

Pioneers of the World Christian Movement

I. Three Pioneers of the Modern Expansion

First Era: 1792 – 1910

- The Emphasis: The coastlands
- The Pioneer: _____

- The New Organization: The Baptist Missionary Society
 - ◆ **One strategy for change:** The specialized organization (*sodality* structure) used for missions work.

Second Era: 1865 – 1980

- The Emphasis: The interior of continents
- The Pioneer: _____

- The New Organization: The China Inland Mission
 - ◆ **One strategy for change:** _____

Third Era: 1934 - Present

- The Emphasis: People-group focus (no longer geography)
- The Pioneer: Cameron Townsend

- The New Organization: Wycliffe Bible Translators

◆ **One strategy for change:** Use of multiple professional disciplines.

II. Women in Missions

- The days of Christ (Mk. 15:40-41; Lk. 23:49)
- Apostolic age: Junias - Rom. 16:7; Priscilla - Acts 18:18, 26; Euodia & Syntyche - Phil. 4:2-3
- Since then...Clare of Assisi (13th C.); Rebecca Protten (18th C.); Annie Armstrong, Amy Carmichael, and Mary Slessor (19th C.); Elisabeth Elliot (20th C.) and many, many more.
- For most of Protestant missions history as much as 2/3^{rds} of the workforce has been female.

III. Another Pioneer: Count Zinzendorf **(18th Century Protestant Missions Beginnings)**

Zinzendorf's Early Life and the Beginnings of the Village of Herrnhut

Home Environment:

- Born in 1700 to noble family.
- Promptings to be a missionary at age 8 or 9.

School Days:

- At age 10 went to the Pietist school at Halle, Germany.

- At 16 attended the University of Wittenberg to study law.

- At 19 went on the *Wanderjahr* educational experience.
 - ◆ He viewed Domenico Fetti’s masterpiece “Behold the Man” (*Ecce Homo*)
 - “All this I did for you; what will you do for me?”

Early Career:

- At 21 begins career in state service in Dresden, Saxony. He is working for a worldly king (Augustus the Strong). Not what Zinzendorf wants for his life.

- At this age he receives his inheritance and purchases an estate from his grandmother, not far from where he grew up. At the age of 22 he marries.

The Beginnings of Herrnhut:

- 1722: Zinzendorf meets Christian David, a Moravian carpenter. Zinzendorf learns about nearby persecuted Protestants and offers to provide a place of refuge.

- The refuge-community of *Herrnhut* is begun on the Count’s new estate (1722).

- Soon, discord among the 300 refugees from diverse religious backgrounds.

- Zinzendorf moves to his estate in April 1727. He begins to pastor the community.

IV. Moravian Missions

A Moravian “Pentecost”:

- The event of August 13, 1727

Catalyst for Mission Work:

- 1731: Zinzendorf’s contact with a former slave from the West Indies (St. Thomas).

First Missionaries:

- August 18, 1732: Two missionaries sent to the slaves of St. Thomas in the West Indies.
- Dedication and perseverance in the midst of life-threatening work.

First Twenty Years:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| • West Indies (1732) | • Algiers (1740) |
| • Greenland (1733) | • Sri Lanka (1740) |
| • North America (1734) | • China (1742) |
| • Surinam (1735) | • Persia (1747) |
| • South Africa (1736) | • Abyssynia (1752) |
| • The Artic (1737) | • Labrador (1752) |

In 200 Years:

- Nearly 3,000 missionaries.
- In early years, 1 out of every _____ church members sent into full-time ministry work.

VII. The Moravian Passion

- Imagery of the painting by Valentine Haidt: *The First Fruits* (1747)

- Motivation: A love offering (first-fruits offering) of souls for the Lamb.

VIII. Application

1. Read a book (see below).
2. Connect your life to this same story!

Further Reading

General:

- ◆ *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya: A Biographical History of Christian Missions*, and *Guardians of the Great Commission: The Story of Women in Modern Missions*, both by Ruth A. Tucker
- ◆ *Church History in Plain Language*, Bruce Shelley

Zinzendorf and the Moravians:

- ◆ *Count Zinzendorf*, John R. Weinlick
- ◆ www.Zinzendorf.com
- ◆ *Religion and Profit: Moravians in Early America*, Katherine Carté Engel
- ◆ *Rebecca's Revival: Creating Black Christianity in the Atlantic World*, Jon Sensbach

The Three Pioneers:

- ◆ *The Legacy of William Carey: A Model for the Transformation of a Culture*, Vishal and Ruth Mangalwad
- ◆ *Hudson Taylor: A Man In Christ*, Roger Steer
- ◆ *Uncle Cam: The Story of William Cameron Townsend*, James C. and Marti Hefley