

Make the Nations Glad

I. Video...

This is just a partial presentation.... Lifelines booklet... signup on lcmi.org/missions. Opportunities. Prayer!

II. What is Missions? — Spreading the Love — the 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 your offspring

Gen 22.18 and **in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed,”**

Gal 3:8 ...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.” [Slide 2]

Eph. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed us** in Christ with **every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,**

Next Week – Annual **LifeLines** Offering – 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.

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 **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 receive God's grace and blessing! This makes his WAY and SAVING POWER known*

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!

2. *That the nations be glad and sing for joy! God's standards transform their culture — “redemption and lift” (Selah)*

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!

3. *Planet Earth is regenerated; Human life is transformed by grace and blessing, resulting in a worldwide harvest!*

III. What is Missions? — Redeeming Love Sent Forth

A. As... So...

Jn. 15:9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

Jn. 15:12 This is **my commandment**, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Jn. 20:21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”

Matt. 28:19 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, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have **commanded you**. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

**B. Communion, participation in the Gospel
(proclamation of God's reign) that transforms us**

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 ... **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.

Communion in the GRACE and REWARDS of “sent ones”

IV. What is Missions — Transformation of Human Culture

A. The Incarnation establishes the Worth of a Human

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!

*Jonathan Edwards on Religious Affections: “God is God, and distinguished from all other beings, and exalted above them, chiefly by his **divine beauty**, ...” (290)*

The interpersonal LOVE of the Trinity, and the fathomless mercy and power expressed in the incarnation.... Jn. 3:16 God so loved...

“This is the beauty of the Godhead, the divinity of divinity.. (286)

Beholding the **beauty** or glory of the Lord transforms us. [Slide 5]

2Cor 3:18 And we all, ... **beholding the glory of the Lord**, are being **transformed** into the **same image** from one degree of glory to another. **For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.**

2Cor 4:6 For God, ... has shone in our hearts to give the light of the **knowledge** of the **glory of God** in the **face of Jesus Christ.**

C. Gospel and the Transformation of Nations.

1. Music – Pipe Organs [Slide 6]

In the tenth century AD, ... Benedictine monks built 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 7]

3. Technology (based on Dignity) [Slide 8]

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 9]

Wycliffe, Tyndale & the Ascendance of English

5. Media & Transformation – Redefining “Hero” [Slide 10]

Movies, TV, etc. Sight & Sound, The Chosen, Ben Hur,
Unplanned, Jesus Revolution, 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, Whitfield, American
Revolution,

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

Only Christianity produced monogamy.

9. Compassion for the Poor - Medicine, Social Redemp & Lift

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

IV. Who is Missions? ... Because of Him... You!

1Cor 1: 27 But **God chose** what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; **God chose** what is weak in the world to shame the strong;
28 **God chose** what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, [Slide 16]

29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 30 And **because of him** you are **in** Christ Jesus, who became to us

wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,"...

The World's Most-Admired Woman

No one would have ever guessed that one day scrawny little Agnes would light up the world. Like most folks in her poverty-stricken European country, she seemed doomed to a dead-end life. After her widowed mother had exhausted herself trying to find an eligible bachelor for the mousy girl, Agnes announced that God had called her to be a missionary. Everyone said she was crazy. But at 18, Agnes headed for the faraway city of Dublin, Ireland. After learning a little English, she moved to Asia where she kicked around from school to school, seemingly consigned to teach schoolchildren forever.

Agnes was sent on a spiritual retreat to a nearby city. Everything changed, when stumbled upon the worst slums on earth.

Overwhelmed by the poverty and disease, at thirty-six years of age, the small woman **heard Jesus** tell her to **bring his light** to this place of darkness. She called other women to join her in ministering to the poorest outcasts in India.

The world doesn't know her as Agnes: after committing herself to ministry, she changed her name to Teresa, patron saint of missionaries. Who would have guessed that the Gallup Poll would declare this pint-size Albanian woman the most admired woman of the twentieth century? Or that her order would grow to 4,500 sisters in 153 countries giving themselves to the poorest of the poor? Who would believe that from her one-room cell in a Calcutta convent, she would oversee a worldwide network of hospitals, hospices, AIDS centers, orphanages, and schools?

When Mother Teresa won the Nobel Prize, reporters asked her how we should promote world peace. She shocked everyone with her simple answer: "**Go home and love your family.**" When they asked her to describe herself, she replied, "By blood, I am Albanian; by

citizenship, Indian; by faith, a Catholic nun. As to my calling, I belong to the world. As to my heart, I belong entirely to Jesus."

When a delegation of nuns came to Calcutta to discover the secret to Mother Teresa's success, the head of one order asked, "Why are you growing while so many other orders are dying?"

Mother Teresa quietly replied, "**I give them Jesus.**"

"I know that," replied the woman impatiently. "But can you **be more specific?** Do your sisters object to wearing habits? What about the rules of your order? How do you enforce them?"

"Only one thing matters. I give them Jesus," she replied again.

"Yes, yes!" persisted the woman. "But there's got to be more!"

The little nun walked up to the woman and said in the sternest voice possible, "**I give them Jesus! There's nothing more!**"

By giving Jesus only, a humble nun from a backwater place can change the world. So can we, if we remember that religion does not save or transform people. Only Jesus does.

India: 1,422,141,000 5% Christian = 71,107,050 4%/year

III. Blessing — Pray, Obey, Give

God of Hope! FILL with ALL joy & peace IN believing

By the POWER OF THE Holy Spirit — Overflow Hope