

## *Make the Nations Glad*

### **I. Spreading the Joy — Impact of Blessing**

#### ***A. Abraham and Blessing***

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**. [Slide 1]

#### **IN YOU & in your offspring**

Gen 22.18 and **in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed**, because you have obeyed my voice.” Gal. 3.

Gal 3:8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “**In you shall all the nations be blessed**.” 9 So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. [Slide 2]

18 For if **the inheritance comes** by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham **by a promise**.

Lessons about true worship are timeless: (1) Faith obeys completely. (2) Faith surrenders the best, holding nothing back. (3) Faith waits on the Lord to provide all one’s needs. True worship is costly.

**TODAY** – Annual LifeLines Offering – At the end of service – goes into the GENERAL MISSIONS fund, from which we send seed to each of the listed ministries. Even more than money, every missionary needs prayer partners. The **Cards** are intended as reminders for prayer. ONLINE congregation — your participation is needed.

*Mission (Purpose) is the OVERFLOW of God's Blessing through the Body of Christ. We love ... He first loved us.*

## **B. Blessed to BE a Blessing**

### **Prerequisite for missions**

Ps 67.1 ESV May God be gracious to us and **ble**ss 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. **This** makes his WAY known by experience on earth. Heav
4. This makes his SAVING POWER known by experience among all nations

### **Purpose of missions**

- 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you!
- 4 Let **the nations be glad** and **sing for joy**, [Slide 3]  
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!  
5. That the nations be glad and sing for joy!  
6. That they experience God's standards in their culture  
7. That they experience the "redemption and lift" 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!
8. The planet becomes more productive.

9. As a result of God's blessing on human life
10. Great blessing evokes AWE (wonder, reverence) worldwide!

### ***C. Personal Transformation***

**We were created for Communion with God into Freedom & Love**

**A 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.

Phil. 1:3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, **4 always** in **every** prayer of mine for you all making my prayer **with joy**, **5** because of your **partnership in the gospel** from the first day until now.

**6** And I am sure of this, that **he who began a good work** in you will bring it to **completion** at **the day of Jesus Christ**. [Slide 4]

**7** It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because **I hold you in my heart**, for you are **all partakers with me of grace**, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

**8** For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

**9** And it is my prayer that **your love may abound more and more**, with knowledge and all discernment, **10** so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for **the day of Christ**, **11** filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

**2 - We now become the delivery system of the New Creation**, an **unstoppable, perpetually regenerated community of lovers** will fill the earth with God's love and blessing. This is the mission of every believer, and the mission of the Church.

**This is Missions!**

## **II. Blessing the Nations**

## ***A. The Incarnation Changes Cultures!***

**One thousand years ago**, the 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, the 5 million people of **Finland** export more goods and services each year than the 165 million of the Arab world.

Oil – **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.

**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 denies God the capacity to become a human.

Far from violating God's dignity, the incarnation was to be the **ultimate proof of God's kindness & 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.***

1. **Music** – Pipe Organs [Slide 5]

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 6]

## **3. Technology (based on Dignity)** [Slide 7]

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

## **4. Translations, Literacy, & Transformation** [Slide 8]

Wycliffe, Tyndale & the Ascendance of English

## **5. Media & Transformation – Redefining “Hero”** [Slide 9]

Pilgrim v. Odysseus [Slide 10]

Movies, TV, etc. Sight & Sound, The Chosen, Ben Hur, Unplanned, etc.

Explosion of online ministries and interactive events

## **6. Sci & Edu – Rational - Universities** [Slide 11]

In the beginning was the LOGOS, value of study

## **7. Morality & Prosperity** [Slide 12]

Corruption; Wesley, Wilberforce, Whitefield, American Revolution,

## **8. Family - Monogamy, Women and Children** [Slide 13]

Only Christianity produced monogamy.

## **9. Compassion for the Poor - Development of Medicine**

Compassion v. Karma [Slide 14]

Modern Medicine based on Gospel Lk 10.29 - who is

1. Accountability of caring for others. my neighbor?
2. Stewardship of skills & knowledge for benefit of others
3. Every human is worth the Son of God. Mt 25 - the least

### 10. Liberty - The Impulse of Freedom [Slide 15]

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, Abolition in England, US

{Lifelines OFFERING}

### III. Blessing — Pray, Obey, Give

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.

THE AARONIC BLESSING

Partnership in the Gospel

[Slide 15]

**God of Hope! FILL with ALL joy & peace IN believing  
By the POWER OF THE Holy Spirit  
Abound with HOPE!**