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Missions in the 21st Century

Building Bridges between Missions & the Marketplace

Kent Humphreys



Building Bridges – Ten Issues

- 35 years in the marketplace
- **Ten Issues** that will determine how successful we are in missions in this 21st Century
- Can no longer do this in “silos”, but instead must have a “Kingdom attitude”



Progression of my Vision

- **1960's** Learned how to walk with God
- **1970's** Learned to integrate faith and work
- **1980's** Used business as platform for ministry to employees, customers, vendors
- **1990's** Sharing with other business owners
- **2000's** Sharing around the globe



Four Words for Today

- **Kingdom**..... Matthew 6
- **Relationships**.....John 15
- **Community**.....John 17
- **Transformation**.....Romans 12

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Great Commission

“ Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’ ”

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)



1. What are we to do?

- Disciple the Nations
- Not just produce converts, plant churches, and build buildings
- We are to make disciples which will impact the entire nation

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Five Things that Jesus Did

1. Told Everyone the Good News (Gospel)
2. Taught Many (5,000 and the 4,000)
3. Trained Some (Seventy sent out 2 x 2)
4. Equipped a Few (the 3 and the 12)
5. Modeled a Relationship with the Father



2. Who are We to Reach?

- Everyone!
- Not just the poor and the needy
- Jesus reached out to the hurting, but also to the business, educational, and political leaders.
- God used Daniel, Moses, Joseph, and Esther



Nigeria

- More Christians and Churches in Africa than any other nation (both by number and percentage)
- However, we did not reach the political and business leaders; if we did, they segmented their lives
- Result: Corruption and NO transformation



3. What is our Societal Target?

Answer:

ALL Seven Spheres or Mountains

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Seven Mountains

- Church
- Family
- Education
- Government
- Entertainment, Arts, Sports
- Media
- Marketplace

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4. Who is Supposed to Go?

- Let me ask you a question?
- How did you personally come to Christ?

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Coming to Christ!

- Crusade
- Church Service
- Christian TV
- Door to Door Canvas
- Christian Radio
- Campus Evangelism
- Christian Track or Pamphlet
- Friend / Family Member



Three Parts to this Issue

- **Transformation:** both of the life of the one going, and of the lives of those we seek to reach.
- **Dualism:** We can not pass it on to those that we reach in other nations
- **Priesthood of Every Believer:** We must understand and model this principle.



The Challenge

- We can not have transformation while we are practicing dualism
- Dualism: the emphasis of the secular / sacred divide. We create a wall between the “spiritual” and the ordinary or worldly
- Example: China with Christian women entrepreneurs



Dualism

■ **Spiritual**

- Church activities
- Missions
- Religious services
- Pastors, missionaries
- Christian schools
- Christian music, books, TV, radio
- "Full time" service

■ **Secular**

- Workplace
- Money
- Dinner with a friend
- Business owners
- Public schools
- Entertainment, arts
- Time with family
- Helping a co-worker



Priesthood of the Believers

- On the Cross the veil in the temple was torn in two. The wall was removed, so that we could fellowship with the Father
- We can now come individually to the Father through the Son with the thoughts of the Holy Spirit.
- We do not need to go through the “religious professional”.



Whole Church

- **Lausanne:** “ The whole church with the whole Gospel to the whole world!”
- **Call2All**
- **YWAM** and **Campus Crusade** and 160 mission organizations and mega churches
- Trying to reach the final 10% of the world without using 95% of the church



5. Where to we go?

- Difficult places like the **Middle East** where only 1% or 2% of the money and manpower is going.
(Example: SRG)
- **Iran:** the church is growing, house church
- Only legitimate **BAM** and individuals are able to get in



Closed Countries

- How do we explain the movement of God in Iran and through out the Middle East?
- How do we best serve the church in China?
- How do we best impact those Muslim nations?
- What is the best way to take the Gospel to these closed countries?



6. How do we access Closed Countries?

- **BAM** - Business as Missions
- 80's – Fake Businesses
- 90's - Unprofitable Businesses
- Today - Real for Profit Businesses



Business as Mission (BAM)

- Must be real business that serve a need and make a profit
- Easier to train business leaders to be missionaries than the reverse
- Must send in “teams” to work together
- Train, equip, mentor, and finance existing leaders in country
- Business is difficult even in the US
- Example: Bill Job, China, and Wood Design



7. How Should we Work Together?

■ Kingdom Partnerships

- Mission Agencies
- Christian Education
- Mega Churches
- Denominations
- BAM
- Marketplace Ministries

■ Kingdom Mindset

- Evangelicals
- Charismatic's
- Catholics
- **Examples:** Croatia and Latvia and Malaysia

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8. What Should be our Attitude?

- Humility, Listening, and Sensitive
- **Example:** Mega Church in China
- **Question:** *How may we help YOU in the ministry that God has given to YOU where He has sovereignly placed YOU?*



9. Where do we Get the Power?

- **Holy Spirit and Prayer**
- Get a **prayer** covering for each trip.
- **Pray** before, during, and after
- Learn from other nations
(Example: South Africa, Prayer Movement, Graham Power, Construction, New Believer)



10. How do we Raise the Money?

1. As you go as a sales, or government, or education
2. Get many to go
3. Make Missions a priority in Budgets
4. Students
5. Retired
6. Leaders
7. Let secular pay the way (IMB, CocaCola)
8. Cut staff, buildings, entertainment
9. ROI? What is it?
10. Stewardship



Financing Missions

- Church members are giving 2.2% of income
- We are not teaching stewardship
- We are not modeling stewardship in many of our churches
- Putting money into comforts and buildings instead of missions and outreach
- Decline of denominations and funding



Conclusion

- What is God asking you specifically to do as you go back to your home church?
- What part will you play in what God is doing in Missions in this 21st century?
- YOU can be used by God to impact missions in nations around the globe!



Some Questions:

1. What is God doing around the world today in expanding His Kingdom?
2. What changes are occurring in the churches around the world?
(Equipping)
3. How is the marketplace becoming involved in God's work globally? (BAM)
4. What shifts do we need to make in how we do missions and ministry?



More Questions:

5. Have we done evangelism without discipleship?
6. Have we done evangelism and discipleship without integration?
7. Can we have true transformation without the integration of faith, family, and work?
8. Have we planted churches without planting community?
9. Have we built churches without equipping leaders?



Additional Questions:

10. Have we in missions focused on followers instead of leaders?
11. Have we carried our model of dualism into new nations which has resulted in separation instead of integration?
12. In Africa, is Nigeria our model? They have the most Christians, churches, and corruption.



Questions for the U.S.

1. Where is the number one mission field in the U.S. for evangelism of adults?
2. Are we entertaining our people or equipping them for service?
3. With a poor economy, can we continue to have large church staffs do the work of the ministry?
4. Why are we declining in numbers and at the same time declining in maturity?
(Reveal study at Willow Creek)



Questions and Comments

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