

Reaching The Unreached

I. **Announce:**

- A. **Slide1/2 JM Workshops:** CM we are blessed to have **6**, **not only experts** in their fields, **but** each have a **passion** for what they do, to spend **the weekend with us**.
1. Also, full **bio's** and **descriptions** our on **both Web/App**. (2 services w/us)
- B. **Slide3 Missions Prayer:** Please join us for our monthly Missions Prayer meeting **next Sun, Jan.28th at 6:30 PM in Agape Room**. Join us as we pray for our field workers.
- C. **Slide4 Fellowship:** In our survey last year, you told us that you want to be more connected with one another. **So**, as a church this year we are focusing on building fellowship. You'll find on our home page of our **website** a section dedicated to Fellowship, featuring our vision for fellowship at CM **and** what we are hoping for, as well as highlighting all the **Opportunities** for fellowship at CM.
1. In short, we are hoping everyone here at CM will look for **who they** can **build Christ-like connection with** – Fellowship is a responsibility and blessing for us all. Keep checking back for these special events and let's pray about how all of us can be a part of **fellowship & grow together** at CM.
- D. **Prayer:** (Joshua 20 Wed Night)

II. **Slide5 Intro:** *Reaching The Unreached/Least-Reached* (Rohingya faces)

- A. I just returned with Jen & Dan, from Nepal. Our purpose was to finish a 2 year goal of **purchasing property** for our Rohingya friends we are working w/there.
1. **Instead of a 5 minute update, I want to answer some imp questions:** Why would we purchase property in Nepal? Aren't there many needs here in US? Why do we make such a big deal about Missions here at CM? Why don't we invest that \$ into our remodel here?
 2. **I want to back up even further:** Why is reaching **UPG's** (unreached people groups) so important to us? Why **these specific UPG's** that we have chosen?

III. Slide6a WHY WE AT CM ARE UNIQUE WHEN IT COMES TO MISSIONS?

- A. We see Missions as **God's** heart. His DNA, **not just** an *added ministry*.
- B. Slide6b It's also **My** heart. My 1st trip, China trip, I felt called to missions. **Not just** to send people, but to go myself. Missio Nexus Conf, *How to Mobilize Your Senior Pastor*. At CM missions has always been senior pastor lead. (for me it's a non-negotiable)
- C. Slide6c We are also **Unique** in our *Concern & Focus* on Missions, esp the Unreached.
 1. I don't know how many churches tithe/people do? But pastor Bob who started this church in 1985 said we should give 10% every week to missions. **And so we still do in 2024**. Years ago I learned that most churches spend 94% on themselves, give away 6%. **Then only 3%** makes it to international missions.
 2. We here at CM give **17%** that comes in from our tithe dollars. Missions is even filtered into our diff ministry budgets. [the church budget is one of the best ways to reflect the values of a church]

IV. Slide7a WHAT ARE UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS? [limited access]

- A. Rom.15:20 *I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, **not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation.***
- B. Slide7b Not lost people, they are everywhere. But lost and also unreached (little or no access). **We're talking 3.2 billion people! And less than 1% of missions budgets go to the UPG's. And** the church only sends **3% of her missionaries** to work in those regions of the world.
 1. **Why so many unreached?** Well, it might be from **a complex history**. A **geographical challenge**. **Cultural, Linguistic, Political, or Religious** backgrounds.
 2. **Why so many?** They're hard to reach, it's difficult, it's often dangerous.
 - a) **Plus centuries of spiritual darkness.**

- b) They're not **unreachable**, God is going to reach them. They're simply **unreached**.
3. **Slide7c UPG Unreached** equals less than 2% of their population are christian. So a UPG has never had anyone share the gospel with them or proclaim the name of Jesus in their own village.
- a) Let me pause to say ... There are people in **every nation** from the USA to **Somalia that need Jesus**. And **missionaries and resources** should be sent and spent there for the gospels sake. Here at CM we have done this since 1985.
4. What we **changed** was, when we heard/understood, the church on a whole **isn't** helping out w/those who have **never heard**, and **do not have access to a church, nor to the gospel**. We said, let's start directing more of our missions finances in that direction, because of the disparity.
- C. **Slide7d Why should anyone hear the Gospel twice, before everyone has heard it once?**

V. **Slide8 WHY THESE 2 UPG'S?**

- H-people:** are recognized to be amongst **the poorest people** in S/E Asia.
 - Most of the them live in the Yunnan province in China. **But** they also live in Tibet, VN, Myanmar, & Laos.
 - The H-people are polytheists (many gods) **&** worship nature (animist), as well as the spirits of their ancestors.
 - There are a few hundred Christians among the H-people **but** they are spread out **&** do not have unorganized church. Joshua project calls them, *one of the most gospel-neglected of China's minorities*. (no bible in their language)
- Rohingya:** considered 100% muslim. **Recognized as the world's most persecuted minority & the largest stateless population in the world.**
 - Something else that is **unique** about us choosing the **Ro/H-people**, is that every other place where we've gone **it was someone else's idea, heart, or ministry**. (which is a great thing ... encouraging other ministries)

b) These 2, our Missions Leadership *prayed through, fasted on, and choose* for CM ... *for the Glory of God, and His Worship, and His Praise.*

VI. Slide 9 WHAT IS THE OVER ARCHING GOALS FOR THE ROH IN NEPAL?

A. We created a *sustainable development plan*. (Spiritual side & Humanitarian side)

1. This is an Important point: *"We do not meet needs because it gives us the chance to share Christ, but because it is part of who Christ is, and if He is in us, it is part of who we are. We are not just sharing a message but reflecting the One who sends it."* (Humanitarian Jesus, pg.53)
 - a) We reflect Christ, not only in *what we say* but in *who we are, and what we do*.
 - b) Jesus never fed people *only if they believed* or in trying to convert them. *When he fed or healed it was because it says, He had compassion on them.* Though, this is not the purpose of our humanitarian side, we have seen fruit from it.
 - c) Think: **Jesus** in feeding 5000. Or, the Good Samaritan.
 - d) I believe in a Holistic Gospel mtg the needs of people: *body, soul, mind, and spirit* ... just like **Jesus** did.

B. Humanitarian Side

C. Regarding *Humanitarian* we focused on 4 areas this year: Training, Feeding, Education, and Property.

1. **Training** - we asked in May of what training, to be employed. They came up with **3**. All but 1 person who started, completed it. As a result **21%** of individuals that were able to work are now bringing in income. 23 people working (computer). 24 women made \$ (selling pickle relish). 7 men working (Mobil repair training).
2. **Feeding** - several times throughout the year. And bags of rice for families in school for training. We also provided rice through the settlement.
3. **Education** - 1st time this year every child was financially able to attend school, and did. **Boys and girls!** Some attend a *Christian school*. A couple are in *University*. [from May conversations: we dove into details: got every

child's *name, grade, age, school name*] They were pulling older girls from school, didn't have finances to send them.

a) **Backstory:** Norm in Myanmar: girls stopped school at age 12, to do house work, and to get ready for marriage.

4. **Property** - Why buy property? Why is it worth the financial investment?

a) **Because it stabilizes their whole life!** Most of their community are farmers who have no land to farm. They are a *stateless, nomadic, homeless people*. Which makes it harder to send your kids to school, harder to get a job w/o an address, constantly in a state of transition, not able to stabilize. Picture being truly homeless here in the US. You normally can't get a job w/o an address, or w/o a car or bike. If you have no family/friend as a safety net, and lack any foundation of security to build off of. What do you do?

b) In the Rohingyas case (w/o official refugee status) The Nepali gov can't help, the UNHCR can't help. Their landowner has been raising their rent, doesn't like them there, has been trying to kick them off the property.

c) **1 Quote:** (#1 leader, came there in 2017) *"It makes us feel that our home is fixed and for the 1st time ever we know where we will live & we can begin to work on our own (financial) security."*

5. **So where are we with the Property Purchase?** This last 2 weeks we were able to **finalize** all the banking, sign all our *corporate documents*, and sign all the required *government documents* to close on the property. Everything we needed to get done we were able to do before we left Nepal. With all checks written and the government giving final approval, we are just waiting on 1 last signature from one of the 4 landowners, **and** we should be able to close within the next few days.

D. **Spiritual Side**

E. **Regarding the Spiritual side, it's about being relational, being intentional.**

1. ***With our Rohingya friends there is great difficulty in a double-cultural setting in Nepal. Their Hindu neighbors often hate them.**

a) It's about building relationships, being consistent, returning, talking about Jesus every opportunity I get, understanding cultural differences.

F. Let me tell you some stories about **how these 2 intersect**:

1. **#1 Story:** (context: Jen & I in a mtg with top 2 Ro leaders & Jaya) The #1 leader said, *Sometimes our committee members sit out in the sunshine and are thinking, Why does Jen, Brian, share this great support with us, wondering why you guys are doing this for us?* I said, *I will tell you.*
 - a) When we asked about your culture you shared w/us the 5 pillars of Islam. #3 *Zakat* = alms-giving, helping out those who need it the most.
 - b) Let me tell you a story out of our Holy book. Jesus said, *"I was hungry & you fed me, I was thirsty & you gave me a drink, I was a stranger & you invited me in."* When did we see you hungry/thirsty/stranger? When you've done it to the least of these you've done it unto me. *That's why we do it! To be like Jesus*
2. **#2 Story:** (explain the room) 14 committee leaders. Some very cautious of working w/Christians. 1 leader asked me, *Are you going to build a church on the property?* (Muslim ngo's warned them of this) I said strongly, **No!** ... *Unless you want one.* :)
3. **#3 Story:** A young widow in early to mid 20's: (we asked for them to bring a women w/them) Dressed in full dark green burka, only see eyes. Jen asked to speak to her at our break. #2 leader told her, *you can trust her/ speak to her.* We then had lunch served in our hotel banquet room where we hosted them. While we were all being served, she then moved out of her seat to face the wall. (she had to lower her facial burka to eat).
4. **#4 Story:** I ended 1 of our meeting w/the 14 (I knew Jen wouldn't like this, but I felt compelled to do it). I told the them, *this was Jen's 3rd trip over, she is a lawyer and has been working on this property for 2 years even into the night to make this happen.* Opening a Nepali business. working through Nepali law. All this for you. *And I think we should thank her for it* (I clapped/they all clapped). In their culture they would never show honor to a women in this way. a) I thought it was right. b) I wanted to do this for our

young widow that was there, who I'm sure for the 1st time, saw her leadership honor a woman like this.

- a) Later after we said our goodbyes to our guests, Jen told me she walked up to her, lowered her facial covering a little, to show Jen ... **her smile**. It made the trip! Move the needle. (she wants to open a lil shop).
- b) 2 top Muslim men leaders Shook Jen's hand.

G. What were moving toward: Big paradigm shift!

1. Imagine being desperately poor. Not know where your next meal is coming from. Never tried to budget because there was nothing to budget.
2. So far, we paid school fees. Food, rent, warm clothes. What if we figure out what we've been giving for these throughout the year and paid it sent it monthly. Then as they start bringing in income, we start working down from that. And that's what we set up.
3. **Jaya** - equity fund & relief fund. (Jaya keeps acct of)

H. Slide10a The Person of Peace

- I. Jesus seemed to always find a person or persons in whom God was already at work. **Then** He invested Himself and His time in those people, because He knew they were *the keys to reaching a community or a group of people*. **Key:** *He joined the Father where He was at work.*
 1. In a crowd of people, or in a city or village, God has been at work in someone. We call that someone a **person of peace**. (think **Zacchaeus**)
 - a) Of course, it could be a man of peace **or** a **woman of peace**. **Eg.** the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4, **or** **Lydia** in Acts 16:12-15.
- J. In Luke in ch.10 Jesus taught His disciples how to look for a "**person of peace**." *After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. 2 And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore **pray** earnestly*

to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. 3 **Go your way;** behold, **I am sending you** out as lambs in the midst of wolves. 4 Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road (allow them to serve you). 5 Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' 6 And if **a son of peace** is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. 7 And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. (spend time with them) [concept from *Camel Method*]

K. **Slide10b Story:** I saw this with the Baileys in Davao in 2007. Very dangerous where they worked. It took 5 years for them to get into an area (Lar, Wayne, & I went there).

1. When the Baileys decided to go in and got an invitation. They first ran into 2 men who said they had a dream (*2 white people will come to your village with truths about Me*). They didn't know if **the enemy** was setting them up or **God** was bringing them *2 men of peace*. *1 man was the son of the leader of the village*.
2. [pray with us for a **person of peace**]

L. **Prayer:**

Lord, we often have **heart** trouble (we're often preoccupied w/our own interests, and have no room for compassion for others)

Lord, we often have **eye** trouble (we don't see the world w/Your eyes)

Lord, we often have **head** trouble (we're waiting till everything makes perfect sense in our minds)

Lord, we often have **knee** trouble (we play at prayer)

Lord, we often have **ear** trouble (Lord you call, *but* often ... we don't listen)

M. **Prayer Points:**

1. Ward Chairman and neighbors to accept the Ro.
2. Infighting.
3. We would find/identify our Person of Peace.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. ***Enjoy discovering more about Him!***

"REACHING THE UNREACHED" | ROMANS 15:20 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What comes to mind when you hear the word "mission"?

"Why We are Unique at Calvary Murrieta When It Comes to Missions?"

Just like individuals in church should give 10% to God's work, Calvary Murrieta puts at least 10% of its budget towards missions.

How does a budget reflect the values of a household, or an organization like the church?

"What are Unreached People Groups?" Romans 15:20

There are people who live in areas that have little to no access to the gospel and unfortunately there are very few who go to those areas. **Why do you think most missionary efforts aren't directed toward unreached people groups?**

"Why These 2 Unreached People Groups?"

The unreached people groups that are being pursued by Calvary Murrieta were chosen after prayer, fasting and discussion. **What is hard about making a big commitment to a group of people? Why are commitments important in situations like this?**

"What Are the Overarching Goals for the Rohingya in Nepal?" Luke 10:1-7

There is a sustainable development plan being implemented that includes humanitarian efforts and creating opportunities for the gospel through persons of peace. **Why does meeting immediate needs help with creating opportunities for the gospel?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Sharing the gospel across geographical and cultural barriers takes an intentional commitment that is seen with prayer, time, money, and humanitarian efforts. **How have you been contributing to spreading the gospel to the unreached? Have you asked God what He may have you do to spread the gospel? Pray that God would show you what is your part in His plan for the world.**