

Sunday April 22, 2012 Missions Mandate (Part 2) History of Modern Day Missions

Mark 16:15 "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."

Story of William Carey:

"Expect great things; attempt great things."

Story of Hudson Taylor:

The Man Who Believed God. After 30 years of faithful ministry in China, Taylor humbly said of himself, "God chose me because I was weak enough. Taylor's life was without doubt one of extraordinary trust and dependence on God.

By the time of Taylor's death in 1905, the CIM was an international body with 825 missionaries living in all eighteen provinces of China, more than 300 stations of work, more than 500 local Chinese helpers, and 25,000 Christian converts.

Story of Jackie Pullinger:

At 22, Jackie Pullinger wanted to become a missionary, but no society would take her on. So she went on her own to Hong Kong and began a pioneering work among drug addicts and Triad gang members that continues today.

- It seems insane. Giving up everything you have to go to one of the most dangerous places in the world to show Jesus' love to criminals, prostitutes and drug addicts. You might at a pinch go for six months or a couple of years. But how about going for the rest of your life?
- This is what Jackie Pullinger did.
- Despite the power of heroin and opium addiction, the boys weren't only kicking their habit, they were leaving it behind completely. They put this down to their commitment to Jesus. Many addicts who prayed for Jesus' help found themselves freed of their addiction without going through any kind of withdrawal.

Story of George Muller:

 Among the greatest monuments of what can be accomplished through simple faith in God are the great orphanages covering thirteen acres of ground on Ashley Downs, Bristol, England. When God put it into the heart of George Muller to build these orphanages, he had only two shillings (50 cents) in his pocket. Without making his wants known to any man, but to God alone, over a million, four hundred thousand pounds (\$7,000,000) were sent to him for the building and maintaining of these



orphan homes. In all the years since the first orphans arrived the Lord had sent food in due time, so that they had never missed a meal for want of food.

• Fed the orphans day by day for sixty years. In all that time the children did not have to go without a meal, and Mr. Muller said that if they ever had to go without a meal he would take it as evidence that the Lord did not will the work to continue. Sometimes the meal time was almost at hand and they did not know where the food would come from, but the Lord always sent it in due time, during the twenty thousand or more days that Mr. Muller had charge of the homes.

Story of Ida Scudder:

- Ida Scudder wanted to leave hot, overcrowded India for the good life. If asked to
 define the good life, she would have replied, "America and marriage to a millionaire."
 Her memories of India were ugly. As a small girl she had broken bread during famine
 and put it in the mouths of children too weak to feed themselves. She had seen tiny
 corpses lying beside the road. No, India was not the place for her.
- After much thought and prayer, I went to my father and mother and told them that I must go home and study medicine, and come back to India to help such women."

Fortunately for Ida, women such as Elizabeth Blackwell had forced a passage into medical school. Ida would be able to study at top notch schools. Her decision to become a medical missionary would not seem implausible to a public already aware of the work of Clara Swain, India's first female medical missionary.

• When Ida returned to India, it was as a well-trained doctor. She also had in hand a substantial sum of money to build a women's hospital at Vellore.

Story of David Livingstone:

- Born in Blantyre, Scotland in 1813, He would sit on his father's knee and hear stories
 of medical missionaries and David Livingstones heart would start pounding with a
 sense of call. He got on his knees one day and said this, "Send me anywhere, only
 go with me. Lay any burden on me, only sustain me. Sever any ties, but the ties that
 bind me to your service and to your heart." And he said, through it all the words of
 God came to me, "Lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
- Livingstone i want to tell you two things: "1. I'm the biggest swaggering Atheist on the earth, don't try to convert me. 2. Here are some medicines for you somebody sent." 4 months later, the biggest swaggering Atheist became a Christian. He wrote the two volume biography, "The Livingstone of Africa." They would take him from place to place on a stretcher. One day they took him home. He asked them to help him to his knees. They he was left to pray, hours later when they came to check on him, he had died. He died just the way he lived, in the presence of the Lord.



• The Message, The Mission, The Messenger:

- The Gospel of Jesus Christ is a sure message. (I Cor 15:3,4)
- The Gospel of Jesus Christ is a simple message.
- It is also a powerful message, anybody can share.
- Rom. 1:16 Paul says, "I'm not ashamed of the gospel. It is the power of God unto salvation."
- No other message has this kind of power. It can save a life from eternal damnation, it can change a person forever.

We ought to be the gospel. It is scriptural.

Titus 2:9 - Urge bondslaves to be subject to their own master in everything, to be well pleasing, not argumentative.

I Peter 1:14, 15 - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behaviour.

- I Peter 2:13-15 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.
- I Peter 3:1 In the same way you wives be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behaviour of their wives.
- I Peter 3:7 You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.
- Ephesians 4:28 Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need.
- Ephesians 5:8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord;
 walk as children of light.
- Philippians 2:14, 15 Do all things without grumbling or disputing; that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in



the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world.

- What is the gospel truth?
- The death, the burial, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- If you just talk to someone, generically about God, they will never be saved.
- If you just do good works before them, they will never be saved.
- All those things are a testimony to the impact that the gospel, has had in my life.
- But at some point i got to share the message about Jesus.
- His is the only name by which people all over the world could be saved. (Acts 4:12)
- You are a missionary. We all are missionaries.
- We are called to be a missionary.
- There is a individual call on each of our lives.
- Missionary ministry doesn't start on the other side of the planet.
- It starts across the street.
- It starts on the other side of your desk.
- We don't go somewhere to be missionaries. We are missionaries.
- The great commission: Mk 16:15
- That is only fulfilled when we walk out the path God has for us personally.
- God will call some of us in a particular way.
- Some are called to be Evangelists.
- We all are called to Evangelize.
- Some are given the gift to be Evangelists.
- Don't say i can't share the gospel of Jesus Christ, because i don't have the gift of evangelism.
- So there's the message, there's the mission. Finally there is the messenger.
- I find it fascinating that Paul did not plant the church in Collossae. Paul never met the believers face to face.



- He met Epaphras and Onesimus.
- Col 1:7 "you learned it (gospel) from Epaphras.
- We know from Col 4:12 Epaphras lived in Collossae.
- Epaphras is never referred to as an Evangelist or Apostle.
- We have very little info on Epaphras. But from Acts 19, we know that Epaphras met Paul in Ephesus. He hears the gospel, becomes a believer and goes back to his own home town and begins to share the gospel.
- People started getting saved.
- Same thing will happen when you start to share.

Let me finally tell you what will cause us to be successful missionaries:

- 1. Make a right response to God's call (Mk 16:15); Isa 6:1 and 6
- 2. Walk by faith. When God leads us as individual missionaries, its going to be tough sometimes. There can be persecution. Sometimes it could be some kind of infirmity. Paul had a thorn in the flesh! Gal 4:13 but you know that it was because of bodily illness that i preached the gospel to you the first time.
- 3. You have to be faithful Archippus is one of those individuals that Paul singles out Col 4:17 – And say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfil it."





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