

Missiology (Summer 03)

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*** Romans 10 serves to represent a foundation for missions....

*** God was the first missionary, sending His Son to save the lost...

- We have the Bible because of the Missiological heart of God
- Some think we have missions because it is in the Bible... not so

I. Biblical Basis For Missions

A. Genesis 12 - talking about God's plan for His world. God makes the world, makes man and woman, they rebel, the flood comes, the world is repopulated to "start over", then people become bad again...

B. "The Primary Commission" = populate the earth, spread out and take dominion of the world

1. The people disobey, they stay together...
2. God scatters them according to families/clans/languages
 - a. God looks down and chooses one of these as His chosen
 - b. Abram... "in you all the families of the earth will be blessed"
 - All who believe, have faith, are called the children of Abraham in the N.T.
 - Paul specifies the difference between children of faith vs. typical DNA/blood children

C. Gen. 1-11 shows that God had no preference for Israel at the onset - he loved(s) all people

1. There is a world-wide scope in Gen. and the entire Bible
2. Even though man continuously proves to be selfish and disobedient, God consistently forgives and restores...

D. The "purpose clause" of Abraham's promise = that others will be blessed through him

1. Gen. 1:28 = the "Primary Commission"
2. New expression and fulfillment of this is found through Abraham
3. Gal. 3:13-14 = "in Christ Jesus, the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles..."
 - a. This shows that God always had the nations in mind
 - b. God set the Jews apart to be a tool in His work...
 - They were not to be obedient just for themselves
 - God was using them for a divine purpose
 - Psalm 46:10 = most people read the first half, but ignore the second half that calls to the nations
 - Psalm 67 is another "world", "all-nations" perspective on God's heart
 - Isaiah has many prophetic verses along these same lines

E. Why do we go to the missions field?

1. Some say: "to fulfill the Great Commission"
2. Some say: "to go and save people, like a lifeguard saves drowning people at the beach"
3. The overarching reason is to BRING GLORY & HONOR TO GOD
4. Piper says this is a part-time job because when the Lord comes, there will never be a need for missionaries anymore
 - God is calling us to prove his purpose

F. Jonah is a great example of an O.T. "missions" book

G. Joseph's position of stature was said to help many gentiles believe through his example

H. We see many examples in the O.T. where God either blessed gentiles or even enemies of the Jews by Jewish prophets.

1. Note how this points to the N.T. and the fulfillment Jesus represents
 - a. Wise men came from distant lands at his birth
 - b. The Bible says that Jesus was born to save his people (plural)
 - c. At Jesus' birth ceremony Simeon announces that Jesus was born "for all peoples"
 2. Romans 8 shows Jesus' view: "many people will come from the East and the West to sit with the Jews"
 - a. While some Jews Jesus tells us "have little faith"
 - b. Jesus says this gentile has "great faith"
 3. Jesus tells about Elijah being sent to a gentile instead of the Jews... His way of pointing out that the Gospel is for everyone
 4. John 12:23-32ff = "I will draw all (all kinds) men to myself"
 - In harmony with the Abrahamic covenant
 - Luke 24: 13- 27
 - * Jesus and a ministry to the gentiles was not an afterthought
- Jesus had a purpose when He sent us out... to fulfill the same ministry needs of Jesus... We should use Him to be our example

*** "The light that shines the furthest, shines brightest at home" - Jerry Renkin

*** "If we don't have a heart for missions here, nothing magical is going to happen by getting on an airplane" - Dr. Sills

*** "Most of us don't need a call, we need a kick in the pants" - Jim Elliot

*** 40,000 children die everyday from starvation and hunger related diseases, most of which have never heard the name of Jesus!!!

II. If We Did Not Have The Bible, What Would We Know About God?

- A. This is a Creator God - creation tells us that there is a God (see Psalm 19: 1-4)
 - 1. There is no place on earth that "general revelation" is not available
 - 2. Creation has a very real order...
 - 3. See Romans 1: 18-20
- B. Consciences convict us of sin... animals do not have a conscience (see Romans 2: 14-15)
- C. The 1st 11 chapters of Genesis reveal: (per Ralph Winter)
 - 1. Beauty of God's creation
 - 2. Entrance of an evil power into the world
 - 3. Hopelessness of man's condition
 - *** Gen. 12:3 = "It does not matter what God asks; the correct answer is always YES!"
 - *** "When you can't see God's finish line, go as far as you CAN see..."
- D. Most people say they just wish they knew what God's will was for their life... in reality, they just want to know whether or not they are interested... that's not the same!!!
 - *** Joshua was told by God to cross the flood level Jordan river into the promise land... God did not part the water until the soles of the feet of those carrying the Arc of the Covenant were covered by the water. Had they waited by the shore for the water to part, rather than obeying (beyond what the senses say is reasonable), they would not have received God's blessing!
 - *** Answering God's call is often a series of "steps of obedience"... like going thru a doors and rooms until we reach the final room of God's call.
- E. Israel was to be a centripical (center-oriented) witness for God ("a diamond on a black velvet")
 - 1. This is a theory of O.T. theology
 - 2. This is contrasted to a N.T. theology that is centrifcally (from the center out...) oriented... Acts 1:8 is a great example of Jesus instructing the church to take the Gospel out to the world in a centrifcally designed outreach.

III. Bible Lands

- A. Southern Europe
- B. Middle East
- C. Asia Minor
- D. North Africa
- E. Abraham's journeys are key
 - 1. Abe was not worshipping God when he was called
 - 2. Abe's people worshipped mystical gods
 - 3. God called Abe and said: "go"... when Abe asked: "where?", God said: "I'll tell you when you get there - just go!"

F. Wherever someone traveled in Biblical days, all roads came through the promised land...

*** Personal Note: God's strategy... pick a place to seed the ground via a geography that is strategically relevant and select a people to invest in as reproducing, self-multiplying apostles. Then give these people the "perfect" (in God's case) standard, teach them so as to equip them to be future teachers of others... Note the ever-present sending motive... although God chose this people and place, He also caused the circumstances of the world to allow them to be a great tool of influence.

G. Most clear example of Jesus being personally concerned for the nations... Jesus cleared the temple... His motive and the reason for being upset was that these people had taken away the opportunity for gentiles to come into the temple....

*** That is because the money changers were using the "court of the gentiles" (the ONLY place gentiles had to worship in the temple) to do their business

H. The disciples were very slow to grasp God's global perspective

1. Peter learned only through the Corneilius experience
2. Barnabas who had seen first hand (with Paul) God's heart for the gentile still fell away (like Peter) from this perspective...
3. These and other examples led to the Jerusalem Council
4. Luke is the only non-Jew who wrote a Gospel
 - a. Luke traces Jesus' lineage all the way back to Adam
 - b. Matthew traces Jesus' lineage only back to Abraham

IV. The Gospel Mandate

*** "Believers must work to make culture Christian." - John Calvin

A. The only imperative verb in the great commission = GO (meaning "making disciples" - not just spreading seed)

B. The mandate is found in the... (per John Stott)

1. Creation of God
2. Character of God
3. Promises of God
4. Christ of God
5. Spirit of God
6. Church of God

C. Under-girding principle: this should be our heart...

1. Psalm 67: 1-2
2. Isaiah 37:20
3. Isaiah 49:6

* Note: we see God saying these things over and over again, stressing the important emphasis on the nations

D. The "Call/Command"

1. "I will make you..." shows that only God is in charge
2. Isaiah 49 is filled with references to the sovereignty of God
3. It also speaks to our responsibilities in the process
- ?4. Thus, we should speak of "the _____ AND the _____ of missions"

E. Who Should Go? The 4 "C's" are those who are:

1. COGNIZANT of the need - when "knowing" grips your heart in a Spirit led way
 - * Beware: going based on the need alone is not enough... it is a formula for disaster! Go where God calls you.
2. CARING... a burden on one's heart that God is using to move them to action
3. COMMITTED - willing to go
4. CALLED / COMMISSIONED
 - a. Someone needs to affirm that call
 - b. God will give you affirmation
 - c. Others will see the gifts necessary in you as well
 - d. It will be a call evident in the entire family (the IMB requires 100% shared sense of the call)
5. Psalm 37:4 is key... "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart."
 - a. If you are truly delighting yourself in the Lord (doing what God wants you to do)... do whatever you want!
 - b. Then, what God gives us will match up perfectly with the desires that we have

*** Key Outreach Strategy = help everyone to identify their Spiritual gifts AND their passion areas (2 separate things) and then empower them to use them in a discipling model of outreach!!!

* Cognizant + Care + Committed + Called/Commissioned = DESIRE
(see Psalm 37:4)

V. Missiology Overview

A. Missiology is the conscious, intentional, ongoing reflection on the doing of mission. It includes theory(s) of mission, the study and teaching of mission, as well as the research, writing, and publication of works regarding mission"

B. General etymology of Missiology

1. Missio = Latin for "sending"
2. Missionary = "sent one"
3. Ology = Greek for "study of"
4. Missiology = the study/science of sending. The reflection or academic aspect of the expansion of Christianity
 - * God's Mission + Man's Nature = Missiology

C. The Theological Encyclopedia:

1. Where does Missiology fit?
 - a. Systematic theology?
 - b. Biblical studies?
 - c. History?
 - d. Practical theology?
2. In a perfect world... it would fit in ALL areas

*** www.themissiologyhomepage.com.

D. The "Missional Helix"

1. TR = theological reflection
 2. CA = cultural analysis
 3. SF = strategy formation
 4. HP = historical perspective
- *** Note: these 4 strands are being revisited and recycled at every stage and fork in the road in the practice of ministry

E. Scope of Missiology

1. A theology of mission - we don't want to do anything that is not God-honoring in either form or result... without it, a syncretism can occur (i.e. Bunnies and eggs at Easter) where by we fold in pagan rituals into a Christian envelope... pragmatism gone wrong!
2. The history of missions
3. A philosophy of mission - recognize the 9 different philosophies in the text
 - a. Key: how do you "look" at missions?
4. The strategic implementation on a given cultural setting

F. Philosophy of Mission: "The integrated beliefs, assertions, theories, and aims which determine the character, the purpose, the organization, the strategy and the action of a particular sending body of Christian world mission."

G. Cross Cultural Strategy:

1. Contextualizing the Gospel = making the Gospel fit in the target culture
 - a. See 1 Cor. 9: 20-23
 - b. In areas that do not have a biblical "right and wrong" (amoral) position, we are to learn how the target audience does it and adapt to it.

H. 9 Philosophies of Mission

1. Individualism = nothing intentional... ministry thru osmosis
2. **Ecclesiasticism**... having a "dept of missions" that "handled" missions
3. Colonialism... when missions was a department of the government.
This often saw missions as being stapled to the back of commercial & economic development
4. **Associationalism**.... churches together (Baptists)
5. **Pneumaticism**... Holy Spirit, "faith" missions, (i.e. Hudson Taylor)

6. **Supportivism**... service missions, they support other missions that are already out there
7. **Institutionalism**... hospitals, orphanages
8. **Ecumenicalism**... an attempt to unify denominations
9. **Pentecostalism**... the use of signs and wonders to draw crowds in to witness to them

I. **Issues in the Global Mosaic**

1. Growing revival of the supernatural
2. **Growing influence of the "Majority world"** (most missionaries come from south of the equator)
3. Principle of acceleration
4. Demise of the "noble savage"... the world is recognizing that we are all born sinful
5. **Globalization & Urbanization** - the world is getting collectively smaller, while at the same time, more and more people are moving to the larger cities, perpetuating the process
6. Demise of world socialism
7. **Shifting economic center of gravity**
8. **Revolutionary nature of the world**
9. **Terrorism (U.S. citizenship creates a target)**
10. **Inclusivism, Pluralism, Exclusiveism**
 - a. Inclusivism = worship however you'd like, when you get to heaven you will realize that it was Jesus who got you to heaven (even though you may not have realized it)
 - b. Pluralism = all religious roads lead to god
 - c. Exclusivism = Jesus is the only way and you must be born again via your personal acceptance and public profession of Jesus as Lord

J. **Trends Evident in the Present Missions Situation**

1. **The "people group approach"**
2. **Prayer as a strategy**
3. Charismatic impact
4. **National Leadership**
5. **Internationalization factors**
6. A defunct Ecumenical movement
7. **The Para-church movement**
8. **Partnership and networking**
9. Short-term involvement
10. **Relief and development**

K. **People Group Approach** (#1 above)

1. Gen. 12: 1-3 is the blueprint
2. **The Bible stresses people groups vs. geographic boundaries**
3. **These groups can be in "saved" countries...**
4. **There are estimated to be 24K distinct groups... 10K still unreached (UPG)**

- a. UPG = any group unable to carry their own church without missionary support
 - * Note: therefore, there are "degrees of unreached"
- b. UPG's brought in the 3rd era of missions
 - Townsend developed the "horizontal" model based on linguistic issues (Mexico)
 - MacGavran developed the "vertical" model based on the social issues (India)
 - * Homogeneous units
 - * Bridges to God
- c. Orality is the primary communication vehicle in +70% of the world
- d. Mega-spheres of the world
 - Hindu...
 - Muslim
 - Chinese
 - "Other"
 - Tribal
 - Buddhist
 - Non-Religious peoples
- L. Prayer as a Strategy (#2)
 - 1. Eph. 6:19 reference to "Rope holders" for those willing to go down into the pit...
 - 2. Sustains missionaries
 - 3. Breaks down strong holds of Satan... as missionaries go out, we go out before and after them on our knees
 - 4. Psalm 2:8...
 - 5. Prayer walks in targeted areas
 - * "Prayer is rebellion against the status quo." - David Wells
 - * Moravians held a 100 year 24/7 prayer
- M. Charismatic Impact (#3)
 - 1. Latin American roots
 - a. History
 - b. Demonstrative culture
 - c. Miraculous
 - 2. 1960's "third wave" spread across the globe and all denominations
- N. National Leadership (#4)
 - 1. Nationalization - the institutions (churches, hospitals, schools) being handed over to the nationals
 - 2. Maturing of national church leaders
 - 3. Healthy balance = between "dependency" and "Missionary go home"
 - 4. Ministry language should be the national language
 - 5. Leadership Training is key!!!
 - 6. 2 Tim. 2:2
- O. Internationalization Factors (#5)
 - 1. Missionary teams will be made up of multi-national people

2. +1000 non-Western mission agencies that send out +40,000 missionaries
3. Over 1000 missionaries have gone out from that same places we send missionaries to...

P. Defunct Ecumenical Movement (#6)

1. Missionaries need to be ready to explain the divisions within the Evangelical church.
2. In the USA we have 2,630 religions
3. Roman Catholic church has 116 "denominations"

Q. The Para-church Movement (#7)

1. Key to "strategy coordinators"
2. Need to know who, how, where, when, why of the networking process for missions
3. Most agencies target specific work or locations/people groups

R. Partnership & Networking (#8)

1. Build bridges and connections and friendships in any and all ways that help you in your ministry or others in theirs - and never burn a bridge.
2. Phil. 1:5
3. Co-Mission movement - when a group of people try to accomplish something together
4. IMB Strategy Coordinators do this as a key part of their job
5. *U.S. Center for World Mission (the Pentagon of Evangelical missions) in Pasadena, CA*
** Over 40 agencies sub-let on the premises*

S. Short Term Involvement (#9)

1. World Evangelism Fellowship did short term Baptist missions before it was called such (taking groups from different churches)
2. Partnership Evangelism evolved
3. 1 week to 4 years
4. Career missionaries will always be needed as the foundation for both the overall ministry and the short term missionaries
5. **IMB Fast Facts**
 - a. 5,420 missionary units sent out in 2000
 - b. High volume but low percentage to overall believers
 - c. 34,000 volunteers sent out in 2001
 - d. 3359 career missionaries
 - e. IMB career appointments are going up drastically but finances are soft due to investments (not giving rates)

U. Relief & Development (#10)

1. Famine relief
2. Ethnic violence refugees
3. Medical ministries are key in this area
4. Agricultural support is key
5. Deforestation crisis
6. Natural disasters

VI. Translation & Interpretation

A. People group approach

1. Gen. 11: 1-9
2. Gen. 12: 1-3
3. People respond to the Gospel most favorably in their mother tongue

B. Cam Townsend (1896-1982)

1. Bible translator and missiologist
2. He was asked: "If your God is so smart, why doesn't He speak my language?"
3. He served Guatemala, Mexico and the world
4. Started "Camp Wycliffe" in 1934
5. Started Wycliffe Bible Translators
6. Total languages in the world = 6809
 - a. 1500 programs in progress
 - b. 883 only some scriptures
 - c. 1012 adequate N.T.
 - d. 392 adequate Bible
 - e. 3000+ may need translation
 - f. It will take Wycliffe over 250 years to finish the only the highest of priorities.... the work is never ending!
 - g. Average translation = 20-30 years per couple to fully translate a language into a Bible and then train the people group to read their newly created Bible
 - h. Wycliffe has finished over 530 languages (serving 30 million people)
 - i. 5318 active missionaries
 - j. Personnel from 55 countries
 - k. 1300+ job needs right now
7. Worldwide statistics
 - a. Over 6 billion people
 - b. 380+ million people speak a language with NO SCRIPTURE

C. Translation

1. Substituting words just because people groups are not familiar with some concepts is wrong and dangerous.... remember: the Bible was put together perfectly with divine inspiration... to change one part can have heretical impact!
2. Translation is not simply a verbal one-to-one substitution of words
3. Two pitfalls to be avoided:
 - a. Literal translation
 - b. Paraphrasing
4. "Translators need to see the world thru the sociolinguistic eyes of the speakers of the language into which they are translating God's Word."

5. Be careful to take any and all cultural filters into consideration
6. The Best Translation of the Bible
 - a. People understand the message
 - b. Ease of comprehension
 - c. People get involved with the Gospel as a result
 - d. People say: "I never knew God spoke my language"
 - e. Summary: "The job of a Bible translator is to bring God's Will to people in their own language. A good grasp of

anthropological

principles... (see power point slide)

VII. The Purpose Of Missions (ch. 2)

- A. Without some purpose, efforts lose focus"
- B. The plurality of understandings on the purpose of mission are facets of the gem
 1. Waldron Scott emphasized "justice"
 2. Kraft emphasized cultural contextualization
 3. Piper stresses worship & proclamation
 4. Newbigin stressed Trinitarian kingdom of God
 5. Baptists stress the Great Commission, building disciples
- C. IMB purpose: "Our basic purpose is to provide all people an opportunity to hear, understand, and respond to the gospel in their own cultural context."
 1. The way to tell truths to a person or people = when in Rome, act like the Romans.... = "contextualize the gospel"
 2. The basic task of the missionary is "evangelism through proclamation, discipling, equipping, and ministry that results in indigenous Baptist churches." (modeled after the Gospels and Acts churches)
 - a. A rapid, exponential church planting movement within a people group that is self-generating
 - * Matthew 24:14 is foundational...
 3. Purpose:
 - a. Opportunity to hear
 - b. Understand
 - c. Respond
 - d. The Gospel
 - e. All in their own cultural context
 4. Task of a missionary
 - a. Evangelism
 - b. Proclamation
 - c. Discipling
 - d. Equipping
 - e. Ministry
 - f. Results.... Indigenous Baptist churches
 5. We need to know the Gospel so that we can help where needed and get out of the way when they are ready....
- D. The 4 "Selfs"
 1. Self-Supporting - healthy churches become self-supporting.

Missiology 6/10/03

2. **Self-Governing** - missionaries are to help set Biblical boundaries and establish good models... but eventually they should govern themselves, where missionaries do not become overly controlling
 3. **Self-Propagating**
 4. **Self-Theologizing** = the conceptualizing of the gospel for their culture
 - * Note: so long as it reflects the true gospel
- E. **Primary purpose of Missions is to be Light in a dark world**
1. **Salt & Light characteristics**
 - a. **Salt does not overtake the flavor of a food when properly applied**
 - b. **Light when absent or when so bright you cannot see...**
- F. Cultures are neutral but elements must be judged
1. Sinful elements must be identified biblically
 2. The national Christians are the ones to lead change (the national church "doing" national theologizing)
- G. **The Missionary community should be a community of light, but not from the heat!**
1. Eph. 5:8, 15-20
 2. 1 John 1:ff, 2: 8-11
 - *** **The nationals are watching our lives!!!**
- H. Two **extremes to avoid**
1. **Do not become so narrowly minded that vital missions concerns are overlooked**
 2. **Do not overly generalize things to the point that everything becomes missions**

Missiology 6-10-03

- I. Broad Strokes Of The History Of Missions
- A. Bible repeated refers to the entire world as God's creation
 - B. God made a covenant with Abraham... thru you all the clans of the world will be blessed
 - C. Mosaic covenant at Mount Sinai... you will be a priestly kingdom... to serve a purpose of God that goes beyond yourselves... serve the whole world as God's prophet
 1. Tell the world that there is one true God
 - D. God sent prophets throughout the O.T. to tell the people God's message(s)
 1. Warning against joining the cultures of the day
 2. Resist the gods of the other cultures
 - E. Special revelation was silent between the O.T. times and N.T. times
 - F. Then God sent his Son Jesus
 1. Jesus begins to minister to people
 2. The apostles come along side and learn
 3. Jesus was crucified...
 4. Jesus comes back and gives the apostles the great commission

*** Note: we have a 5-fold account of the Great Commission... it is in every Gospel as well as the book of Acts!!!

5. Paul and Barnabas begin the global outreach

- a. Began with the stoning of Stephen
- b. The apostles gather to pray and fast to decide what they are to do
- c. The apostles did not do a very good job responding to Jesus' great commission... they stayed in Jerusalem for the most part
- d. Paul takes the lead in this regard from Antioch...

G. Paul's missionary journey(s)

H. Pentecost occurs as Jesus promised, for the first time, the Holy Spirit indwelt people - until then, the H.S. would come "upon" people to empower to accomplish what God desired...

1. As the H.S. was poured out, God was reaching out to the nations by giving His word in all the languages of the world
2. In this way, the H.S. was brought to the nations by these instantly created missionaries

I. The Samaritan revival occurs

J. Ethiopian Eunuch is discipled by (Andrew/Philip)

*** Remember that the N.T. people were proving/referencing the Messiah-ship of Jesus using only the O.T. Scriptures and their personal witness

K. Paul and Barnabas are set apart for missions after prayer at the Antioch church

1. They go throughout the Roman empire
2. Some welcome them, some persecute them
- * Note: Paul always began in the Jewish synagogue and then went outside to the gentiles
3. Judaizer issues led to the Jerusalem council which clarified:
 - a. Christians are saved by faith alone
 - b. Some "clean rituals" are required because they are seen as moral
 - c. But, "religious rituals" (i.e. circumcision) are no longer required of non-Jews
 - d. The many examples of Jesus ministering to gentiles are key to this change...
 - e. Paul plants numerous churches throughout the Roman empire... he also looks after them and nurtures them to healthy independence
 - f. Exponential church growth begins to take off...

L. The word apostle means: "one who is sent" (it was a specific office)

M. All families/individuals are called to live as missionaries

1. Ralph Winter says we are to live a "war-time" lifestyle in terms of our priorities and choices in every aspect of our lifestyle
 - a. Identify your mission
 - b. Only buy/spend for those essential tools that are mission critical
2. Paul was an example...

- a. Here is a look at his perspective in one snap-shot, opening salutation to his book to the Ephesians...
- b. Eph. 1: 1-2
 - I am an apostle
 - A sent one of the Lord Jesus
 - By the will of God
 - Writing to the saints (ones set apart for God's service)
 - * Paul was set apart for this divine work

II. What Is The Gospel?

- A. A message about God and His Holiness
 - 1. Teach who God is!
 - 2. Recognize there are many different cultural contexts...
- B. A message about man and his sinfulness
- C. A message about Jesus Christ - His person and His work
 - 1. More than just forgiving of sin!
 - 2. He exchanged our sinful nature and gave us His righteousness
- D. A summons to repentance and faith
- E. A Clear & Certain sound
 - 1. Point people to Christ
 - 2. That is the purpose of the Christian message
- F. Message: God and His Holiness
 - 1. Tells who God is and what He is like
 - 2. We cannot love God if we do not know who He is!
 - 3. It informs us about God's standards and requirement
 - 4. The Gospel begins by teaching us that we, as creatures, are absolutely dependent upon the Creator and that He has absolute claim upon us.
 - *** Chronological Bible storying is a great way to get the foundation laid for further witness
- G. Message: Man & his sinfulness
 - 1. All have fallen short...
 - 2. Result is wrath of God (Psalm 7:11)
 - 3. John 3 18,36
 - 4. For the "only love" perspective on God... all we need to look to is the Flood to recognize that God is holy in his wrath toward sinners.
 - 5. "Sin is not a social concept, it is a theological concept" - J.I. Packer (Evangelism & the Sovereignty of God)
 - 6. True conviction includes:
 - a. Awareness of a wrong relationship w/ G
 - b. The conviction of sins
 - c. The conviction of sinfulness
 - 7. Whitefield and Luther always preached people into hell and they preached them out through God's grace...
- H. Message: Jesus Christ
 - 1. Christ is the Son of god incarnate
 - 2 Christ is the Lamb of God

3. Christ dying for sin
 4. Christ the perfect savior
 5. Christ the risen Lord
- *** see video (outreach tool) = EE-taow

I. Two important points:

1. Must talk about WHAT JESUS HAS DONE
 - a. Came to earth
 - b. Lived a perfect life
 - c. He died
 - d. Resurrected
 - e. He returned to heaven, where actively works on our behalf
2. Must talk about WHO JESUS IS (present tense)

J. Must come to Christ personally!

1. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ...
 - a. Faith in Him for redemption
2. NOT - simply accept the fact of His reality

K. Message: a summons to repentance and faith

1. Repentance includes:
 - a. Awareness of sins
 - b. Personal nature of sinfulness
 - c. Awareness that sin is against a holy God
 - d. A turning away from sin!
 - e. Jesus said: "unless you will repent, you will all likewise perish"
 - f. The Gospel is a summons, not just an invitation

V. **Missionary Mandate - God's Purpose and the Purpose's Church**

A. **How can we know what God's will is for our life?**

1. **God saved us for a reason (Php. 3:12)**
2. **He has a purpose and a plan to fulfill in our life**
3. **Are we fulfilling God's best for our life? (Psalm 32:8)**
4. **Every person needs to ask: "why did God take hold of me... why did he choose to save me?"**
 - * **Only in the answer to these questions can we find His will for our life (and the genuine richness the uniquely comes from God)**

B. **Knowing the will of God**

1. **Know God** (the way a best friend knows a best friend, the way a spouse knows a spouse, knowing more than the obvious and surface level characteristics...)
2. **Know His Word** - too often we pray for answers that have already been answered in principle in the Bible
3. Prayer
4. **Counsel** - seek counsel from wise, Godly believers with valuable experience
5. **Humble submission** - when we filter our ears or only submit to "some" things... God may not respond. The key is to ask with a genuine

willingness to respond - regardless of God's answer.
Anything less is a recipe for disaster.

6. Circumstances
 - a. Recognize that both God and Satan may use circumstances
 - b. Consequently, while this can be an instrument of the Lord, it is not to be relied upon independently.
 - c. At the same time, don't diminish the fact that God can work out circumstances to support and communicate His will for our lives.
7. It's not a tightrope; its a wide-open field!
8. Joy
9. Peace

*** What do you do when a husband and wife differ in the process...
Answer: push the pause button, ask God to intervene. If God wants them to be somewhere badly enough, He will change the heart of the other spouse and calm the household with His peace.

*** *1 Peter 3:7 tells us about this situation... men are to give their wives equal consideration in the decision making process!!!*

*** There should be agreement before a family goes to the mission field!

*** We leave family, home, and possessions for the sake of the name (anything other reason is unbiblical and selfish!!!)

*** **Life goal should be:**

! All I want is ALL He wants

! However my life can best glorify Him is my greatest desire

V. What Is The Church

- A. 3 characteristics of a viable church "structure"
 1. Preaching
 2. Ordinances
 3. Church discipline
- B. Leadership is required (biblical), normally recognized as Pastors and Deacons
- C. 4 truths stand out
 1. The N.T. church is visible
 2. Composed of baptized believers
 3. Organizationally it consists of baptized believers who join voluntarily
 4. Promotion of Christ's redemptive purpose for all peoples
- D. Metaphors of the churches
 1. People of God
 2. Body of Christ (Pauline = In Christ)
 3. Temple of the Holy Spirit
 4. "The Church exists by mission just as fire exists by burning" - Emil Brunner
- E. 4 Main activities of the Church (per Dr. Rainer)
 1. Evangelism
 2. Discipleship

3. Worship
4. Social Ministries
- *** All involve "missions"
- F. Nine marks of a healthy church: (per Mark Dever)
 1. Expository Preaching
 2. Biblical theology
 3. Biblical understanding of the Good News
 4. Biblical understanding of conversion
 5. Biblical understanding of evangelism
 6. Biblical understanding of church membership
 7. Biblical... church discipline
 8. Concern for promoting Christian discipleship and growth
 9. Biblical church leadership
- G. Cultural Mandate vs. Gospel Mandate
 1. Gen. 1: 28, 2:15, Matthew 28 18-20
 2. We are stewards of His creation
 3. We are to care for the world and its population
 4. Our purpose is not just managerial but also missionary
- H. Danger of extremes
 1. Social ministry... to the exclusion of Gospel message
 - a. Liberation theology (God likes the poor and needy more than the fortunate....)
 - b. No evangelism
 - c. Pluralism can creep in
 - d. Healthy lost people is the result
 2. Evangelism only (with no social awareness)
 - a. No credibility
 - b. Not faithful representatives of Christ
 - c. In violation of Scripture

VI. Motivation For Missions

- A. The glory of God
- B. To obey and fulfill the great commission
- C. To rescue perishing souls
- D. Sin is the great divider
 1. Missions is a fraud if no sin barrier exists
 2. Sin erects a barrier because of the nature of sin
 - 3.
- E. Willful rebellion against God assumes:
 1. Every person has a choice
 2. But only according to their nature
 3. All fell in Adam and Eve so have a fallen nature
 4. Also, all have willfully sinned against God
 5. All sin against the level of light (revelation) that they have received
 - a. General revelation alone is enough to condemn a man

- b. 4 stages of Revelation
 - General revelation in nature
 - Rev. of God in conscience and reason
 - Rev. of God in the Mosaic law
 - Rev. of God in Jesus Christ
- 6. The meaning of Salvation
 - a. Past tense
 - b. Present tense
 - c. Future tense
 - *** Salvation comes from grace alone!!!
- 7. Meaning of Grace or Mercy
 - a. Mercy is when God withholds from us the punishment we deserve
 - b. Grace is when God gives us the good blessings we do not deserve
- 8 Blessings of Salvation
 - a. Reconciliation
 - b. Propitiation
 - c. Forgiveness
 - d. Freedom from the law
 - e. Adoption
 - f. Justification
 - g. Nearness to God
 - h. Deliverance from the power of sin
 - i. Heavenly citizenship
 - j. Fellowship with the Saints
 - k. Eternal life
- E. **Why did the Lord save us?**
 - 1. For God's pleasure
 - 2. Eph. 1: 3-14
 - *** GRACE = God's Riches At Christ's Expense
 - *** "Let my heart be broken with the things that break the heart of God"
 - *** The right Q: How can my church fit into what God is doing around the world.
 - *** 95% of our trained seminary graduates go to where only 5% of the world's population resides (the U.S.).
 - *****
"I have but one candle of life to burn, and I would rather burn it out where people are dying in darkness than in a land that is flooded with light." - Anonymous
 - *****

VIII. State Of The Un-evangelized...

- A. Universal human sinfulness
- B. Extreme consequences of sin
 - 1. Divine disfavor
 - a. God opposes...
 - b. God hates...
 - c. Sinners hate God
 - d. Sinners hate the righteous
 - e. Sinners are under God's wrath
 - 2. Guilt
 - a. Not just "subjective", but "objective guilt"
 - b. Having violated God's intentions you are liable to punishment
 - c. Sin is more than "bad"... it is wrong
 - d. View sin in juristic terms, no aesthetic... it is black and white!
 - e. We are commanded to be holy
 - f. Sin and the sinner deserve and even need to be punished
 - 3. Punishment
 - a. God's punishment is retributive (not merely to deter and certainly not to rehabilitate)
 - Paying back a person for what they deserve
 - 4. Death
 - a. Beginning in the garden...
 - b. Romans 6:23
 - Physical
 - Spiritual
 - Eternal
 - 5. Seriousness of sin's consequences
 - a. Can a human get themselves out of it?
 - b. O.T. teaches that sinfulness is a "state" or "condition"
 - Jer. 17:9
 - Ez 11:19
 - Psalm 51
 - c. N.T. is even more emphatic
 - Jesus taught about the heart vs. actions
 - d. Therefore...
 - TOTAL DEPRAVITY
 - Salvation by grace alone
 - All humans in their natural state are sinners
 - Sin separates people from God and brings on death
 - No person can do anything to save themselves by themselves
 - God has provided for the removal of sins through Jesus Christ
 - e. Implications for the Missions Enterprise
 - The Church must take the message of the Gospel to the world
 - Matthew 28: 18-20

- *Acts 1:8*
- *Romans 10: 14-15 (Paul's very practical questions to believers regarding our responsibilities to bring the Gospel to the world.*

IX. Possible Responses to the Gospel message

A. Mainstream / broad-brush options

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

B. Other options offered

1. Universalism
2. New Universalism
3. Wider Hope
4. New Wider Hope
5. Equifinality

C. Universalism - a closer look

1. All will ultimately be saved because God is good and He doesn't want anyone to go to hell
2. The problem is, if sin will be overlooked by some gracious Deity, Christ died for nothing

D. New Universalism

1. Takes Bible more seriously
2. Christ's death saved everyone - there alone
3. The problem is that Christ taught about an eternal separation between the saved and the lost

E. Wider Hope

1. Not all will be saved but many who have not heard of Christ will be saved because God is just and will not condemn the sincere seeker who has never heard the Gospel message.
2. This theory is the "never-heard" answer....
3. The problem is that sincerity does not save in architecture or chemistry... neither does it save in eternity salvifically

F. New Wider Hope

1. Those who live by the light they have may be saved on the merits of Christ's death even though not converted
2. At the least, they will be given another chance after death
3. Only those who actually reject the Gospel will be lost
4. The problem is Nicodemus, Cornelius, and Lydia...
 - a. Jesus made it clear that you must be born again
 - b. Cornelius was a God-fearer but that was not enough...
 - c. Lydia was praying when Paul found her... that was not enough...

G. Equifinality

1. Different religions are like cars of a train... all are going to reach God in their own way... we are all going to the same place - no matter which religious hat we wear...

2. Assumes ALL religions are equal footing in God's eyes...
3. The problem is Jesus specifically refutes this thought!
 - a. John 3:18
 - b. Acts 4: 12
 - c. John 14 6
4. Equifinality is the same as Inclusivism

H. Light and More Light...

1. Biblical principle = those who receive the light revealed to them will receive more (Mark 4: 21-25)
2. Whoever wants God... God will get to them...
3. Can there be any other way? Consider these analogies...
 - a. A security guard on the 10th floor of a nursing home...
 - b. "Sheep Island"... (per Robertson McQuilkin)
 - c. Like it or not, the Bible offers only one way to salvation - period!

*** Note: Infants and mental handicaps go to heaven (not because the "did not do anything wrong") based on David saying that his infant son who died, "cannot come to me so I will go to him." This is still a hotly contested issue theologically. Others say we cannot distinguish between the baby and the man on the island...

X. History of Missions in the Early Church (1-500 AD)

- A. There are 10 400 year epochs (2000 BC - 2000 AD)
 1. These have repeated cycle tracking
 2. We are now in the 10th epoch of redemptive history
 3. The pattern
 - a. The kingdom advances
 - b. The kingdom becomes stagnant
 - c. God acts in judgment
- B. The 10 Epochs - see PowerPoint slide...

XI. Notes on History Missed... see PowerPoint slides

XII. Reformation

- A. The Just shall live by faith
- B. Luther, Calvin, Zwingli
- C. 95 Thesis 10/31/1517
- D. Some Protestant mission during this time but not the emphasis of the Reformers... why?
 1. Faulty hermeneutics
 2. Struggles against Catholicism
 3. No monastic orders like the Catholics
- E. But Calvinist Huguenots, Eliot, Brainerd, Edwards, Justinian Von Welz, etc. ... all led protestant missionary efforts...

XIII. Cutting the Catholic Roots

- A. French and American revolutions
- B. Great Awakening in the Colonies
- C. Preaching movements...
- D. Pietists
 - 1. Spencer, Franke, Egede
 - 2. Zinzendorf led the Moravian Missions
- E. Protestant Precursors
 - 1. Anglican Societies for Missions

XIV. The Great Century (1792 - 1910)

- A. William Carey sails to the first World Missionary Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1792
- B. The primary Roman Catholic emphasis was reordering of missions efforts since Jesuit problems
- C. This great century was when Protestant movement really advanced

XV. William Carey - "Father of Modern Missions" (1761-1834)

- A. Bi-vocational Baptist pastor among hyper-Calvinists
 - 1. He was a cobbler
 - 2. Built demographically accurate maps of the world out of shoe leather...
 - 3. Many hobbies
 - a. Botany
 - b. Geography
 - c. Languages
- B. Influenced by Eliot, Brainerd and the apostle Paul
- C. 1792 he wrote: "An Enquiry into the Obligation of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of Heathens"
- D. Preached a sermon: "Attempt Great Things; Expect Great Things" - Isa.54:2-3
- E. Note: SBC has a video on his life called "A candle in the wind" or something like that...
- F. Wife Dorothy refuses to go with him to India... she later gives in and goes under duress and pressure from him...
 - 1. She lost her mind
 - 2. She tried to kill Carey
 - 3. She had to be tied to her bed later in life...
- G. Carey's 5 Prong Philosophy of Missions
 - 1. Widespread preaching
 - 2. Distribution of Bibles in their language
 - 3. Church planting
 - 4. Profound study of non-Christian religions (prevent blending)
 - 5. Ministerial training in a comprehensive program
- H. Carey's legacy
 - 1. 40+ translations of the Bible
 - 2. Dozens of missions stations in India

3. Grammars and dictionaries in many languages
4. 3 Sons who became missionaries
5. Abolition of "sati" - wife burned at husband's death bed
6. Translation of the Hindu classics into English
7. Premier horticultural research and training

I. Outstanding Missionaries

1. Serampore Trio - Carey, Marshman, Ward
2. Ann & Adoniram Judson to Burma
 - a. First American Baptist missionaries
 - b. Embraced believers baptism on voyage to meet Carey (they had been Congregationalist)
 - c. Luther Rice who was with the returned to the U.S. to raise funds for them...
 - Started General Missionary Conv. of the Baptist Denomination in the USA for Foreign Missions.... 1814
 - * Later became Triennial Convention)
 - d. They are separated & imprisoned due to civil war...
 - e. Ann loses a baby in the process
 - f. They finally get back together...
 - g. After all that... both said they loved God throughout and knew that nothing happened to them that did not come wrapped in God's love
3. Robert Morrison - China
4. George Lisle - liberated slave was the first American to go abroad and plant a church (the first actual foreign missionary)
5. Hiram Bingham - Hawaii
6. Lott Cary & Collin Teague (African Americans) - Liberia

XVII. 1910 First World Missionary Conf.

- A. Carey's dream becomes a reality
- B. 1200+ representatives
- C. No Roman Catholics invited
- D. "Evangelization of the world in this generation" - motto
- E. ***** 4 Men, 3 Eras, 2 Transitions - see slide chart *****

*** Know the turbulent actions of the 20th century that impacted the missions movement

*** Know the main missionaries...

*** Keys to the baptistic growth in the U.S.

1. Methodists had circuit rider Pastors
2. Baptists had "farmer pastors"
3. Key: both denominations had an "outreach" arm which led to their explosive growth compared to the other mainstream denominations

*** The 6 factors key to growth of the early church - not on the test!!!

Missiology 6-11-03

FINAL EXAM MATERIAL

I. Culture: the Milieu of Missions

A. Every place in the world has a culture...

B. Missionaries must understand:

1. Central place of God's power, will, and prayer
2. Ways to adjust personally to cultures
3. Methods of accommodating the gospel to cultures
 - * Be careful of extremes on both side... too rigid or too adaptive
4. Be sure to follow biblical foundations in choices of "accommodation"
5. Must learn the meaning and nature of "culture"

C. What is culture - anthropologically?

1. Find the book: "Foreign to Familiar" by Sara Linear
2. Culture refers to a "learned and shared way of life"
 - * Social norms shared by a people group
3. Culture is the sum total of all "learned cues"
4. Culture is not instinct or reflex actions
5. Tyler's Definition of "culture":
 - * Culture is that complex whole that includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law...
 - a. Complex whole = integrated system
 - b. Knowledge, beliefs, art, morals, law
 - c. Customs, capabilities (things you have to learn to fit into life), habits
 - d. Acquired by man = "learned"
 - e. A member of society... you learn it from the people around you
6. Culture is the learned design or pattern of living for a group of people.

D. Adjusting to Culture

1. Ethnocentrism = practice of judging characteristics of another culture against one's home culture
 - a. The other culture usually seen as inferior
 - b. Missionaries should recognize their own ethnocentric tendencies
 - c. Other cultures are not wrong - just different!
 - d. Beware: the "ugly American" is alive and well...
2. Culture shock
 - a. It is inevitable but rarely fatal
 - b. Occurs when two cultures collide
 - Think in broad strokes...

- Example: Hot vs. Cold climate cultures
- c. Multilevel, multifaceted, and goes both ways
- d. Primarily an emotional reaction to a fallen world
- e. Cultural shock stages:
 - * Culture Surprise
 - Sights
 - Sounds
 - Smells
 - Money
 - Customs

!!! Lasts for a fairly short time...
 - * Rejection Stage
 - "Us and We" vs. "Them and They"
 - Caricature and ridicule of nationals

!!! This stage can last for a couple of months to a couple of years... it depends on how quickly you bond with the culture, learn the language...

!!! Key: remember why you are there!
 - * Recovery Stage (3 versions)
 - Cultural Assimilation (BAD) = "going native"
 - !. Sounds great but it is not healthy
 - !. Remember: God made you who you are
 - Cultural Acceptance & Adaptation/Acculturation (Accommodation = GOOD)
 - !. Bonding with the culture, humor, friends
 - ! It's not wrong.... it's just different
 - Culture Tension/Stress (BAD)
 - !. Always on a slow burn...
 - ! Nationals are never accepted as equals
 - ! Can last forever...
 - ! Danger: one spouse can come out of the "culture shock" process with flying colors while the other one only comes out to this level... even though they had gone through the entire process up to this point with equal, healthy progress... but now there is a dangerous problem.
- f. Reverse culture shock = shock when returning home...
 - USA is the parent's home, but not the kids'
 - * MK's can feel like they have "no home"... They don't bond to the U.S. and they don't fully accept the target culture as home...
 - * Kids may be socially advanced compared to like aged children... their horizons have been

significantly broadened... their experiences surpass many adults in all kinds of aspects....

- Prices, options, waste, wealth...
 - Different "priorities and preferences"
 - Phrases, clothing styles, dangers, etc.
 - !. Especially with kids...
 - !. Vehicles of peer pressure and potential ridicule
 - Not fatal... but forewarned is forearmed!
- *** Remember: when ministering to multi-nationals here... they are somewhere in this process.

G. Enculturation

1. "How we learn our culture"
2. All inclusive - happens from birth to death

H. Acculturation

1. Learning another culture
2. Stages of acculturation
 - a. Rejection (bad)
 - b. Acculturation (good)
 - c. Assimilation (bad)
3. Ethnocentrism blocks the process
4. Success = when one effectively fits into both old and new cultures

Ch. 17

II. Cross-Cultural Communication

A. Why study c-c-c?

1. So we can effectively communicate w/ the target audience
2. We tend to try to learn the language but overlook the culture...
3. The ability to recognize and relate effectively among diverse cultures is essential in our world (home or away).
4. *Jesus is our model for ministry...* (John 20:21)
 - a. Task
 - b. Strategy (being holistic)
 - c. Methodology
 - d. Heart
 - e. Ultimate goal = the glory of God
 - f. *Matthew 9: 35-38 is a great summary!*
 - Jesus "went" throughout all the cities and villages
 - Teaching
 - Proclaiming the Gospel
 - Healing (meeting people's needs)
 - Compassion for the people
 - Prayed earnestly for laborers for the harvest
 - g. "...communication is the name of the missions game..."
 - h. Rev. 7: 9-10 tells us we can and will be successful on an aggregate scale

B. Gestures

1. We must be very careful with gestures... we may do a gesture without even knowing it... BEWARE!
2. Learn what gestures exist and what they mean. It is the missionary's responsibility to learn.
3. Example of bad gestures in many cultures...
 - a. "Okay" hand gesture
 - b. "Victory" or "Peace" sign
 - c. Pointing with the index finger
 - d. "I've got your nose"
 - e. "Finger waving to imply the word NO"
 - f. Pointing with our feet...
 - g. The "come here" gesture
 - h. No gesture of height with people... typically used exclusively with animals

C. What do you notice first about a person?

1. Language is not the first thing...
2. Non-verbal language is thus very important!
 - a. Any process whereby a message is sent and received through the use of any of the senses without the use of language
 - b. Gestures
 - Hands
 - Eyes
 - Perspiring
 - c. Kinesic communication ("messages thru movement")
 - Dance
 - Jittery
 - Sluggish
 - d. Proxemic commo = messaging via "personal space" management
 - Distance and time/duration are key
 - Example: elevator dynamics
3. Language = verbal, systematic, and symbolic communication
 - a. Study of sounds = phonology
 - Phonemes are distinct sounds
 - * English has 45
 - * Polynesian languages have <20
 - b. Grammar
 - Morphology = organization of phonemes
 - Syntax = combo of words for sentences
 - Discourse = making sentences into longer units

D. Isaiah 11:9 & Habakkuk 2:14 great motivators

III. **The Indigenous Church** (ch. 18)

- A. See matrix from the slide...
1. Cultural Relativism...

- a. Biblical axis
 - b. Cultural axis
 - c. *** *Biblical Absolutism plus Cultural Relativism = goal...* =
"Mutual Respect" with proper filters/priorities...
- B. Emic = Trying to see things thru the cultural eyes... = Emic perspective
- C. Etic = outsider's perspective on a culture
- D. **Contextualization**
- 1. Theology done from within a cultural system
 - a. One truth may have different emphasis with different cultures
 - b. We need to know both how that culture "hears" and what they prioritize (as well as the "contextualize message" we are actually sending, regardless of our words.
 - 2. **Clothing the Gospel in culturally relevant garments**
 - 3. **Losing our excess "cultural baggage" so that the Gospel is clearly seen**
 - * We need to plant the seed the Holy Spirit has given us and let Him grow the type of church He wants in that area
 - 4. **Beware of extremes**
 - a. **Syncretism (blending) is a natural, albeit wrong outcome** to be guarded against
 - 5. **Methods of Accommodation / Contextualization**
 - a. **Contextualization should be carried out by the national church and her leadership**
 - b. **Possession refers to the practice of selecting an aspect of the target culture that can be adopted and "possessed."** Use great caution and stay alert to syncretism.
 - c. **"Felt Need" prioritization**
 - d. **"Power Encounter" approach...**
 - **Boldly disprove the perceived power of the mystical gods of the culture**
 - Be careful to do so in a loving, respectful way
 - * i.e. Don't brag, don't be rough...
 - e. **Functional Substitution approach...**
 - i.e. Baby "dedication" vs. baby baptism
 - i.e. "Family Fun Fest" vs. Halloween
 - f. **Be careful not to use/introduce a tool or methodology that cannot be sustained by the nationals** given that culture's multifaceted limitations.
 - g. We need to be careful not to add our "cultural sins"
 - 6. Contextualization and the Missionary Endeavor
 - a. **Guidelines for contextualization**
 - **Bible is the final authority**
 - **Supra-cultural elements of the gospel must be preserved in the process (those things that are above culture)**
 - **Be sensitive to 3 levels of culture**
 - * **Biblical culture**

- * Your own culture
 - * Your "target" culture
 - *** Only understanding all 3 affords the opportunity to communicate rightly
 - Local leaders must be in the forefront
 - Theological formulations must be informed by the "greater Church historical doctrines"
 - * Don't leave behind what the giants before us developed...
 - * Good rule... worry more about what not to say vs. what to say... BE CAREFUL!!!
 - Watch out for syncretism
 - Be patient and humble at ALL TIMES
 - * Paul always wrote to others as equals...
 - *Adequate tools for analysis should be used to understand cultural context*
 - Contextualized approaches try to present the Gospel (which never changes) in ever-changing, effective ways (depending on the people group / culture targeted)
- b. The Willowbank Report...
- www.gospelcom.net/lcwe/LOP/lop02.htm
- Establishes biblical justification for contextualization
 - See text pp. 325-326
 - Distinguish between cultural form and meaning of the biblical text
 - Emphasizes recognizing the "heart" of the gospel
 - Affirms the positive elements of cultures
 - Note: "dynamic equivalence" model of contextualization = NIV version of the Bible
- *** Goal = lost may come into a saving relationship with God thru Christ... a faith that they can reproduce amongst their people group.

IV. Traditional Religions: Primal Religiosity and Mission Dynamics (ch. 21)

A. The religions that traditionally exist around the world...

1. Everybody has some kind of religion...

B. Animism:

1. Every religion has some animistic elements... even Evangelicals...
2. A belief that natural objects are animated by spirits. Spirits are thought to have identifiable personalities and genders... the spirits may be thought of as kind, neutral, or mean...
3. Animatism = beliefs in impersonal spiritual forces
 - a. Supernatural power that is not connected to any personal identity
 - b. Like "the force" in Star Wars...

- c. It is neither good or evil, but it is powerful and dangerous if misused...
 - 4. Belief that everything has a spirit
 - 5. Totem = connection between persons and an animal or plant for identification
 - * Base assumption is that the people involved evolved from "their" specific animal (totem)
 - 6. Taboo = supernatural injunctions against certain behavior (i.e. incest, killing one's totem animal...)
 - 7. +40% of world's population is animistic!!!
 - 8. "Luck" or "superstition" is rooted in animism
 - * Example: naming objects like our car is rooted in animism
 - 9. Animism is the belief that impersonal spiritual forces have power over human affairs... one is therefore to discover and manipulate those "forces" influencing one's life
 - 10. Beliefs that "places are holy" is common
 - 11. People tend to live in fear of forces
 - 12. Believe in personalized supernatural power
 - 13. "The essence of animism is power"
 - 14. Animism is fully functioning in developed societies
 - a. Studies show there are more witches than Protestants in France
- C. **Common characteristics of "traditional religions"**
- 1. **General Cosmology** (study of the cosmos... the way that they view reality)
 - 2. **Similar concept of time**... it is seen more as cyclical than linear
 - 3. **High God concept**
 - 4. **The Spirit World**
 - a. Spirits that were once humans
 - b. Other objects with a spirit
 - c. The spiritual "force"
 - 5. **Specific intermediaries** with the culture to broker between the people and the spirit-world / highest god
 - 6. **"Flaw of the Excluded Middle"** (concepts of religion) - per Paul Hiebert
 - a. Most learn "high religion"
 - b. Most understand the "science of the world"
 - c. What most miss is the living that takes place in-between
 - This opens the door to syncretism!!!
 - When we don't connect all of the Gospel's dots for "full living", we open the door to "fear" which facilitates the entry of syncretism
 - This isn't just a vacuum... it can be the battlefield of Spiritual warfare!
 - d. The "seen-unseen dimension"
 - e. The "organic vs mechanical continuum" in religion circles
 - f. The excluded middle comes from the Western "two-tiered" view of reality

7. Basic Belief System model
 - a. Sensory or "Common Sense" level
 - b. "First" level Theory (the "how")
 - c. "Second" level Theory (the "why")
8. Traditional vs. Western "systems analysis" - see PowerPoint slide for comprehensive diagram
9. High/Low Religious Systems vs. Great/Little Tradition analysis - see slide for diagram...

D. Magic

1. Imitative Magic - the desired end is acted out
2. Contagious Magic - procedures imposed upon a part of a person to affect them (i.e. using someone's nail clippings or hair etc. to put a spell on someone)
3. How does this work?
 - a. Coincidence/chance
 - b. Psychological/self-fulfilling (called a.k.a. "somatic compliance")
 - c. Demonological
 - d. Sorcery - magic used for antisocial or aggressive purposes to harm someone
 - e. Curses, Oaths
 - f. Amulets and charms
 - g. The "evil eye"
 - h. Mantras
 - i. Power Practitioners are designated
 - Sharman (witch-doctor)
 - * Diviner who seeks to discern cause of situations
 - * Can prescribe remedies
 - * Sharman means someone who helps people deal with the problem of evil in their lives and unlocks secrets of the unknown (Siberian roots)
 - * Does not advocate change as a prophet, nor conduct religious rites as a Priest would...
 - Medium (different than Sharman)
 - * Human oracle thru whom an ancestor or spirit communicates directly w/ the living
 - * Medium goes into a trance
 - * Spirit takes over Medium/person in the process
 - Witch & Sorcerer
 - * Use spiritual power to inflict harm
 - * Witches have internal power (conscious or not)
 - * Sorcerers use external power of magical rites and paraphernalia to consciously inflict harm
 - Divination

- * The animist seeks to discover the cause of a problem
- * Sometimes used to identify the "guilty party"
- New Age / Impersonal Forces
 - * A Power without a will of its own
- Personal Spirit-beings
 - * Metamorphosis is the transformation of life into other forms by magic or sorcery
 - * Possession is the when stronger spirits possess weaker spirits and when divining spirits possess mediums
 - * Assume the Sharmans change into many form (i.e. animals) to serve in their "works"/"spells"
 - * Animism believes whole-heartedly in these dynamics

VI. Worldviews: Christian vs. Animistic

A. Cultures tell us a lot about the "what" and the "how"... Worldviews tells us the "why"

B. When people come to Christ they interpret the Scriptures through the filter of their own worldviews

1. Secularism - "there are no spiritual powers"
 - a. Reject any powers not perceived by the 5 senses
 - b. Powers no longer exist
 - c. Everything has a scientific explanation
 - d. Many people have mixed the gospel with Western secularism...
2. Theism - "there is one sovereign God"
3. Animism - "all of life is controlled by spirits"
 - a. Fears continue as the spirits reign in their lives
 - b. Since the missionaries did not address some specific issues on the matter... they fill the vacuum with:
 - Continued ancestor worship
 - Earth worship for good crops...
 - Sharmans are still used to answer mystical/spiritual questions
 - c. Christian vs. Animistic worldviews... see slide for comparative chart

C. Learn the worldview of the target audience

1. Be careful not to group people into too broad a worldview.... be specific (true target-marketing)
2. Worldviews must be found out because members are ignorant of their peculiarities
3. Best seen during times of crisis and transition, thru proverbs and myths, by contrasting their way with your own way, analyzing how

language is organized... ENTER EACH SITUATION AS A PURPOSEFUL LEARNER

- a. We start as a "learner"
- b. We grow to the place of being a "trader"
- c. We earn the right to eventually become a "teacher"

*** It imparts knowledge both ways while cultivating strong relationships

D. Receptivity

1. Animists remain one of the most open of worldviews...
 - a. They live in fear...
 - b. Tribal worldviews are inadequate to explain the modern world
 - c. Animism is typically amoral - the spirits are morally ambivalent (while it has some sinful elements...)

E. Bridges

1. Stress the sovereignty of God over the spirit world... and ALL creation
2. A "power encounter" may be necessary...
3. Change in Animistic societies:
 - a. During time of tension and cultural disequilibrium
 - b. Is complex and takes place at different levels
 - c. Change is continuous
 - d. Missionaries are most effective when they can see the macro vs. the micro issues
 - e. Beware of syncretism
 - f. Remember: they are "relational groups"
 - g. Individualistic thoughts and private decisions go against the culture

Missiology 6-12-03

World Religions

I. Major Religions of the World (ranked by number of adherents)

A. Christianity - 33% (NOT ALL SAVED!!!)

1. Catholic
2. Eastern Orthodox
3. Pentecostal
4. Latter-day Saints
5. Jehovah's Witnesses
6. African Independent Church (AIC)

*** Reality = "Christianism" because so many of these mix true Christianity with their heresy/"ism"

*** Dr. Sill's best, informed estimate of true, born-again Christians = ???

B. Islam - 22%

C. Hinduism - 15%

D. Nonreligious - 14%

E. Buddhism - 6%

- F. Chinese traditional - 4%
- G. Primal-indigenous (including African) - 3%
- H. Other - 3% (to include Judaism)
- I. Note: 40% of the world is animistic (pulling out of all sects...)
- J. Classical "World Religions"
- K. Intercultural Communication & the Buddhist Worldview
 - 1. Baha'i
 - 2. Buddhism*
 - 3. Christianity*
 - 4. Confucianism
 - 5. Hinduism*
 - 6. Islam*
 - 7. Janism
 - 8.
 - 9.
 - 10.
 - 11.
 - 12.

II. Three Branches of Judaism

- A. Orthodox - traditionalists who observe most of the traditional dietary and ceremonial laws of Judaism. Hold to laws of the Talmud
- B. Conservative - Do not hold to the importance of a Jewish political state, but put more emphasis on the historic and religious aspects of Judaism, doctrinally somewhere between Orthodox and Reform
- C. Reform - The liberal wing of Judaism, culture and race oriented with little consensus on doctrinal or religious belief. From 19th century Germany
 - 1. Do not believe in any after-life
- D. Basic Jewish beliefs
 - 1. Rigid monotheism
 - 2. Centrality of the Torah
 - 3. Family oriented worship
 - 4. Emphasis on "deeds" not "creeds"
 - 5. Emphasis on "now" vs. "future"
 - 6. Many holy days
- E. Key Jewish terms
 - 1. Diaspora - dispersion of the Jews
 - 2. Hanukkah - feast of dedication celebrating the Maccabean victory in 167 BC
 - 3. Passover - deliverance of 1st born when the angel of darkness came throughout Egypt
 - 4. Pentateuch - 1st 5 books
 - 5. Rosh Hashanah - new year
 - 6. Sabbath
 - 7. Seder
 - 8. Shabuot

9. Sukkoth
10. Talmud
11. Torah
- 12.

III. Commonalities Between Religions

- A. All but Christianity are trying to reach out to god and re-tie their connection to god... Christianity is God reaching out to us
- B. Religion = the shared beliefs and practices of a society
- C. Myths, Legends and Rites

1. Myths = deal with the supernatural and are primarily concerned with the origin of man and the material universe
2. Legends = stories to explain how and why things are... (moral)

NOTE: Personal reflection:

*** Marketing principles when applied properly "find the bridges" (as described by Dr. Sills) vs. "create" the bridges that God has left as a vehicle of witness to all peoples (from local neighborhood outreaches to U.P.G.'s - the principle remains the same!!!)

3. Rites -

- a. ...of passage mark an individual's passage from one stage in the life cycle to the next.
- b. ...of intensification increase group solidarity and reinforce commitment to group beliefs

D. Six functions of religion:

1. Psychological - support, consolation and reconciliation
2. Transcendental - security and direction
3. Sacralization - legitimizes norms and values
4. Prophetic - criticizes norms and values
5. Identification - who are we? How do we identify with the past and future
6. Maturation - marks the individual's passage thru life for him and his society

E. Is Christianity truly different?

1. Are we just another option?
 - a. What makes us different?
 - b. Why should the animist listen to you?
2. There is no such thing as plain Christianity; it always expresses itself through a culture
3. Communicating Christ
 - a. Missionaries must keep 2 anthropological concepts in mind:
 - People already have a religion that meets their cultural needs'
 - * Asking people to change theology requires someone to say that their old theology was wrong

- * This means my history (people who I loved and trusted and built my life upon) is wrong
- * People's culture is built on their history (personally speaking)
- * Result = accepting the Gospel requires a complete change of personal culture... (not all recognize that fact at the time of their conversion, which explains why we need to nurture them!)
- Go as a learner... leave your Christianity "baggage" behind
- b. 3 Step Strategy to Communicate Christ to a different culture:
 - Study the religion of the target culture
 - Study your version of Christianity from your own culture and notice the baggage...
 - Cast Christianity in a culturally appropriate form that leaves the baggage and plants the pure seed of the Gospel in the target soil allowing the Holy Spirit to grow it.
- *** Culture is just as important as language... but it is invisible to those insensitive to how it looks and affects a situation.

III. Islam

A. 5 Article of faith

1. God - there is one true God (Allah)
2. Angels
3. Scripture: there are 4 inspired books but all except for the Qur'an have been corrupted
4. Prophets
5. Last Days
 - a. There will be a time of resurrection and judgment

B. Pillars of the Faith

1. Creed - there is no God but Allah and Muhaammd is the Prophet of Allah - public announcement is all it takes to be Muslim
2. Prayer - must be done 5 times a day
3. Almsgiving - legally required to give 1/40 of income
4. Fasting - (Ramadan) Muslims fast from sunup till sundown
5. Pilgrimage - each is expected to make the trip to Mecca in their lifetime

C. Types of Islam

1. Sunnis = majority (90%).
 - a. Developed process of lawmaking
 - b. Very moral as a rule
 - c. Embrace the four "caliphs" (successive leaders of Islam)
2. Shi'ites = minority (10%), reject the successive caliphs...

3. Suffis = not a distinct group, can be either, but stress the inner spiritual life and intimacy with God through discipline of spiritual purification
 4. Note: there are other forms as well... but these are the key 3
- D. Largest national populations... see slide
1. Indonesia
 2. Pakistan
 3. Bangladesh
 4. India
 5. Turkey
 6. Iran
 7. Egypt
 8. Nigeria
 9. China
- E. Famous converts to Islam
1. Khadijah = wife of Muhammad... 1st convert to Islam
 2. Malcolm X
 3. Cat Stevens
- F. Communicating Christ in the Muslim Worldview
1. Mohammad supercedes Jesus (they believe Allah has entrusted the _____ to Jesus)
 2. Nature and means of salvation - good works
 3. Nature of humanity - weak but not sinful
 4. Submission - (Islam) every aspect of life
 - a. Muslim's think our trinity is Father, Son, "and Mother"
 - b. We need to explain...
 5. They believe we are polytheists
 6. They believe Jesus to be a human prophet (like Moses, Abraham...)
 7. They believe Jesus will come again.... but for a different reason and in a different role...
 - * Their view: Jesus will do the judging at the end of time (also, Jesus did not die on the cross - Allah changed him from the cross just before he died [many think Judas died on the cross in Jesus' place])
 8. They believe Allah personally dictated the Qur'an to Muhammad
 9. They believe in the Torah and the Psalms of David
 10. There is no way to know if one will end up in heaven (hope Allah is in a good mood at decision time...)
 - * One exception = instant right and passage to paradise if one dies a martyr's death defending Islam against anyone/thing trying to come against (hurt in any way) Islam.
! That's why radical Muslims declare various "causes" a Jihad (religious battle to defend Islam)
 11. 90% of Islam is "cultural" and 10% theology!
 - * Leaving a culture is much harder than changing incorrect theologies... we can disprove (thru the Holy Spirit) heresy...

BUT it's a different conversation altogether to attract people away from a deeply entrenched culture!

G. Tips to witness

1. Be kind
2. Be interested in their point of view
3. Learn key passages in the Qur'an and what it has to say about Christianity
4. Point out that Christ is the heart of Christianity
5. No need to "hope" for Allah's mood or do works...
6. Point out that salvation is a gift
7. Pray that the Holy Spirit will go before you...
8. Be willing to be a friend...

IV. Hinduism: Basic Beliefs

- A. Human and animal spirits reincarnate - live many times in different forms
- B. Souls move up and down in reincarnations....
- C. Caste system has many level (4 primary with countless subdivisions)
 1. People stay in their caste their whole life
 2. Charity toward others is unheard of because each person deserves to be in the social class they were born in (this time).
 3. Current circumstances a reflection of past lives
- D. Hindu can be very flexible in their theism...
 1. Open theology makes our message seem narrow and restrictive
- E. They want to reach "Nirvana" by merging with "Brahman" (ultimate reality)
- F. Themes of Hinduism
 1. Unity of all things
 2. Variety:
 - a. Levels of beings
 - b. Levels of caste ("Brahma" = top caste)
 - c. Variety of ways to God
 - d. Karma and Reincarnation
 - e. Brahma = ultimate reality (and a caste)
 - This eliminates the process of reincarnation
 - Then they blend into the "soul of the world"
- G. Four aims in Hindu life
 1. Karma - enjoyment of physical pleasure, enjoying life
 2. Artha - material wealth
 3. Dharma - practice of righteous (their own version) living (typically nice people)
 4. Moksa - attainment of final liberation from Samsara and karma (the reincarnation cycle)
- H. Top Hindu Countries by % of population
 1. Nepal (89%)
 2. India (79%)
 3. Mauritius (52)
 4. Guyana (40)

I. Communicating Christ in a Hindu context

1. They object to Christianity by saying:
 - a. All paths lead to God
 - b. Jesus is a legend
 - c. There is no absolute truth
 - d. It treats wrong doing too lightly
 - e. It is a "Western" religion
 - f. It is "intolerant"
2. Tips to witnessing...
 - a. Pray for the H.S. to go before you
 - b. Always share your personal faith in Christ...
 - They can argue with Scriptures...
 - No one can argue with your personal testimony (even if I think you are crazy, I cannot tell you your testimony is wrong - I cannot argue against your testimony!)
 - c. Beware that Hindus typically make an idol out of things... it may be better to share your witness as opposed to leaving something behind that can be idolized (pictures are especially prone to this problem)
 - d. Stress the uniqueness of Christ and God's expression of Himself
 - e. Stress the necessity of following Christ - TO THE EXCLUSION OF OTHER gods
 - * "Jesus plus nothing equals salvation... Jesus plus ANYTHING equals heresy!"

*** Note: this is a very general, simplified view of a very complex and diverse set of beliefs

V. Buddhism

- A. Grew out of Hinduism
- B. 600 BC origin
 1. During time of O.T. prophets
 2. "The Buddha" means the "enlightened one"
 - a. Original Buddha was a human
- C. Buddha creates the basic beliefs of Buddhism via "4 Noble Truths"
 1. Existence/fact of suffering
 2. Cause of suffering
 3. Ending of suffering
 - 4.
- D. Eightfold Path
 1. Right views - Acts 4: 12, John 14:
 2. Right resolve - James 4: 1-3
 3. R. speech - Matt. 12:36
 4. R. behavior - John 14:21, James 3:17
 5. R. occupation/livelihood - Matt. 6: 31,33;
 6. R. effort - Heb. 12: 1-2,

7. R. contemplation - Rom. 8:7, Plp 2:5

8. R. meditation - Col. 3: 1-4

*** Show that we have a parallel for every step in our Bible...
these can be valuable "bridges"

*** Be careful to use acceptable terminologies that allow the
message to advance

*** Be careful not to let Christianity turn into a "better version of
Buddhism"

E. Buddhist precepts

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

* Monks have different standards....

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

F. General beliefs

1. Many ways to God
2. No personal relationships with God
3. Think Jesus is just another "god"
4. Buddhist live by contradiction... to rid life of suffering (a core value of
their culture) they try to get rid of desire... but their greatest desire
is to rid their lives of desire...

is to rid

G. Top Countries

1. Thailand
2. Cambodia
3. Myanmar
4. Bhutan
5. Sri Lanka
6. Tibet
7. Laos
8. Vietnam
9. Japan

H. Communicating with Buddhist...

1. Anatta (without soul) - they hold that nothing is at the center of human
personality but five entities:
 - a. feelings
 - b. impulses
 - c. acts of consciousness
 - d. perceptions
 - e. body
2. Nirvana (emptiness - numbness) ultimate freedom and peace

3. Karuna - compassion and disinterested goodwill
4. Stress what we both stress...
 - a. Everyone dies
 - b. High standards of ethics (show Decalogue)
 - c. Inner peace and compassion and self discipline
5. Buddha taught that no teaching should be rejected without first testing it
6. They reject the resurrection
7. They see no need for a personal God
8. Pray
9. Learn their worldview
10. Probe their worldview and show where it breaks down via bridges
11. Live your faith....
*** Remember: they also have ancestor worship and animism woven into many facets of their culture and theology

VI. Chinese Worldview: very loose, broad view...

- A. Ancient tribal influences
 1. Ancestor worship
 2. Polytheism - magic and divination to control spirits
 3. Yin-Yang
 4. Note: China recognized as a "country" since 2300 BC... and they were there as tribes and the like long before that...
 5. Worship of heaven (sky is person deity - Shang-ti)
 - a. Tends to be shared by most versions of Chinese worldviews
- B. Taoism (founded by Lao Tzu = Old Master)
 1. How Yin-Yang works
 2. Union of man and nature
 3. Largely degenerated to a level of magic and popular religion
- C. Confucianism
 1. Scriptures are 5 books by him
 2. Basic ideas
 - a. Ethical system
 - b. Human relationships are key and center
 - c. Harmony of duty is key - each one in his own place...
 - d. Filial piety
 - e. Man is "basically good" who need the right environment and good examples...
- D. Communicating with these views (very broad approach...)
 1. Remember it is a very old, honored and connected worldview/culture
 2. They assume Westerners are deficient in ethical matters
 3. Christians should emphasize:
 - a. We represent Christ, not our culture
 - b. We "really know Christ" and the Bible
 - c. We are trained in religious matters
 2. Note: 1 out of every 6 people on the planet is of this worldview pool

3. One-to-one translation issues are very difficult... while the words are available, the meanings are extremely loose and even different at times
4. Confucius discouraged questions about God and the other world
5. Missionaries must be careful with directness and aggressive friendliness
 - * Touchy-feely can be offensive!
6. Asians often blend religions together
7. Taoists try to balance good and evil... God is remote
8. They stress good works
9. All five categories of Confucianism are on the human level - none speaks of a right relationship with God
10. Stress that ancestor worship does nothing

VII. Post-Modern Worldviews

- A. Pre-Modern = pre-logic, pre-science (time of faith alone)
- B. **Modernism = time of "proof" via science and logic (rationalism & humanism)**
 - * **What can be proven can be trusted - nothing else**
- C. **Post-Modern = rejecting the ability to "KNOW" anything...**
 1. There is **no absolute truth**
 2. **Truth is relative** for the individual
 3. A shift from the rationalism of modernity to a position that there is no absolute truth
 4. A reaction to modernity
 5. New Age embraces this philosophy
 6. **Reality can never be proven... reality is limited to our ability to "perceive"**
 7. Pervasive in its scope and application
 8. Truth is relative and in the eye of the beholder
 9. **Post-Modern motto: "question everything"**
 10. **Pluralism is an under-current of P.M.... "all religions are the same"**
 11. Propositional truth is out and mysticism is in
 12. **Nationalism is out and "globalism" is in**
 13. **Mutually exclusive truths can be held in tandem**
 14. Post-moderns are reacting against faith-based worldviews of pre-moderns, the rational-empirical worldview of moderns, and are reaching for something new.
 15. **Post-modernism breaks down when you take it to its logical conclusion... Now, some P.M.'s are actively searching for the "next" step...**
- D. **Dangers of P.M.**
 1. **Advocates a degree of "valuelessness" of persons**
 - * Be aware of their elevation of relativism as judge and jury
 2. Be careful with language... **words mean only what you want them to mean**, so do not refer to something beyond the words themselves
 - * **"Words do not have meanings... they only have uses...."**
 3. **Postmodernity rejects all metanarratives**

4. Pluralism and tolerance abound
5. Nihilistic absence of hope in life (and after-life)
6. Postmoderns claim that no one can claim the superiority of any religion
7. Insecurity and skepticism rule their hearts...

* Romans tells us that God has put "eternity in our hearts"

E. Communicating Christ with P.M.

1. Present the truth
2. *H.S. convicts, convinces and regenerates despite the coldest heart and hardest head!*
3. *Live your witness*
4. *Don't argue or try to use logic. You might win the argument but not win the person...*
5. Christians can no longer assume that the hearer has a "revelation-based" worldview
6. Postmodern challenge calls for ALL to use these intercultural communication skills at home and around the world

VII. Cults

A. What is a cult?

1. Psychologists define it as a group that deviates from "cultural norms"
2. Insert "biblical truth" for a Christian perspective...
3. Cult comes from "Cultus", a Latin word meaning "worship or praise"
4. "The primary characteristic of an aberrant Christian group is a founder or leader that claims exclusive and new revelation from God" - p.406
5. Cultic-Christian groups try to establish themselves as the one true exclusive
 - a. Non-essentials:
 - Baptizing by immersion
 - Preaching styles or worship organization
 - * When we say "our baggage" is essential we risk sounding like a cult...
 - b. Note: there is a difference between an essential for the "well being of the church" and as "requirements for being saved"
6. They manipulate the Scriptures
 - * Mormons build on one obscure passage ("baptism for the dead")
7. Cults tend to be very evangelistic
8. *Marks of a cult:*
 - a. Addition - they add to the word of God
 - b. Subtraction - they subtract from Jesus and seek to make Him something less than God so man can become like him
 - c. Multiplication - they multiply the requirements for salvation
 - d. Division - they divide the loyalty of members between God and leaders. They make devotion to the sect a test of faith and consider adherence the vehicle for salvation

B. Cult Zeal

1. Mormons have over 50K missionaries in over 150 countries

- a. Of 27K BYU students, 15K have been or will be missionaries
- b. Now they are beginning to send young ladies as well
- c. They have 300,000 baptisms a year from other religions
- 2. Jehovah's Witnesses have 975K members in US, 7 million globally
- C. Other cult characteristics
 - 1. Speculation and "date-setting"
 - 2. Dogmatic stands on biblical obscurities
 - 3. Financial exploitation
 - 4. Denial of eternal punishment
 - 5. Fostering paranoia (i.e. UFO sect)
 - 6. Ambiguous hope or assurance of salvation is used as a technique for loyalty
- E. Tools for witnessing... go to www.namb.com (different packages based on different cults)
 - *** Beware of "like terms" and dangerously subtle differences in definition when talking with cultic adherents.

VIII. Contemporary Theology - "Is Jesus the Only Way?"

- A. We must be able to answer this question with our Bible, in a difficult environment.
 - 1. It is a necessity for any outreach effort
 - 2. Jesus told us specifically to be able to answer people's questions
- B. *Current theology* says: "no, yes, but..., yes period!"
 - 1. Pluralism - answer = "NO!"
 - a. "All religions have equal value"
 - b. "All roads lead to the top of the mountain"
 - c. Pluralism cuts the lifeline of missions and evangelism - by definition pluralists see no need...
 - d. "All truth is God's truth"
 - e. As people respond to natural revelation, they may be saved thru sincere worship... sincere worship, not accurate worship is all the one needs to go to heaven
 - *** Note: Universalism is further still down the road...
 - 2. Inclusivism - answer "Yes, but..."
 - a. "All are saved through Jesus only, they just don't know it until death"
 - b. "A positive profession of faith in Christ is not necessary for salvation"
 - c. They believe that the work of Christ is ontologically necessary but not epistemologically necessary
 - d. Karl Rahner coined the term "anonymous Christian" for this group
 - e. "Christian salvation is possible thru non-Christian religions."
 - 3. Exclusivism - answer "Yes, period"
 - a. Nash says there are *2 foundational convictions*:
 - *Jesus is the ONLY Savior*

- *Explicit faith in Him is the ONLY way of salvation*
- b. **Biblical basis** for such a claim:
 - Acts 4:12; John 3: 16-18, 36: 14:6; 1 John 5: 11-12
 - Psalm 19, Romans 1:20; 2:15; 3:9
- c. **3 Types of Exclusivists:**
 - *Hopeful* = maintain the hope that God will in some way extend salvation to much of humanity
 - *Realistic* = find no genuine promise of salvation apart from explicit faith in Christ
 - *Rigid* = ascribe no value or truth to any religion other than Christianity

Missiology 6-13-03

*** "From the laziness that is content with half truths, from the arrogance that thinks it has all truth, Lord deliver us from both..."

ISSUES IN ORALITY

I. Oral Cultures

- A. *70% of the world is an oral culture*
- B. Highly "pre-literate" or illiterate
 - * Pre-literate = a culture that does not have a written language
- C. Low value placed on literacy skills
- D. *Do not deal in abstract, linear thought (i.e. the concept of justice, redemption, forgiveness...)*
- E. *Relational orientation*
- F. *Communication is based in stories, riddles, proverbs, songs, dance, and music*
- G. *Chronological Bible Storying*
 - 1. *Worldviews and cultures - you must learn the perspective of the people group before you can effectively utilize this tool*
 - 2. *Usually involves 50-60 stories overall*
 - a. *Choosing which stories to tell is critical*
 - They should be pertinent to the culture you are addressing
 - All should be building to the climax of understanding "God's redemptive purpose" message of the Bible
 - When done well, by the time Jesus is introduced the Holy Spirit has worked in their hearts...
 - b. *Sharing a "pre-story" set up is recommended to set the stage*
 - c. *Once the story is begun, DO NOT interrupt it* in an attempt to give examples or embellish the story - let God's Word do its work

- d. *"Post-story" follow up is the right way to tie in living examples and practical application...*
- e. Never forget... how you contextualize the message is always key!
- 3. *New Tribes Mission has a packaged model... others also available*
 - * IMB has a 6 CD set (~\$50)
 - * *IMB has "I-CELL" courses for \$25 various aspects of missions - this fall Bible Storying will be available*
- 4. *Identify the barriers, bridges, and gaps between the Gospel message and the target culture*
 - a. Choose stories that overcome barriers
 - b. *Use stories to serve as bridges*
 - c. *Look for stories that fill gaps...*
- 5. Ten steps for communicating biblical truth from "Following Jesus Making disciples of primary oral learners."
- 6. The "Ee-taow" story (video)
- 7. Key controversy = story of the cross is delayed by design...
- 8. *Always staying true to Scripture - remember: everything you say and share will serve as the people's "oral Bible"... putting a tremendous responsibility on the story teller!*
- 9. **Methodology**
 - a. *Bible storying is not a new concept: Jesus used stories!*
 - b. We came to be so dependent upon literate methods that storying fell from grace
 - c. A tool was needed for missions and evangelism
- H. **Disadvantages of Literacy-based ministry**
 - 1. Pre-literates do not read and see no reason to learn. Nothing is written in their language
 - 2. Decades are required to reduce the language to writing, translate the Bible, teach the people to read their own language, and provide Bibles....
 - * Wycliffe estimates the process to take 30 years on average!
 - 3. Salvation and favor with God seems to be reserved for the literate, "schooled" few.
 - 4. Ministry is limited to literate people groups

*** Note: Tech marketing book: "Crossing the Chasm" has direct relevance to bringing the Gospel to UPGs... The cycle is very similar - identifying the innovators is critical, Market Perceived Quality (MPQ) analysis will guide effective approaches to said innovators, nurturing these relationships and cultivating "buzz" is essential.
- I. **Advantages of Oral-based ministry**
 - 1. There are no boundaries... everyone stories
 - 2. It provides an "oral" or "mental" Bible for all

3. There are over 9,000 languages still unwritten
4. Wycliffe has estimated that it will take 250+ years just to get the highest priority languages translated
5. Much of the U.S. is becoming more oral
 - * Note: Orality is not necessarily a result of "no" literacy, in the U.S. it is happening as a result of the information (literacy) overload syndrome.
6. "Point-of-ministry/need" storying meets specific need(s)
7. C.B.S. (chronological Bible storying) can be used in leadership training as well (domestically too)

J. Begin by "storying" basic Bible truths that lead to salvation

1. God is one God, Sovereign, Creating, Powerful and Acting in history
2. God is all powerful, all knowing, the source of all grace and provision for every need
3. God communicates His Word and is faithful to His Word
4. God is holy, righteous in all He does, and hates sin
 - * Key: most other deities are seen as amoral at best and vindictive / evil at worst...
5. God's nature demands that sin be punished. By death and eternal punishment that is separation
6. People are accountable to God for what they say and do
7. All people are sinners by inherited nature and by choice, and are separated from Him by sin
8. People can do nothing to save themselves
9. One can approach God and have a right relationship with Him only thru His Substitute
10. Jesus, the Son of God, is the only perfect sacrifice for sin offered once for all time
11. Salvation involves repenting from sin and seeking God's mercy and forgiveness placing faith in Jesus Christ and His finished work.

*** Chronological storying "always looks backwards" - never predicting forward...

*** We must also be sure to communicate the story in a way (language, methodology, form...) that they can both understand and reproduce without our help.

K. General worldview barriers

1. Ignorance of spiritual truth
2. Apathy - no interest in things outside their perceived realities
3. Cultural tradition
4. Former religious beliefs and practices
5. Other's religious teachings
6. Nominalism - they don't believe what they say they believe enough to work with it...
7. Fear of persecution

8. Fear of losing material/social benefits
9. Fear of disturbing community harmony
10. Fear of disturbing the spirit world
11. Misinformation about Christianity (biases)
12. Vocabulary and theological truths is strong disagreement (i.e. Muslim's view on Ishmael/Isaac)

L. *Common "bridges" to Gospel*

1. Dreams and visions about Jesus
2. Brokenness: physical, social, spiritual
3. Testimonies from respected persons
4. Cultural stories that parallel Bible stories
5. Desire for relief - danger, fear, oppression
6. Moral or spiritual desire for a better way
7. Exposure to pervasive media messages
8. Desire for English as a second language
9. Prior knowledge of Jesus, God or Christianity
10. A "failed religion" in their culture or personal experiences
11. Stories that agree with their worldview

M. An "ideal Storying session"

1. Pre-story dialogue - set the stage and contextualize the components of the story that might otherwise be confusing
2. Tell the story
3. Post-story dialogue - help them "get it"

*** Telling stories should not take more than 5-10 minutes with most time spent in Post-story application exploration.