

Make the Nations Glad

I. A Strategy of Joy

A. The Beginning of Blessing <special favor & protection>

Gen 12.1 Now the LORD said to Abram, “**Go** from your country and your kindred and your father’s house **to the land that I will show you.** 2 And I will **make*** of you a great nation, and I will **bless*** you and make your name great, so that **you will be* a blessing.** 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.** *creative word *created effect

Gen 22.18 and **in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed,** because you have obeyed my voice.”

TODAY – Annual LifeLines Offering.

B. The Purpose or Mission of Blessing

Mission (Purposeful Living) is the OVERFLOW of the Blessing of God through the Body of Christ. We Love because He first Loved us.

Prerequisite for missions - BLESSING

Ps 67.1 May God be **gracious** to us and **bless** us
and make his **face** to **shine** upon us, *Selah*

2 that **your way** may be **known on earth,**
your **saving power** among **all nations.**

1. That we are recipients of God’s grace and blessing!
2. That His **presence is radiantly resplendent** in our lives!
3. That we make His WAYS known. Heaven on earth.
4. SAVING POWER **yeshua** known in all nations

The Outcome of missions - JOY and JUST GOVERNMENT

3 Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let **all** the peoples **praise** you!

- 4 Let **the nations be glad** and **sing for joy**,
for you **judge** the peoples with **equity**
and **guide the nations** upon earth. *Selah*
- 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!

1. That the nations be glad and sing for joy!
2. That they experience the level ground of God's standards in their culture
3. That they experience the "redemption and lift" direction of changing economy and culture (STOP and THINK ABOUT IT!)

Global Impact of missions

- 6 The **earth has yielded its increase**;
God, our God, shall bless us.
- 7 God shall bless us;
let all the ends of the earth fear him!

1. The earth becomes more productive.
2. As a result of God's blessing on human life
3. The blessing is so great that it evokes AWE & WONDER worldwide!

C. Personal Transformation

Invitation into Freedom

The Process of the Heart:

1. **Receive** the Love that the Holy Spirit pours into our Hearts. This **produces a change** in motivation, a sanctification that **makes us like him** in this world.
2. This **love opens our eyes**, allowing us to see **the intrinsic value that our Father places upon our lives**. We can love what God loves. It **sanctifies us** and purifies us of anxiety, anger, fear, worry. The Word of God releases us into love and **compassion**.

3. This love shines from us as **we love our neighbor with the same love. We now become the delivery system of the New Creation**, an unstoppable, perpetually regenerated community of lovers that will fill the earth. This is **the mission of every believer**, and the mission of the Church.

Matt 14:17 They said to him, “**We have only** five loaves here and two fish.” **18** And he said, “**Bring them here to me.**”

This is Missions!

II. Blessing the Nations

A. The Incarnation Changes Cultures!

One thousand years ago, Islamic civilization had surpassed Europe in nearly every respect. Islamic rulers were wealthier, Islamic armies were more powerful, and Islamic intellectuals had advanced further in the arts, scholarship, science, and technology.

Something changed. Now, **the people of Spain translate as many books into Spanish each year as Arabs have translated into Arabic in the last thousand years.**

If you take oil out of the equation, then the 5 million people of **Finland** export more goods and services each year than the 165 million of the Arab world.

Oil can be taken out of the equation because the British discovered the oil in the Middle East, American companies began pumping and refining it, the production of oil is sustained by engineers recruited from the Western world, and much of the business depends on the US military keeping tyrants and militants from setting fires to oil wells or disrupting its flow.

What brought about this dramatic rise of the West while the rest of the world stagnated? The **Glorious Gospel** propelled by **voluntary generosity of believers and missionaries.**

B. The Worth of a Human & Incarnation

Human dignity is established by the incarnation of Christ.

Islam denied God the right to become a man.

The incarnation was to be the **ultimate proof of man's dignity**: of the possibility of a man or a woman becoming a child of God.

God's descent means man's ascent!

C. Transformation of Nations. [Slide 1]

1. Music -- Pipe Organs [Slide 2]

In the tenth century AD, Augustine's biblical philosophy of music inspired a group of Benedictine monks to build the world's largest pipe organ in the cathedral of **Winchester, England**. The organ required **70 men and 26 bellows to supply wind to its 400 pipes**. Technologically, the pipe organ was the world's most advanced machine until the invention of the mechanical clock.

Europe's organs stood as emblems of the West's unique desire and ability to use the arts, science, and technology for the glory of God as well as for the relief of humanity's suffering and toil.

2. Creativity Image of God. [Slide 3]

3. Technology (based on Dignity) [Slide 4]

Organs, Clocks, Eyeglasses (1280 - mass produced 10,000's of pairs annually Florence and Venice) 1492 -only in Europe, Windmills, Waterwheels, 3 Field System, Horseshoes & Harnesses

4. Translations and Transformation [Slide 5]

Wycliffe, Tyndale & the Ascendance of English

5. Media & Transformation – Redefining “Hero” [Slide 6]

Pilgrim v. Odysseus PRINTING PRESS!

Movies, Television, Internet.

6. Science & Education – Rational - Universities [Slide 7]

In the beginning was the WORD, value of study

7. Morality & Prosperity

Corruption; Wesley, Wilberforce, American Revolution

Ps 67:4 NIV ... for you **rule** the peoples justly and **guide** the nations of the earth.

through the voluntary agency of humans!

8. Family - Monogamy, Women and Children [Slide 8]

Only Christianity produced monogamy

9. Compassion for the Poor - Development of Medicine

Compassion v. Karma [Slide 9]

Modern Medicine based on Gospel

1. Accountability of caring for others
2. Stewardship of skills & knowledge for benefit of others
3. Every human is worth the Son of God

10. Liberty - The Impulse of Freedom [Slide 10]

1. Christ sets us free. "Give me liberty or give me death."
2. At fall of Rome, slavery was common. By AD 800, Charlemagne opposed. Aquinas.

{Lifelines OFFERING}

III. Blessing — Pray, Obey, Give

How can we CHANGE THE WORLD?

Matt 14:17 They said to him, "**We have only** five loaves here and two fish." 18 And he said, "**Bring them here to me.**" 19 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and **taking** the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a

blessing. Then he **broke** the loaves and **gave** them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. **20** And **they all ate** and were **satisfied.** ...

Ps 67.1 ESV May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us, *Selah*
 2 that your way may be known on earth,
your saving power among all nations.
 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!
 4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,

2 Cor 8.7 NRSV Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this **generous** undertaking. **8** I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. **9** For you know the **generous act** of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

YOU ARE HIS IMAGE AND LIKENESS IN CREATION!

Children of the God of Hope!