

## *Co-Mission to Reform Cultures*

### **I. Spreading Joy is a Mandate**

#### ***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 ... 2 And I will **make of you a great nation**, and I will **bless you** ..., so that **you will be a blessing**. 3... **in you all the families** of the earth shall be blessed.

#### ***B. Blessed to BE a 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**.  
3 Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you!

#### **Prerequisite for missions**

1. That we **receive** God’s grace and blessing!
  2. That His **presence is radiant** in our lives!
  3. **This** makes his **WAY** known by experience on earth.  
Heaven on earth.
  4. This makes his **SAVING POWER** known by experience  
among all nations
- 
- 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!

#### **The Purpose of all ministry:**

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!)

- 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!

### **Profound Impact of missions**

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 and REVERENCE worldwide!

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

#### **Created for God's Fellowship, Communion**

The Process of the Heart:

1. **Receive** the **Love** that the Holy Spirit pours into our Hearts. This produces a change, a sanctification that makes us like him in this world. That moves us into a state of **participation** or **communion** with the Father and the Son, the Divine Nature.
2. This **love opens our eyes**, allowing us to see **the intrinsic value that our Father places upon our lives, our souls**.

**WORD OF GOD INFORMS– GENETIC EXPRESSION REQUIRES  
HOLY SPIRIT ENCOUNTER TRANSFORMS – CONFORMS !!!**  
**Gene Expression On/Off Switches Soul Environment**

e can love what God loves, that is ourselves. It **sanctifies us** as the **Word of God** brings **coherence** into our being, we **repent** of patterns of life that are incoherent, that fall short of the glory of

God. **Love purifies us of anxiety, anger, fear, worry.** The Word of God releases us into love, appreciation and compassion.

3. This love radiates 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 – The Heartbeat of our Father!**

## **II. Blessing the Nations with GOOD News**

### ***A. The Incarnation Changes Cultures! Jeremiah 29:11***

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, 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 depends on the US military keeping tyrants and militants from disrupting its flow.

What brought about this dramatic rise of the West while the rest of the world stagnated?

### ***B. The Incarnation & Worth of a Human***

Human dignity established by the Incarnation. **Word became Flesh!**

Islam denies God the right to become a man.

Far from violating God's dignity, the incarnation was to be the **ultimate proof of man's dignity**: of the possibility of a man or a woman becoming a friend and child of God.

### ***God's descent means man's ascent! Children of God!***

**John 1.12** But to all who did **receive** him, who believed in his name, **he gave the right to become *children of God***,

Supernatural, Creative, capable of utilizing resources for a benefit

**Deut. 28:11** And the LORD will make you abound [*surplus*] in prosperity [*Heb TOVAH*],... **12** The LORD will open to you his **good treasury**, ...

## **C. Making Nations Glad [Slide 1] Gospel Restores Culture**

### **1. Music -- Pipe Organs [Slide 2]**

In the tenth century, 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 four hundred pipes**. Technologically, the pipe organ was the world's most advanced machine until the invention of the mechanical clock.

Europe's organs manifest Christianity'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, Windmills, Waterwheels,  
Horseshoes & Harnesses,

### **4. Translations and Transformation [Slide 5]**

Wycliffe, Tyndale & the Ascendance of English

## 5. Media & Imagination = Value Transformation [Slide 6 ]

Pilgrim v. Odysseus **Hero** Redefined One book transformed!  
Movies, Television, etc <Amazing Grace, The Passion, Ben Hur>

## 6. Science – Rational Universe (Education) [Slide 7]

In the beginning was the WORD logos --> Rational Expression

## 7. Ethics (Morality) & Prosperity [Slide 8]. Corruption v. Trust; Wesley, Wilberforce (abolition), 1776!

## 8. Family - Monogamy, Women and Children [Slide 9]

Christianity produced monogamy (women & child) (St. Photina)

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

Compassion v. Karma <wrath> [Slide 10]

Modern Medicine based on Gospel compassion

1. **Accountability** of caring for the weak. <Matt. 25>
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 11]

1. Christ sets us free. "Give me liberty or give me death."
2. God was free to incarnate.

## III. Commissioning — Participate, Contribute to His Story

- 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**.
  - 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God;

let all the peoples praise you!  
**4** **Let the nations be glad** and **sing for joy,**

**THE CODE – YOU ARE HIS IMAGE AND LIKENESS IN  
CREATION, CREATED FOR UNIQUE COMMUNION!**

**God of Hope! Rom 15:13**