

Fellowship Notes ~ Sunday, March 8th, 2020



Mission Month – Part 5

WORLD CHRISTIAN:

A person who understands God’s heart for the world and who strategically lives their life in such a way that wherever they are and whatever they do, they are striving to see Him gloried among all nations.”

How to Live as a World Christian:

Learn more about God’s heart for the world, missions and the unreached people groups of the world.

XPLORE Study (At the tower beside the Welcome Center) FREE
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G o on a short-term trip, an extended term assignment or as a long-term cross-cultural worker

Use your profession and/or your skills to share the good news of Christ's love among the nations

Talk to our Global Discipleship Director, Pastor Spencer Hoyt, about opportunities

Be a "finisher" – people in their 40's, 50's or 60's, who "finish" their professional careers and serve on the mission field

Be a "tentmaker" – people who use their profession to share the gospel among the nations

Take a "vision trip" to a part of the world God draws you to, to learn more about the needs

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among the unreached

S end - assisting those who go cross-culturally

Financially support one of our global discipleship partners or those preparing to go

Serve on one of Fellowship's Harvest Teams (contact Pastor Spencer for more info.)

Encourage one of our MIF's, missionaries or discipleship partners by sending them an email, care package, etc.

Share a meal, your professional skills, a car, or guest room with a missionary

Welcome missionaries home in practical ways (our Harvest Team leaders can always use your help)

Assist those leaving in practical ways

Offer storage space for missionaries' possessions while they're on the field

Serve on Fellowship's Global Outreach Team (contact Pastor Spencer for more info.)

W elcome those from other parts of the world who have come to the U.S.

Introduce yourself to internationals you come into contact with

Volunteer at a food bank or refugee outreach

Partner with organizations such as International Student Ministry or Inter-Varsity to welcome and assist college students acclimate to our culture

Offer to organize/assist with English classes

M obilize for Christ's mission

Start where you are. Provide resources and organize prayer for the unreached within your own

sphere of influence (your family, friends, etc.)

Organize a missions emphasis week at your school or other organization you are connected with

Emphasize missions, missionaries, etc. in the ministry you serve in here at Fellowship

Invite a friend to go on a missions trip with you

Ask God to show you how you can mobilize others for His mission

Missions Month



Part 5 - Sunday, March 8th, 2020

This morning we bring our mission month focus to a close. In my first message I told you up front what our goals for this series of messages and activities have been. Let me quickly remind you...

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Goals of Mission Month

- 1.) To increase awareness about the Global Discipleship Partners that our church supports

We've had the blessing of hearing from a number of our MIF's (Members in the field), missionaries, and those preparing to enter full-time cross-cultural missions service over the past 5 weeks.

At the end of this service we're going to hear from another one via video and then we'll hear from one of our own Fellowship families who just returned from SE Asia last week and spend some time with our MIF's there.

I hope you've enjoyed seeing and hearing from these that we were able to bring to our services this past month. We are very blessed as a church to have the missions force that we have and to have those who are preparing to be sent out.

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- 2.) To grow a greater biblical understanding of Christ's mission and God's heart for the world so that we grow in becoming World Christians

I'll come back to what it means to become World Christians in a moment. But first, why do I believe this is so important for all of us to understand? Because as Christians, this is why we're here. Christ's mission is our reason for existence in this world as individual followers of Christ and collectively as the church – to join God in His mission.

And that's why we've worded our church's mission statement the way we have...

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“Joining God’s mission...”

God's mission is presented throughout the Bible. The story of the Bible is the story of God's plan to gather the worship of all the nations that He has created. Our mission is not to create our own plans and ask God to bless them. Our mission is to align ourselves with the plans He has already established in His Word and which He has promised to bless.

“All the nations you have made will come and bow down before you, Lord, and will honor your name.” *Psalm 86:9*

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“to disciple all peoples”

Our responsibility is not just to be part of God's mission, but to give our lives to follow Christ's command to make disciples. It's non-negotiable. Christ died on the cross, rose again, and left us with marching orders to take the Gospel to every “ethne” – every group of people – beginning with our own and spreading out around the world, making disciples.

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you.” *Matthew 28:19-*

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“for the sake of His name.”

God’s passion is for His name and His glory is the supreme reason for His actions in the world. God’s passion for His Name is to be the central motivation for us to disciple all peoples. God is not receiving the worship that is due His Name. Therefore, it is our mission to call worshippers from among the nations and disciple them for His glory. One day Christ’s mission – and ours - will be complete when representatives from every people and nation will be gathered around Christ’s throne worshipping and praising His great Name forever.

READ Revelation 7:9-12

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“God is pursuing with omnipotent passion a worldwide purpose of gathering joyful worshippers for Himself from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. He has an inexhaustible enthusiasm for the supremacy of His name among the nations. Therefore, let us bring our affections into line with His, and, for the sake of His name, let us renounce the quest for worldly comforts, and join His global purpose.”

~ Pastor John Piper

These phrases that make up our mission statement are the facts and the truths from God’s Word that over the last 6 weeks we have been seeking to help us all understand – God’s heart for the world and Christ’s mission – and our mission – to the peoples of the world.

But it shouldn’t and it can’t stop there, with just understanding. God’s Word is not a book of suggestions, it’s a His holy calling on our lives that deserves our focus, our undying devotion, and our obedience.

And that’s what being a World Christian is all about.

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WORLD CHRISTIAN: A person who understands God’s heart for the world and who strategically lives their life in such a way that wherever they are and whatever they do, they are striving to see Him glorified among all nations.

Living for the sake of His name, doing all for the glory of God, seeking to spread God's fame and His name to all the 17,000+ people groups in the world...

This is what it means to be a World Christian and that's not something just missionaries are to be devoted to. According to Jesus it's what ALL of us should be committed to. In all 4 gospels Christ emphasized our mandate. We've already looked extensively at Matthew 28. Here's what the other Gospels and Acts reveal...

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"Then he said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.'"

Mark 16:15

"He also said to them, 'This is what is written: The Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead the third day, and repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in his name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem.'"

Luke 24:46-47

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"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace to you. As the Father has sent me, I also send you.'"

John 20:21

"As you sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world."

John 17:18

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 1:8

We had one more goal for this mission month...

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3.) To cast vision showing how everyone can and must be involved in Christ's mission

We've already talked about the must-side of the mission – we must ALL be involved. Now let's talk about HOW we can all be involved.

As I share with you what we can do, I want to challenge you to make this personal by putting a star beside 1 or 2 of these action steps that you can take to becoming a World Christian.

If you feel God leading you to take more steps then do what you believe He wants you to do, but I encourage to start with at least 1 or 2. NOTES

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CLOSING: Look once more at Revelation 7 (READ vs. 9-10)

These verses are our memory verses for this week. Let's say them out loud together.

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"After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Revelation 7:9-10