

Introduction: Story - a missed opportunity in Biloxi, MS

The down and dirty: what is missions and why do I care

- Missions is: *what do you think are defining characteristics of missions?*
 - Cross-cultural (language, culture, geography)
 - Local and global
 - The Gospel for the nations
 - For the church here, there, and everywhere
 - for Covenant PCA in Issaquah, WA
 - An extra-biblical term used to try to capture a
- We care because: *why do we care?*
 - God cares - it is EVERYWHERE
 - He wants to bless the nations: Genesis 12:3, 18:18, 22:18, 26:4, 28:14
 - He wants his name known in all the nations; Ex 9:16, Josh 4:24, 1 King 8:43 and 8:60, 1 Chronicles 16:24
 - He will be worshiped by all nations: Psalms
 - He desires that all the nations turn to him and be saved: Isa 45:22, 49:65, 52:10,
 - God calls his people to share his love to the nations throughout the new Testament
 - Great commission passages
 - Acts, Romans, Galatians, Philippians, 1 Timothy, 2 Peter, 1 John
 - It will not be finished until all nations bow before him
 - Rev 5:9, 7:9, 15:4
 - Because Jesus said we are to care. It is the mission that has been given to us as God's people, and because our mission is not done
 - Matt 28:18-20: 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
 - Mark 16:15-18: He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."
 - Luke 24:45-49: Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you

what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

- John 20:21-23: Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

Keeping it simple: What do I (and my church), in Issaquah, do about it? *Start by crossing cultures for Christ right here*

- We are called to cross cultures for Christ wherever we are. Some are called to pack up everything, and go to the ends of the earth. The rest of us are called to do so right where we are. We are called to reach the nations, here, there, and everywhere.
- Learn
 - The numbers in Seattle
 - 18% were born outside of the US (almost 1 in 5)
(<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/data/seattle-ranks-near-to-p-for-people-from-all-over-the-map/>)
 - 9.6 Asia
 - 2.6 Europe
 - 2.2 Latin America
 - 3.7 Other
 - 129 languages spoken in Seattle schools
 - Immigration increased 20% in Seattle from 2000-2014
 - Poverty rate of foreign born residents double that of native residents in Seattle
 - Refugees
 - Washington is 8th Largest Refugee serving state
 - World Relief in King County
 - Resettled 757 in 2018
 - 921 in 2017 from 25 countries
 - Served 4025 refugees held at Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma
 - Immigrants
 - 6k+ eligible to naturalize right now
(<http://newamericanscampaign.org/CitizenshipEligibleMap/>)
 - 20k+ Japanese live in King County
 - 2nd largest unreached people group in the world
 - International students
 - 2015: ~28k international students studying in state
 - 11th state
- Pray
 - Piper goes on to say that “the proclamation of the Gospel in word and deed is the work of missions. And prayer is the power that wields the weapon of the Word, and the Word is the weapon by which the nations will be brought to faith and obedience...The Word of God – the Gospel of the Kingdom – is the weapon

that God designs to use in penetrating the kingdom of darkness and gathering the children of light from all nations...not only has God made the accomplishment of his global purpose of salvation hang on the preaching of the Word; he has also made the success of the preaching of the word hang on prayer. **God's goal to be glorified in a world full of white-hot worshipers from every tongue and tribe and nation will not succeed without the powerful proclamation of the gospel by people like you and me. And that gospel will not be proclaimed in power to all the nations without the persevering, earnest, global, faith-filled prayers of God's people. This is the awesome place of prayer in the purpose of God for the world."**

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- Pray for the unreached
 - ELL
 - Sacred Road
 - 20k Japanese in King County
 - The 4k refugees being held in Tacoma
- Pray for new friendships within your spheres of influence
- Matt 9:36-38: When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."
 - 1% Challenge
 - I feel today that we stand with the disciples in this moment. As I listen to stories from around the world, I keep hearing the same thing. The harvest is ready...but the workers are few. The gospel is moving from France to Azerbaijan. From Australia to Mexico. From Russia to the Caribbean. The gospel is on the move. Aslan is on the move. The harvest is ready, but the workers are few.
 - At MTW we are seeing this everyday, and so we are trying to do something about it. We are praying to the Lord of the harvest to send workers into his harvest field. And we are asking our brothers and sisters in the Presbyterian Church in America to do the same. If you made it to the missions conference yesterday you heard me speak about the 1% challenge. For those who didn't the 1% challenge is a call to churches in the PCA to join us in praying that God would raise up 1% of its members to serve in foreign missions. It is a call to churches to ask the Lord of the Harvest to not just send workers in obscurity. It is a call to churches to ask the Lord of the harvest to send their workers into His harvest fields. Christ commanded his disciples to pray for workers, and he commands us to do so also. I am incredibly joyful to know that All Saints has already committed to joining us in this prayer, and I pray that each of you as individuals choose to commit to joining us in this.
 - Pray for the workers

- Pray for those leading the ELL program and for your Chinese partners in the Gospel
- Pray for Sacred Road and those ministering on the reservation

BREAK BREAK

Take Action

- Engage
 - Let's be honest, crossing cultures is difficult. It's difficult for a lot of reasons...why?
 - It is uncomfortable
 - It can be frustrating
 - We have biases
 - We feel others should cross to our culture, not vice-versa
 - Before we engage, it is important that we understand ourselves, our perceptions, our biases, and our competency
 - Group Activity: cross-cultural competency assessment (4-5 min)
 - Once we understand where we are at, we can determine the best way forward.
 - Ways to be involved (relationally) (3-4 min)
 - It starts with coffee (or beer or burgers)
 - Attend the Chinese service here at the church...or do a joint service
 - Talk with your kids school administration to see if there are any recent immigrant or refugee families attending...and go out of your way to welcome them
 - Start asking questions - don't be afraid to sound dumb
 - Attend a culture event
 - Ways to be involved (programmatic) (3-4 min)
 - ELL Program
 - Volunteer
 - First-nations ministry
 - Sacred Road
 - Lummi Nation (MTW)
 - Refugee ministries
 - World relief
 - Self-assessment challenge - Brainstorm (5 min)