

## **Looking To The Fields**

### **Cultivating a Heart for Mission Personally, Locally, And Globally**

There's no doubt that mission, can be both an exhilarating joy and a challenge. It's exhilarating to see someone come to know Jesus, a church being planted, or a cross-cultural mission work bearing fruit, but mission is also hard. Given that all pastors are called to do, cultivating a heart for mission in their churches can so easily become a low priority and not given the attention it needs. But given our call as pastors to be found faithful (1 Cor 4.2), and given all that is at stake here, cultivating a heart for mission is so vitally important.

*Rom 10.13,*

*'For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'*

*Rom 10.14-15,*

*'How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"'*

## **I. Theological Truths That Fuel Our Heart's For Mission**

As with any topic, it's right to begin our thinking about mission with theology. If we desire to cultivate a heart for mission personally and locally in our teams, then we have to start with God's Word...

### **1. The Impending Reality of Hell**

It is simply not possible to find a more sobering and eye-clearing reality, than the truth that outside of saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the very people we rub shoulders with in the world, are on a collision course with the horrors of Hell!

*The writer of Hebrews, tells us that...*

*"Man is destined to die once, and after that comes judgement." (9.27)*

*"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (10.31)*

*R.C. Sproul,*

*'An eternity before the righteous, ever burning wrath of God. A punishment from which there is no escape, no relief and no end!'*

*Rom 11.22, "Behold the kindness and severity of God."*

- *Matthew 5.29-30*
- *Matthew 7.13-14*
- *Matthew 8.11-12*
- *Matthew 18.6-9*
- *Luke 13.22-30*
- *Luke 16.19-31*

*L.R.Scarborough,*

*'If we could only have a five minute glimpse into Hell, then our evangelism would surely be changed for a lifetime.'*

## **2. The Great Commission**

*John 3.16,*

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*

*Luke 19.10,*

*"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."*

When Jesus came to earth, Jesus Christ suffered abuse and rejection from the very people that he made in his image (John 1.10-11). He humbled himself to the point of death, even death on a cross (Phil 2.9). For "in this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 4.10)

*Matt 28.18-20,*

*"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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 all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

*John 20.21,*

*"As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."*

## **3. The Brevity of Life**

For each and every one of us, we really do only have a few short years, relatively speaking, before health and life disappear...

*Psalms 103.15-16,*

*'As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.'*

*James 4.13-14,*

*'Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit" – yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.'*

*Psalms 90.12,*

*'Teach us to number our days that we might get a heart of wisdom.'*

- The Danger of 'Functional Immortality'

*A.W.Tozer,*

*"The church is constantly being tempted to accept this world as home, but if she is wise, she will consider that she stands in the valley between the mountain peaks of eternity past and eternity to come. For the past is gone forever and the present is passing as swift as*

*the shadow on the sundial of Ahaz. Even if the earth should continue a million years, not one of us could stay to enjoy it. And so, we would do well, to think of the long tomorrow.'*

#### **4. God Himself Is With Us**

*John Owen,*

*'The duties that God requires of us, are simply not in proportion to the strength we possess in ourselves.'*

*Matt 28.20b,*

*"And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

*John 14.15-18,*

*'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. For I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.'*

- There's a Lion inside of us!!

*Phil 4.13,*

*'I can do all things through him who strengthens me.'*

*C.H. Spurgeon,*

*'If sinners will be damned then at least let them leap to hell over our bodies and if they would perish then let them do so with our arms about their knees imploring them to stay. For if hell must be filled – then let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions and let not one go there unwarned and unprayed for.'*

## **II. Theologically Informed Practices That Apply Our Heart's To Mission**

In and through it all, the key (humanly speaking) to seeing hearts cultivated for mission, is the leadership that Pastors are able to bring...

### **1. Regularly Review & Apply These Truths To Your Lives**

- Your Example = Is Key!

*1 Tim 4.12,*

*'Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.'*

### **2. Regularly Weave These Truths Into Your Preaching**

- Once every 2-3 years, consider having a stand-alone series on mission...
  - 1 - Hell – The Reason for the Rescue (Luke 16.19-31)
  - 2 - The Gospel – Our Weapon In The Rescue (Romans 10.11-15)
  - 3 - Love – God's Fuel For The Rescue (1 John 4.7-21)
  - 4 - God's Nearness In The Rescue (Phil 1. 12-30)
  - 5 - Brevity Of Life – The Urgency Of The Rescue (Psalm 90)
- Outside of those stand-alone series, regularly weave these truths into your preaching.

### 3. Regularly Review & Apply These Truths To Your Small Groups

- C4 = C1: 'Connect' – Take the first step / C2: 'Care' – Seek to be a blessing  
C3: 'Communicate' – Share clearly about Christ / C4: Call – Inviting a response

### 4. Regularly Make Time On Sundays For Testimonies

- So much of this is about generating missional heat!
- Testimonies – 'Who Told You?'

### 5. Regularly Review Your Church's Mission Strategy For Winning The Lost

- Is it clear?
- Is it working?
- Is it clear who's on point for mission?

*C.H. Spurgeon,*

*'For we must steadfastly set our faces, if by any means we may save some, resolving that whatever happens, **we will leave no stone unturned** to effect the salvation of those around us.'*

- **Panel: Jeffrey Jo, Jim Donohue, Ricky Alcantar**

## Addendum

- **The Bridge Course:** [www.bridgecourse.org](http://www.bridgecourse.org)

The Bridge Course is 10 week introduction to Christianity which is designed to encourage conversation and interaction in a non-pressured, "questions are welcome" environment. Over 90,000 people in over 156 different countries have benefited from the course so far.

- **The Antioch Program:**

The Antioch Program is a retreat for pastoral teams desiring to grow in outward mission. If Sovereign Grace Churches exists to "plant and strengthen" local churches, Antioch is the "and" linking the two. It takes its model from the church in Antioch which was known as both a strong local church and the first place mission was proactively send forward in church planting. The retreat is specifically for pastoral teams to attend together and is followed by coaching to support participants. For further information, please contact Ricky Alcantar ([ricky@crossofgrace.net](mailto:ricky@crossofgrace.net))

- **The Cross-Cultural Missions Group:**

As Sovereign Grace Churches go about the mission of planting and strengthening churches across the world, the Cross-Cultural Missions Group focusses in on the "cross-cultural" element of that mission, by supporting the leadership team as they seek to establishing recommended 'Guidelines and Best Practices' for 'Cross-Cultural Church Planting'. In addition, they also support local Sovereign Grace churches in the identification, training and deployment of cross-cultural missionary workers. For further information, please contact the CCMG Coordinator, Leo Parris ([lparris@covfel.org](mailto:lparris@covfel.org))