

Grateful

Grateful in Global Worship

“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.”

– Psalm 100:1

What comes to mind when you consider the word grateful? For me it is thankfulness, contentment, and joy. It is being centered in God and having an abundance of joy flow from that leading to an outpouring of love and praise. From this you seek to make God’s glory known. But what does a world full of gratitude leading to God’s glory being fully known look like?

I took the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course this year. It’s a course I would recommend anyone who considers themselves a follower of Christ to take. In this course, we explored God’s mission on earth and the mandate that Jesus left us. All of it ties in nicely to this first verse of Psalm 100.

What is God’s mission? God is making Himself known, transforming us into people who can truly love God and worship Him out of this love. In other words, we become so grateful for all He has done and continues to do, our love for Him flows into praise, a form of worship. Ultimately, God desires all *ethnos* (people groups) to be transformed, becoming people who worship Him and offer their love freely. By making His glory known to them, He receives glory through their worship.

But what is worship? In Psalm 100 it is a joyful noise. In the original context this could have been a glad shout as when subjects gave a fanfare to their king. Spurgeon says, “Our happy God should be worshipped by happy people; a cheerful spirit is in keeping with His nature, His acts, and the gratitude which we should cherish for His mercies.” In the Perspectives course, Stephen Hawthorne in his article *The Story of His Glory* said worship is this:

“Worship takes place when people recognize who God is and offer public acknowledgment and freely approach God, personally offering face-to-face gratitude and day-to-day allegiance. Worship is genuine relational interaction with God. That’s why God always welcomes worship with a gift. He never needs the worship gifts. But the gift brings the giver. That is why the nations are urged to come bringing a gift, offering God tokens of their finest worth (Psalm 96:8 and many others). By their sacrifices and gifts, they offer themselves.”

But God doesn’t just want worship from one people group, He wants the whole world to worship him, all the *ethnos*. This is where we come in. God invites us into His mission by leaving us the mandate Jesus gave his disciples, you might know it as the Great Commission, (**Read Matt. 28:18-20**).

By bringing God’s glory to all the nations, we can worship him together, bringing Him even more glory. **What does it look like to worship with those of other cultures?** In my first year of undergrad, I ended up traveling in the Balkans, experiencing what we had studied for our East

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Meets West course on campus. We even worshipped alongside Croatian believers. Velik Si is one of the songs our professor made us write down and its lyrics stick with me to this day.

Dajemo ti slavu, čast i hvalu,
Tebi podižemo ruke, Tvoje ime slavimo.

(x2)

Jer velik si, činiš djela velika,
Nitko nije kao ti Isuse,
Nitko kao ti

We give You glory, honor, and praise
We raise our hands to You, we praise Your name

(x2)

Because You're great, You do great things
There is no one like You, Jesus
There is no one like You

Bob Sjogren told us in Perspectives that when we worship with believers in other cultures, our vision of God becomes bigger because God reveals his greater glory by unifying us in our diversity and our joy becomes greater when there is diversity as well. In this, God is working to reveal His greatest glory and the byproduct is we will have our greatest joy but this all requires diversity. For me this even leads to a heart full of gratitude.

Psalm 100 calls all the earth to make a joyful noise. This can only be done when we follow Matthew 28:18-20 and make disciples of all nations. Then we will all be gathered, full of gratitude and bringing glory to God through our worship. What an amazing time that will be when it comes!

- 1. Some questions in this devotional have been bolded, consider discussing them as a group.**
- 2. Make a 'joyful noise to the Lord.' Consider singing along to some cross-cultural worship. Below are two examples I think of but feel free to find your own:**
 - a. The Blessing World Edition: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d48-qbcovVY>**
 - b. Velik Si - a Croatian worship song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lINMWGYcgzE>**
- 3. What can you be doing to follow the Great Commission and help make God's glory known? How can you do this while you are in school?**
- 4. Will you take the Perspectives course to discover what your strengths are in God's mission? You can discover more at <https://perspectives.org/>**



Dr. Kara Song is an Ohio State grad, class of 2018 with roots in New England. It was during school that she found a heart for missions and a passion for CVM. After graduating, she moved to Northeast Ohio where she worked in a busy companion animal general practice for four years. During that time, she and Sadie, her Australian Shepherd mix, added to their family. First with a Golden Retriever named Caspian and then with her wonderful husband, Paul. They have since added a daughter, Liliana, to their family as well. Despite thinking she would stay at her clinic for some time yet, Kara felt God calling her to join CVM where she now serves as the Northeast Region Representative. Email: ksong@cvm.org