Sunday March 28, 2010
The Seven Mountains Assignment : Part 1

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Introduction to the Seven Mountains Assignment

In 1975, Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade, and Loren Cunningham, founder of Youth With a Mission, had lunch together in Colorado. God simultaneously gave each of these change agents a message to give to the other. During that same time frame Dr. Francis A. Schaeffer was given a similar message. That message was that if we are to impact any nation for Jesus Christ, then we would have to affect the seven spheres, or mountains of society that are the pillars of any society.

These seven mountains are:

1. FAMILY : the institution set up by God
2. RELIGION : include the church, the people of God
3. EDUCATION : school, colleges, universities, academic and professional training or education.
4. MEDIA : all forms of public communication, print and electronic, newspaper, TV, internet
5. ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT (CELEBRATION) : arts, entertainment, and sports, all forms of celebration within a culture.
6. BUSINESS (ECONOMY) : begins with innovations in science and technology, and includes activities such as production, sales, and service.
7. GOVERNMENT : all of the three branches: judicial (system of justice), legislative (establishing law), and executive (operation of government systems).

There are literally thousands upon thousands of sub-groups in all of the seven broad spheres mentioned above.

In essence, God was telling these three change agents where the battlefield was. It was here where culture would be won or lost. Their assignment was to raise up change agents to scale the mountains and to help a new generation of change agents understand the larger story.

Lets talk about **The Challenge, The Process, The Preparation, The Positioning**, that is involved in affecting the seven spheres or mountains of influence.

ONE : THE CHALLENGE

We are to preach the gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15) and to disciple entire nations

Matthew 28:18-20
18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
19 Go therefore and <u>make disciples of all the nations</u>, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

TWO : THE PROCESS

Loren Cunningham described it as follows:
"*Salvation comes before discipleship, however, preparation comes in the soil before the seed is planted. You see, the soil is really the world-view. And if the soil is hard, and unprepared, or has weeds, or birds come and take the seed, that soil doesn't produce anything. But Jesus said one out of four soils is good. And that's the prepared soil. So how do we prepare soil? It's tilled. It's also watered. It's also nurtured. And then, you drop the good seed into the good soil. And that good soil will produce out of that seed a 30-60-hundred fold reproduction."*

We prepare the soil of people hearts by transforming culture, that is, affecting the world-view and belief systems that prevail over the hearts and minds of people.

How do we transform culture?

1, Model Biblical Principles

Matthew 28
20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you;

We bring the principles of the Bible – all that Jesus has taught us - into our culture by being the yeast

Matthew 13:33
33 Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."

Bring in Biblical principles of Integrity, Excellence, Kindness, Justice – treating people fairly, Faith, etc.

Model it, teach it, coach people in to it.

2, We let our light shine by our good works

Matthew 5:13-16
13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.
14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.
15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.
16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Loren Cunningham said that we must "*use the wealth of the world to bless the world, and bless it not just those in blessing the needy, but bless it to multiply it."*

3, Engaging in spiritual transformation

2 Corinthians 10:3-5
3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.
4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,
5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

Culture is shaped in large measure by spiritual influences that surround it. The casting down of wrong mindsets, ideologies, etc. that blind the minds of people, keeping them from experiencing the light of the Gospel (2 Corinthians 4:3,4) involves using the spiritual weapons of our warfare which include kingdom authority, prayer, demonstration of the supernatural power of God, etc.

THREE : THE PREPARATION

The Church has to be prepared, readied and equipped to get busy with the process of discipleship through transformation of the seven spheres of influence.

Every individual believer in the Church has to be prepared.

How can you as an individual prepare yourself?

1. Internal
   Guard Desires
   - Guard against lusts for money, power, influence, appetites
   - Keep desires pure and directed towards glorifying God, pleasing God and kingdom advancement

   Guard Motivations
   - Guard motivations – the "why" – to decisions, choices, dreams, purposes and plans
   - In business maintain godly motivations which will include glorifying God, adding value to customers, bringing blessing in to employees lives, societal transformation.

   Guard Character
   - Character (nature) determines decisions. Therefore must consistently guard character and conform to God's standards of Integrity, Honesty, Purity, Excellence, Compassion and Justice.

2. Spiritual
   - Modeling of Biblical principles
   - Tapping in to spiritual resources – the anointing of the Spirit of God and faith that births creativity, demonstrates wisdom, the prophetic, the supernatural in signs and miracles, etc.

3. Natural
   - Skills & Capabilities
   - Excellence

FOUR : THE POSITIONING

We must be positioned to influence.
Jesus said "Occupy till I come" Luke 19:13

God can position you in one or more ways:
(a) Transformer (A Leader) (Joseph, Daniel)
(b) Influencer (Esther, Naaman's maid)
(c) Accessor (Nehemiah)
(d) Cross-pollinator (Moses, Paul a preacher to those in authority)
(e) Trend-setter
(f) Catalyst (at any level)

CLOSING CHALLENGE

The spirit of Caleb

Joshua 14:12
Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the LORD spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the LORD said."

Coming Up: We will discuss specifics on how to influence each of the seven mountains.
For each mountain, we intend to address:

1, God's Promises relevant to the mountain
2, Challenges on the mountain
3, Demonic powers on the mountain
4, Testimonies of Christians on the mountain
5, Biblical Principles relevant to the mountain
6, Spiritual Gifts and Anointings relevant to the mountain
7, Strategies for influencing the mountain
At different levels (a)at the top (b)at the mid level (c)at the grass roots
8, Prayer and Intercession for the mountain

Salvation Call