

Global Vision Sunday

We have been talking about what it means to be **salt** and **light** (**Matthew 5:13-16**)

- Call of being priests & kings (extending Christ's presence and rule in the world)
- To be a faithful witness to our culture—one that sees us as irrelevant and extreme
- Now = connect with our call to the nations

The command = Matthew 28:18-19a, NASB and Revelation 7:9, NLT = the fruit = God's plan

God is doing something new with Reality

- We've always been a **Sending Church**
 - College days = Get on fire and go
 - Reality as a Sending Church:
 - **Locally** as sent-people
 - **Strategically** with church planting
 - **Globally** through missions (Reality has sent over 225 people to 44 different countries)

New = With Vision for Global Mission

Now, we are sensing a call to not just anywhere **but to where very few (or no one else) is going**

- **To reach the unreached** (and in particular the **least reached** of the unreached... **unengaged**)
- We are beginning to have birthed in us the same call as the Apostle Paul
 - Romans 15:20-21, NLT
- Why was this Paul's **ambition**? Because of how God has worked in Paul's **heart**
 - Romans 9:1-4a, NASB
 - Paul had a heart for the unreached
 - In this context the Jews = Paul would go to the Synagogue first, but in new places (Acts)
 - "**Great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart...**" (v. 2)
 - God is moving us toward something like that... (like what? Who are the unreached?)

Who are the unreached? Or, what is a UPG?

- Not talking about anyone who has not heard the gospel (neighbor)
 - Largely a question of the possibility of hearing the gospel (or, access)
 - Not just poor, third world, primitive people in a jungle
 - Places like in Saudi Arabia, advanced cities with no body of Christ
 - Almost 3 Billion people! (Cf. **John 3:16**)

PLAY VIDEO 1 WHEN CUED (What is a UPG?)

- 17,000 people groups in the world
- 7,000 unreached people groups in the world (UPGs)
- 3,000 unengaged people groups in the world (UUPGs)

Why do we care? Or, Why should we do something?

- (**Great Commission + Revelation 7:9 + John 3:16**) = God cares!!
 - But we have always cared
 - In the last 10 years Reality has sent over 225 people to 44 different countries
 - We find ourselves **caring differently now**, (or, **strategically**) and largely because of this:

This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached **in the whole world** as a testimony **to all the nations**, and then the end will come. –Jesus in Matthew 24:14

- Jesus has given us **a task to finish**
- **So, how are we doing? What part of the task remains?**

PLAY VIDEO 2 WHEN CUED (State of the World/The Task Remaining)

We are going to do something about it!

- My ambition has always been to preach the Gospel where the name of Christ has never been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else. (Romans 15:20, NLT)
- **This is what God is doing in us**
 - We have always cared, but now, we are beginning to care with some **missional clarity**
 - We want to do something **particular** about it (**finish the task**)
 - We will no longer always just send in **general**—we will try to send in **particular**
 - In particular to **where the name of Christ has never been heard**
 - Our heart is that we want to make the **greatest possible impact** on the lost
 - All mission is good, but what is best? **Lasting generational impact on the lost (obey Jesus)**

We want to participate in correcting the imbalance

- Only 3% of the world's Christian missionary force is going to UPGs 97% to the reached!??
- Only 1% of all Christian giving is going to reaching UPGs
- That is just wrong
 - The harvest is plentiful, **but the workers are few**. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest. (Matthew 9:37-38, NASB)
- We are heading toward 100% of our (global) focus and resources going to reach the unreached
 - We will honor current obligations... but be more focused in the future

What are we doing to endeavor to be faithful as a sending church called to the unreached?

1. Communicating Jesus' Command and Connecting it with Reality's Global Vision
2. Developing a Cogent Strategy to Reach the Unreached and Unengaged
 - a. Resource Allocation
 - b. Partnership Development
 - c. Training in Long-Term Missions
 - d. Church Based Teams
3. Discovering the Call to People and Places in Particular
 - a. The Arab Gulf?
 - b. Indonesia?

What does it mean to actually reach a people group?

- We do not speak of the task in terms of "every person", rather we speak of "**A Church for Every People**"¹
 - "The Essential Missionary Task"
 - = To establish a **viable indigenous church planting movement** that carries the potential to renew whole extended families and transform whole societies ²
 - Viable indigenous church planting movements ³
 - Viable = can grow on its own
 - Indigenous = comprised of locals
 - Movement = reproduces
 - Importance = Only through these can whole people groups be evangelized
 - **Pioneering is necessary where there is no local church that can evangelize its own**
 - **Someone has to come in from the outside to get that started**
 - Reached = When a people group has a **viable indigenous church planting movement** capable of evangelizing their own people and working toward renewal in its own culture
 - A Clarification:
 - What we mean and do not mean by church planting among the unreached
 - This is what we do not mean (**PHOTO 1**)
 - This is what we do mean (**PHOTO 2**)

¹ Perspectives Reader, 539

² Perspectives Study Guide, 98.

³ Perspectives Reader, 538.

A key strategy in starting church-planting movements involves small house or cell churches

- Cell churches are small gatherings (5 to 25 people) who meet in homes or public places
- Because these are small gatherings, they are **more easily able to replicate** and make the Gospel **accessible** across an entire community, **thus starting a movement** of the Gospel

Church-planting amongst the unreached requires church-multiplication

- Unlike church-planting in cities where there are already other existing churches... church-planting among the unreached **requires a vision for** church-multiplication since it is the **sole witness** to that community/society

This goal of starting church planting movements in all nations is within reach!

- We want to inspire, mobilize, obey, lead others to do the same
- We are not in this alone (though there are few...)
 - **But there could be many: CHART 1** (*Growth of Churches*)

We are living in a time of an unprecedented move of God among the lost!

- We a lot hear about the growth of: Terrorism, Islam, Secularism, and Consumerism...
 - We hear a lot about how the church **is not** growing... (may be true here in America and Western Europe)
 - **More people have followed Christ in the last 100 years than in all of the previous centuries combined.**

CHART 2 (*Practicing Christians as a percentage of total world population since 1900*)

- It took 18 centuries (1,800 years!) for practicing Christians to grow from 0% of the world's population to 2.5% in 1900
- Only 70 years to grow from 2.5% to 5% in 1970.....(double!)
- Just 40 years to grow from 5% to 12% by the year 2010.....(more than double!)
 - **Today: There are more people alive today who call themselves Christians than in all of the previous generations put together.⁴**
 - **Today: There is 1 active Christian out of every 7 people in the world.⁵ (A.D.100 = 1/360)⁶**

WE LIVE IN AN UNPRECEDENTED MOMENT IN HISTORY!

- God is doing something extraordinary! The **Matthew 24:14** task is within reach!
- God's **Revelation 7** purpose of saving people is happening!

And I want us to be a part of it... a whole people group?!?!?

- 2 things about developing a heart for the unreached
 - (1) Has be a **work of God** in us (pray!) and (2) Has to **take expression** through us (do something!)
- We won't all feel it the way that Paul did necessarily (**Great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart**)
 - But there are those among us who do!!!
 - The way we may feel it as a church is that **we are eager to invest and send (senders and goers)**
 - That may seem like a no brainer, but it is not
 - Not much of the church is really willing to do this (**HARD PLACES; OPPOSITION**)

As with all things we do, it starts with prayer

- Elders, leaders, missions team have been praying for almost 2 years (Almost 13 years as a whole)

⁴ Perspectives Study Guide, 73.

⁵ <https://josuaproject.net/assets/media/articles/finishing-the-task.pdf>

⁶ Perspectives Reader, 544.

Prayer Today:

Jesus said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, **but the workers are few**. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38, NASB)

1. Pray that God would help you to care about what He cares about
2. Ask God what part you have to play in reaching the unreached
3. Ask that God would send many of us to the unreached
4. Pray for the 3% that are already out there
5. Pray that together as a church we would obey Jesus' call to the nations