should hear the gospel hundreds of times in their lives and others not once?
- D. What can we do about these imbalances?