

I. Review

Today, in one sense, is going to finalize our missions conference, and on the other hand, it's going to be the beginning of the reality of it. Last week, I took us back to what I think is one of the greatest principles that came out of that conference, and that was really the reason why it happened, on events that occurred some 40 years ago. I took you back to Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 where it talks about understanding one of the greatest principles in ministry and certainly in our Christian life.

➤ Taking What God has Given You and Making an Investment in Others

The Christian life is many things, but I would say that the primary aspect would be the word investment—taking what God has given you and making an investment in others.

People often think of investments as tithes and offerings, and that's true; you make an investment in your church based on the good things God has given and done for you. That's usually all the farther it goes with people because pastors never take it any farther. While that is an important investment, the real key investment is you taking your life and investing in the life of somebody else.

I know we've got a lot of young men and young ladies here that have just begun getting discipled, and some of you were just saved in the last couple of months. You're on the road to becoming everything that God wants you to be; however, even as you're growing in your infancy or adolescence of Christianity, God looks at you as someone who He wants making an investment in the lives of others. **It starts with the investment that God made in your life when He sent His Son down to die on the cross.** Once you get saved and you understand that investment, then somebody in our church (or multiple people) will invest their life in you to help you get where God wants you to be. Those ought to be the examples and ensamples for you as you grow to a point where you want to invest your life in somebody else.

➤ The Word of God Never Returns Void

In Ecclesiastes 11:1 where it says, *Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days* is simply nothing more than the investment we make in people's lives. I gave the great principle and the promise out of Isaiah 55:11 that the word of God never returns void. It always accomplishes the purpose that God intends it to. Many times, we don't see it or don't understand what God is doing. These are the times, whether we're working with people or in our own personal lives, where we must fall back on that promise. **No matter how it looks, the promise is true.** God's word will never return void, and God will always accomplish that purpose wherever He will do it.

➤ Five Solid Principles from Casting your Bread Upon the Waters

As I laid out in the passage last week, hopefully we now understand five basic, solid principles out of the promise of casting your bread upon the waters.

1. **We saw the importance of giving a portion to seven, and also to eight** (Ecclesiastes 11:2). It's what so many of you do with people. I really think it's the ultimate success of our ministry here—your attitude of going over and above what needs to be done.
2. **The reason you go over and above is because you never fully understand or see the spiritual battle that is going on around us.** It takes someone with a little spiritual insight and understanding of certain places in the Bible, Old Testament and New Testament, who realizes there is a battle raging around all of us today. It's the battle of two forces. One wants to take God's word and do something with it, and another force is in opposition and wants to stop it. It's why somebody will get saved or will want to get their life where God wants it to be, and then something will happen in their life. On the outside, it looks like the circumstances of life, but underneath the surface, it's the spiritual battle that goes on for the souls of men.
3. **You never go by the outward appearance of things with people.** I never pay attention to body language or facial expressions because for me it all goes back to Isaiah 55:11. No matter what they're looking like or how they react to it, long after I'm off the scene, the Holy Spirit of God is going to continue to do His work.
4. **You never give up.** You never close the door on your end. There will be people who close the door on you, but sometimes it's temporary as God works with them. It doesn't mean that we don't take a stand, hold them accountable, or lay out the Biblical principles. The bottom line is that you never give up on people.
5. **Sow in the morning and evening of your life.** I showed you how this really fits into where we're at today. Most of you are in the morning of your life where you can really sow, while some of us are in the evening of our lives where we're just "so-so."

Now we saw all of this come out of our conference, and I knew that it would. I've been in this business long enough to see what God will do through this. There's no way you can explain it to somebody before it happens. It must touch your life; you must see it and experience it. Then you can come back and connect the dots so to speak. It's the result of many years of casting your bread upon the waters and watching God bring that promise and that principle to a real investment.

➤ Understanding From the Bible what New Testament Missions Really is

Today I want to finish up all that we need to see and understand about what God has and where He has taken us. We have experienced a lot of things and have some tentative plans on a lot of things. Everybody's life was touched by some aspect of it. Now today I kind of look at this as putting everything into the final assembly mode of understanding. I want to take the time this morning to do something that everybody here needs to understand whether you go on a trip or you don't, whether you're part of a support team, MARS team, or whatever you do. I want to

talk to you, as we close this whole thing out, about understanding, from the Bible, what New Testament missions really is.

Just as the Laodicean church age has destroyed New Testament Christianity, it has also destroyed the concept of New Testament missions because you can't separate the two.

You're going to find, in saying that, that there are some guys out there who are doing a really good work with their churches as well as in missions. These are the ones that we want to bond with and allow God to bring into our lives. Mike Fernandez is coming here along with two other couples. It started out with Matt and his wife coming, and then they went back and told everybody about the church. There are many people out there that follow us on YouTube. This is what God does. When I first met Mike Fernandez some 30-40 years ago, he was just a teenager. I met him during my preaching time in New England, but I had lost track of him. One of the ladies in that church, who has been asking me questions, texted me. She was very excited that our two churches were connecting again. God is going to do something there. I don't fully understand it, but I don't need to. I just know that when God opens a door, let Him put all the pieces together.

In church history, the Philadelphian church age was the greatest period of the word of God reaching the world in all of history. These 400 years will also be the greatest period of missions. We want to look at that, then we want to move backwards because somewhere between 1900 and where we're at today, everything fell apart just like it did with churches. This is one of the reasons why I had you read all the missionary biographies. The Philadelphian church age was a time when the King James Bible went around the world two or three times and 3/4 of the world was won to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. It was the greatest missionary and missions period that the world has ever seen.

➤ **Building Philadelphian Missionaries & Missions Programs During the Laodicean Church Age**

My goal has always been, ever since I got into the ministry, to build a Philadelphian church in the Laodicean church age. As we enter this new phase of missions, even though we've always been involved in missions to a certain degree, my same philosophy will apply: to build Philadelphian missionaries and missions programs in the midst of Laodicea. This time in history (the Philadelphian church age), along with the Bible, will set the pathway for us showing us the models and the way to do this.

When it comes to ministry, churches, people, missions, or missionaries, there is one key word that needs to be understood, yet we as God's people don't really understand it. I'm going to do my best this morning to get you to understand it with everything I say today. I'm going to define it for you and lay it out, so that from this point on, you have the correct understanding. It's already been key to what we do here. You have exercised it without completely knowing it. From this point on, however, you're going to have to see it and understand it. It's simply one word, and it's the word: culture.

II. Developing a Cultural Sensitivity

Developing cultural sensitivity in our lives is developing an awareness of different cultures. **A culture will be the different customs, the different languages, the different social institutions, the different beliefs, the different cultural achievements, and in general the social circle of any people or nation.** It basically comes down to the difference in lifestyles between people.

➤ American Christians are Often Deficit in Two Things

American Christians are deficit in basically two things. The first is an understanding of the word of God because it has been taken away from them. The second thing is cultural sensitivity. America is guilty, in what you find in dealing with people, of what we call *occupational dominancy*. It's simply that what you're doing is the most important thing to you, and you're not aware of anybody else around you. This is where a lack of sensitivity and an awareness of different cultures begins to break down.

Before I even get to a foreign culture, it starts with you and me right here where we live. You will find different cultures within our own country. We live in America, and because we are so encased in ourselves, we never understand that. If you go from the east coast to the west coast or from the north to the south in America, you will find different cultures. It doesn't matter too much to us here because we're in America, and who gives a flip? If you left Kansas City and went into the deep south, someplace like the hills of Tennessee, you would see a different culture. You wouldn't even be able to understand them, and they're speaking English! Americans never want to get outside of their comfort zone.

➤ Churches have Different Cultures

You'll find that churches in America are different cultures. Back in the day when we were sending discipleship teams all around America, we sent a discipleship team to Alabama. They were a first-rate team, yet they got booted out the first night. The reason was because there was a bi-racial couple on this team. It was a black man married to a white woman, and you just don't do that in Alabama. That's a different culture. I'm not saying it's right; obviously it's not. What I'm saying is that wherever you go in this country, before you even get to missions, you need to understand and be sensitive to the fact that there are different cultures.

In some Baptist churches, pastors must wear a suit and tie at their pulpits. I'm okay with that. *Bearing Precious Seed* is a place we buy our Bibles from. Dr. Keen, who is retired now, was the pastor of that church. We were good friends. It was a big church, and he was a big-time guy. He had me preach there on several occasions. They're very legalistic, and I went there in a suit and tie. I mean, I looked the part. What? It's because I don't care; I understand that it doesn't matter if it's right or wrong, this is a different culture. **Do you want to reach those people? Wear what they wear.**

You'll find that some churches do their services differently. Some have their structure of leadership in the church a little different. When I was at the Canton Baptist Temple years ago, I

won a black man to Christ. He later became a pastor. I couldn't even bring him to the Canton Baptist Temple to go to church. He wanted to get baptized, but they wouldn't allow a black man to get baptized in a white church in the baptistry. Mel was a rebel like me, and he said to bring him at 10:00 that night when nobody was there to get baptized. Now that's definitely wrong, but that's a culture. It came out of the 50s and 60s. I'm not saying it's right, but it's something that you had to understand. I never accepted it, but I understood it.

As Christianity developed through the 50s and the 60s, everybody broke down into their little groups. We called them fellowships back then. They were a group of churches that were like-minded. Every one of them developed their own culture, and most of it didn't have anything to do with the Bible.

In some churches, women cannot wear slacks. That's a culture thing. **I could go to any church anywhere in this country, and once I understood the culture, I, like Paul in the book of Acts, would fit in.** I will tell you, though, that there are some men that I would love to have come preach in this church who I will never be able to have because they couldn't get past you ladies wearing slacks. I had a couple go to see an evangelist in the Kansas City area. The wife was wearing a dress, but she was wearing open-toed shoes. The evangelist saw this, came over to her, and asked her if she would wear those shoes to her mother's funeral. She wasn't a smart aleck, but she said she did wear them to her mother's funeral. He changed his sermon to preach on open-toed shoes! That's a culture.

➤ Culture is All Around us & We get Desensitized to it

You even see it in the food we eat. Some of you like Italian food. You can't get a Big Mac at an Italian place. You know why? It's a different culture. New York has New York pizza and Chicago has Chicago pizza. You have Kansas City barbecue, Texas barbecue, and Oklahoma barbecue. You have Chicago hot dogs. You go to Louisiana, and you have crawdads. Can you show me any place in Kansas City where we can get a steaming plate of crawdads today? I can think of only one place. You see, we are affected by culture, and we don't even know it. We live in a country where it's all kind of like Neapolitan ice cream; it's all mashed together. We don't see it, and many times it just adds to our lack of being sensitive to it.

Culture is around us all the time, and we get desensitized to it. **The failure of churches in America will be a pastor who cannot transcend into another culture other than the one he knows.** And the one he knows he either got from the fellowship mindset or he is one of those individuals who have no business pastoring because he cannot get into a person's life. I've known guys that have failed three or four times in trying to start a church. It wasn't that they didn't know the Bible. You see it's not how much you know or how well you know the Bible. **What good is all the knowledge that we have if we can't take it down to the level of the man who really needs it?** There is the problem.

I've known guys, and some of them are my friends, who can never build one solid stable work. All their lives, they went from church to church. They always blame it on the people. The deacons were this or the people wouldn't follow that. Let me tell you something, and you've heard me say this before. **Everything rises and falls on leadership.** The problem is that they

cannot penetrate that culture. They have a mindset that they have been trained in, and it is the law of the land as far as they are concerned. Here's what they are told, and I have been through this for 50 years. They are told that they need to get more education. In reality, all those degrees will just separate them farther from the common man.

To reach the common man, you need to be a common man yourself with a common Bible, and if we could add it, the common sense that will reach their culture. When somebody comes into your church, the first thing the pastor ought to do is to be sensitive to where they are coming from. This is the failure of pastors, churches, and missions today. **It's not about how well you know the Bible, how smart you are, or how much education you have. It's if you have the ability, as a common man, to transcend into another man's life, his culture, and become one with him. This is what we need to understand today.**

➤ Understanding Culture in Marriage

It's not just churches or missions, but it starts in our own world right here with us. The number one cultural breakdown in America is with marriages. **Marriage is an understanding of two different cultures.** With men and women, marriages fail because in most cases, and I put this on the husband because he is supposed to be the spiritual leader of the home, the husband fails to see and understand that his wife is a different culture. I'm in favor of long engagements before you finally tie the knot...prove all things. It's in that long engagement that you have the chance to see if they are really the person that you thought they were. I've seen too many quick weddings where you fall in love with Mr. Perfect and your Boaz in time becomes Stupidaz. Most men are completely indifferent to the needs of their wife.

A guy will get his self-worth and satisfaction from what he accomplishes in life. You see it in the business world, you see it in sports, you see it in hunting. **A woman gets her self-worth and satisfaction by what a man does for her; how he makes her feel.** Men are stimulated by what they see. A woman is stimulated by what she hears. This will explain why a goofy looking guy who is overweight with acne and looks like he could be a stand-in for Freddy Krueger will be walking down the street with the most beautiful woman on his arm. We have thought, "What in the world does she see in him?" It's not what she sees in him, it's that he knows what to say to her. **Men are moved by what they see, and women are moved by what their husband says to them.** Most men are completely indifferent to this because they don't see that they are two different cultures.

The failure of marriages in America will be simply two things.

1. The failure to understand what a Biblical marriage is. They enter into something that God designed and then try to run it by another standard that God never intended it to run by. That's a failure before you get started.
2. The failure of getting into each other's culture. A woman will have emotional, physical, and spiritual needs. Now, so does a man, but you fulfill them differently.

A healthy ministry and a healthy marriage are simply understanding what they are—two different cultures. My best advice to you guys is to think before you open your mouth. That's the number

one thing that is going to get you in trouble when your wife says, “Does this dress make me look fat?” Now what do you do with that? There are times when honesty is not the best policy.

➤ Men and Women are Different Cultures

Women don't look at things the same way that men do. I was at a football game many years ago, and I learned a great lesson from what I'm saying to you. Sitting in front of me were the parents of the kid who was the quarterback. On one play, the line collapsed, and they just hammered him. I mean he got tackled by 955 pounds of linemen. The mom stood up and screamed, “Oh, my boy!” The dad stood up and said, “That a boy! Son, let them have it!” See? They look at things differently; they're two different cultures. The failure of marriages is the man (I put it on him because he's supposed to be the leader) failing to look as his wife and see her as a different culture. And the wife, vice versa, seeing that he is a different culture.

A man can get into an argument or push a guy on his ball team. You can call them some names, and at the end of the game, you hug each other and you're okay. That's what men do. Then the same guy will get into a verbal conversation with his wife or say some hurtful things to her then just say he is sorry. When she doesn't get past it as fast as the guy on the ball team, he doesn't understand. It may work that way on the ball court, but it doesn't work that way in the relationship. She's from a different culture.

➤ The Problem when Emotions Override Biblical Principles

Like I said before, I'm all for long engagements where you get a chance to minister together—see each other at the well. See if they go seven and also eight or if they're stuck on maybe three and four. They're different cultures. One of the problems that came out of my mission trips to Central America years back was that some of my people would fall into a romantic relationship with somebody who lived 1,000 miles away. I had about 5 or 6 people that this happened to, and I tried to warn them. That is absolutely a disaster waiting to happen. Some listened and some didn't. I had one kid who was a really good kid, and he fell in love with a Latin lady. They are some of the most beautiful women in the world. I tried to tell this guy not to get engaged to her. It was his third trip down, and he didn't even really know her; moreover, she didn't speak very good English.

I was teaching Genesis 24 all the way back then, and I said that there are 19 principles there. He didn't know what she did at the well, if she is even at the well, or if she even knows where the well is! I told him what he needed to do. If they were both really serious, use the Biblical principles. Prove all things. Have her come up to the states. Don't promise her anything so you don't have a false thing to work toward. Just have her come up for a year and watch what she does with the word of God at the well. Find out from the missionary if she's doing anything now because if she isn't doing it there, don't kid yourself that she's going to do it here. When I wouldn't marry them, he got mad and left the church. Two years later they divorced. All the ones who would not listen to me wound up getting divorced within three or four years. It's a different culture and people get their emotions involved and it overrides the principles involved.

All it takes is one time for your emotions to get ahead of the principles, and you're done. **I call it "Cafeteria Christianity."** In a cafeteria, you just go down the aisle and choose what you like. **That's what a lot of people do with the principles of the word of God. They pick out of it what they want as long as it doesn't affect what they really want to do—and the principles go out the window!** The cultures are different. You can't prove all things. I had to put my foot down. I told the guys that if they wanted to go on mission trips, they needed to figure out a way to leave their hormones at home.

III. Identifying with the Culture You're Trying to Reach

When you think about American missions and missionaries, they're so far removed from the Biblical missionary. They don't have any more sensitivity to the culture than Americans do in their own country. **When it comes to the failure of New Testament missions, it will always be the missionary's failure to identify with a culture that he went to reach.** Modern missions teach that when you go to a foreign country, you Americanize the culture you went to minister to. It starts with the wrong mindset and that comes out of the fellowship mission mindset. And if it starts wrong, it ends wrong. They take the position that American Christianity is superior to all other nations. That is simply not true. **They go in changing the culture to be more like an American culture instead of changing and losing their culture to identify with those they are trying to reach.**

➤ You Love My Soul but You Don't Love Me

Years ago, there was a missionary that went to Japan. He labored there for 4-5 years and couldn't get anything done. He was in deep despair and finally reached out to an old Japanese guy who was fishing. He told him that he had tried to do everything that he knew how to do but couldn't reach the people. The old man said, "Missionary, here is your problem. You love my soul, but you don't love me." **That's the failure to get into somebody else's world—keeping them at arm's length.** It's the belief that you're the American down there to tell them what it's all about to be a Christian. It's believing that you're going to teach them to sing American songs and forget about their culture. It's you trying to make them into little Americans.

I've seen missionaries to Mexico over the years who looked at it as a permanent vacation. They lived in a hacienda with several missionaries in a little compound with an American flag on the flagpole. They're wearing American lapel pins and wonder why they can never reach the culture. The people resent it. They don't want you to bring American Christianity to them. **They want you to bring Christianity to them within their own culture.** I don't know how anybody misses this.

➤ The Lord Jesus Christ is our Greatest Example of a Model Missionary

I think the greatest example would be the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. He is my model missionary. Think of Christ coming to man. He left the culture of heaven. Can you imagine what it must have been like to leave the glory of Heaven to come down to this dusty old road in Jerusalem and this Jewish culture? I mean, **He came down and took on their culture.** He was

God, but He became man. He lived where they lived, He dressed like they dressed, He ate what they ate, He got a job, and He identified with the culture He came to—the Nation of Israel. Then **He went back to heaven so we could finish the work. How are we to be successful in that? We look at Him as the model.** The Bible says in John 1:31 that when Jesus came, John baptized Him to manifest Him to Israel. He manifested Himself to another culture. He wants us to reach the culture of this world, and we do that by manifesting ourselves to it. It's just that simple.

➤ My Understanding of New Testament Missions

My understanding of New Testament missions is laid out in the New Testament. It's simply defined threefold:

1. Called through the church
2. Trained by the church
3. Sent out by the church

The Biblical New Testament missions philosophy is that a missionary is not someone who is sent to but he's sent from. And yet despite the failure of missions today, you're going to find some good people who we will continue to help and support; people who understand how to penetrate a culture.

➤ The Great Commission

In every church I've ever been associated with, certainly in Bible colleges and missions, they'll go to Matthew 28:19-20 and teach people that this is the great commission for the church. You have got to be out of your mind! All that tells me is that you have no understanding of the book of Acts. When you look at Matthew 28 where it says go to *all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost* and then you take the companion passage to that which is in Mark Chapter 16, and you put the two together, now you've got tongues, signs, healing, drinking deadly things, picking up serpents, etc. Mark 16 and Matthew 28 are NOT the Great Commission to the church.

When you understand the book of Acts, you see that Acts Chapters 1-7 are to Israel, Paul gets saved in Chapters 8-10, and in Chapter 11 is where the church's commission starts—where they're first called Christians at Antioch. I don't know how you miss that; nevertheless, they're going to teach these guys that Acts 1-7 is the New Testament Gentile local church! There isn't a gentile within 100 million light years of Acts 1-7. But who cares when you don't believe the Bible anyhow, and you've already made up your mind what you're going to do. When you understand the book of Acts, you realize that the commission for you and for me, the Gentile church, is in Acts Chapter 11.

Did you ever notice that everything changes in Acts 11? Up to that point, the church in Jerusalem was key. Now it's the church in Antioch—a Gentile church. Everything in Acts Chapter 11 forward changes. Now we have a new name—we're called Christians. Now we have a new mission—to the Gentiles. We have a new vision (Acts 16)—the church age. And in

Acts Chapter 23, we have a new method of going to the world. We also have a new book, but **even though we have a new name, a new mission, a new vision, a new method, and a new book, we still preach the same message: Christ came and died for our sins.**

➤ The Example of the Apostle Paul

The first man that follows the pattern of Christ in missions will be the Apostle Paul. If you want to learn sensitivity to culture for missions and even in your own world, a study of his life is beneficial. He's our model missionary after the Lord Jesus. When you study his life, you'll see that he is bi-cultural. He is saved in Acts 9, and God gives him a call of leaving the nation of Israel and going to the Gentile world. He knows the Jews are a different culture than the Gentiles. So God picked a man who is a Roman citizen (Gentile), but he's also a Jew. He understands both cultures. That's very important. He has a good balance of looking at the Gentile world and understanding how they think as well as looking at his Jewish world and understanding how they think; moreover, he is able to use both of them within his ministry. You see it at work in Acts 22, and you see it again in Acts 23—**his ability to adapt to whatever culture he's facing without getting hung up in the culture that he came from.** I can't impress that upon you enough.

He trains other missionaries by taking them with him on three missionary trips like we're about to do. I know that you're taught that he had three missionary trips, but he also had a fourth one. He went to Rome. You also don't want to miss this: Paul was a Pharisee. He was part of the highest educated religious order in the nation of Israel. The book of Acts tells us that he was a doctor of the law taught by one of the greatest doctrinal minds on Jewish Old Testament authority. He's one of the most educated men in the New Testament who God chose, and yet he knows his higher education is worthless. And in the calling that God has given him, he tells us in Philippians 3:8 what he thinks of all his degrees, the fact that he was a member of the Sanhedrin, the fact that he was a doctor of the law, that he was a Pharisee. He looks at all those things compared to what God has given him and compares them as dung. Now how does a guy read that then flaunt his education and degrees, within the Bible, all over the place? There are so many doctors around that you'd think God was sick, and yet the greatest Christian that ever lived said they don't do a thing for you.

Now as I said, New Testament missions today for the most part is totally non-biblical, yet like churches today, you'll find some really good ones that are out there. I will back them, support them, and help them. It has always been the job of the New Testament local church to train pastors and missionaries and to send them out. Paul trained church leaders—Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Pricilla & Aquilla. He trained missionaries—Silas, Barnabas, and John Mark. From these patterns and models and their examples, you'll find that they are trained by the church, called by the church, and then sent by the church. They are the result of a Biblical process of growth through your local New Testament church that will prove your calling then give you the training. You are sent out, not as a novice as the Bible says in I Timothy 3:6, but you send out the best that you have. Experience in ministry: being able to water the camels; working at the well. You learn to follow authority and have a structured life. You learn to see the patterns and the models and follow them over your emotions, feelings, or something somebody tries to tell

you that goes outside the word of God. And like we see in Acts 16, a good solid background in the local church like Timothy had.

➤ The Missionary David Brainerd and Other Great Philadelphian Missionaries

I think a book that everybody should read is the *Diary of David Brainerd*. He lived from 1718 to 1747, dying when he was 29 years old. He was a missionary to the American Indians in Delaware and Pennsylvania. He never had a convert. He never established any missions program. He would go out into the woods of Delaware and Pennsylvania and would pray in the snow. His body was so racked with fever that he would melt holes in the snow where he'd pray for the American Indians. He wrote a diary, and years later Henry Martyn and William Carey read that diary, and God used David Brainerd's death and his sacrifice to send them around the world to the mission field. He cast his bread upon the waters.

I think of Robert Morrison in China who translated the King James Bible into Chinese. He lived in a cellar and was severely persecuted. William Carey who was in India for 42 years translating the King James Bible into 44 languages and dialects. Mary Slessor to Africa, Gladys Aylward to the lepers in China. John Paton (1824-1907) went to the New Hebrides Islands which were filled with headhunters and cannibals. Paton was a missionary to them for 49 years, and when his wife and child died and were buried, he sat on their graves for two weeks so that the cannibals wouldn't dig them up and eat them. How's your day going?

Adoniram Judson went to Burma and buried two wives and a daughter in the field. Guys like Henry Martyn, David Livingstone, Alexander Duff, Francis Gardiner, Peter Parker, Samuel Knott. These were the Storm Troopers of the Philadelphian missions program. The 18th and 19th century hosted the greatest Bible believing witness that the world had ever seen. You can get on our website, and under church history, I go through these guys in great detail. You can study them all, but the greatest missionary example for me will be the Moravian missionaries.

➤ The Moravian Missionaries

Without a doubt, for me, the Moravian missionaries are the greatest example of what New Testament missions, based on the book of Acts, should be. Now the leaders of this missionary movement were two key men: Count Zinzendorf (1700-1760) and August Spangenberg (1704-1792). The Moravians were being persecuted by the Saxons (this is north Germany), and Count Zinzendorf created a place for them to have refuge and to build a church on his large estate. They called it *The Lord's Watch*, and this was the birth of the Moravian church. These men started the greatest missionary endeavor in all of New Testament Christianity. In 20 years, the Moravians started and had more missionary works going through Europe and all around the world than the Lutheran and the Anglican church had done in 200 years. **They were simply the common man who went to a foreign land and used their life skills to build a base for the gospel and win men to Christ.** Some went as carpenters, some as cooks, others as grave diggers or potters—**common man going to common man with a common Bible.** When they finished their training in *The Lord's Watch* and were sent out by that church, they got a one-way ticket. They never returned from the field. And they went all over the world with God's truth—The King James 1611 Authorized Version.

Of course, some things never change. They were ridiculed by the highly educated culture Christians of the day. They were told that they were unprepared because they hadn't been through their school. It was on a trip to Georgia during the First Great Awakening that John Wesley had come over to America to witness the Great Awakening. Now remember I told you the story about him being robbed in England. That was later in his life. When he first came to Georgia to see the Great Awakening, he wasn't saved. He failed miserably, so he's sailing back to England completely discouraged. Then lo and behold, on that trip going back, God had a Moravian missionary, Peter Bohler, witness to him and win him to Christ. John Wesley became one of the greatest preachers that brought a revival to England. *Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.*

➤ Ready for Either!

There were white Moravian Missionaries who sold themselves into slavery to reach the black slaves from Africa for Christ. They gave up every freedom that they had so they could reach the common black slave being brought in from Africa. You see, this is the Bible's version of Black Lives Matter. They understood the book of Philemon which is the greatest book in the New Testament on slavery. **They realized that if they were going to reach them for Christ, they were going to have to become one with them.** Zinzendorf said, "I have but one passion: It is He; it is He alone." Their coat of arms was an ox standing by an altar with a plow laying beside the altar and an inscription which read, "Ready for Either." Their motto was that God would hitch them to the plow to sow the word of God to a lost world or they were willing to lay down their lives on the altar of God for the salvation of others. Now that's what God was doing around the world during the greatest church period in history.

William Carey, who I mentioned earlier, has been called the father of modern missions. He went to India for 42 years. You know what got him there? He read the work describing the Moravian missionaries. *Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.* And as of today, just so you know and it's already in the works, the coat of arms for this church will be the Moravian coat of arms. An artist in this church is going to paint it, and we're going to put it right up there on the wall that we are "Ready for Either."

IV. Moving Forward

When we started our church over 20 years ago now, I made it clear that we would build it on the models found in the Bible—the church of Antioch; the church at Ephesus. My method has always been in building a work that's of God. I've been asked many times how you build a church. My answer to them is not to build a church. You don't get anywhere by building a church. That's a misconception that you've been brainwashed with and taught. The church has buildings, programs, choirs, deacons. **You don't build a church, you build people—one at a time, one family at a time, one couple at a time, one individual at a time, one kid at a time.** That's the Biblical process. We have seen our church grow into the state of maturity that we have now.

Acts 1:8. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

We have paid our dues in Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria, and now to the uttermost parts of the earth. Through God's hand in our ministry and His blessings, we stand on the final frontier of our calling. I have three missionary goals this year. First is our home base in England. The second is to the other churches that God is going to bring in. The third one is where God takes us in Central America and South America when we work with Miles. We just take our time, but you need to be praying on what God would have you to do. Let me know what you're thinking and what God is doing in your heart. I will have the total training package for the team to be prepared. England and Central America are two completely different mission packages.

In England, we're going to work with a base already established there with people that we already know. It's going to be a time where you can really get in and sink your teeth into something that's already there and help it develop. Continue to pray for God to raise us up a guy who will be there with Becca and those girls to really be part of what she's trying to do. As far as the other churches, Mike Fernandez will be preaching in February building a bond. In Central or South America, it will be raw missionary training to a third world country. That will be exactly what most of you need—getting into a situation where you have lost every aspect of what you have in America. You're now on a baseline with a third world country where you're forced to look into their culture. I will teach you what to say and what not to say. You can't talk to them like you talk to people up here. It's a different culture. I'll get you ready, but it will be the catalyst for many of you young men and young ladies that will give you the vision for the world. You will bring it back to the rest of us, and we'll get the vision through your vision.

You will evangelize and teach. You'll work probably in a Bible Institute over there. You will work through a translator, and I'll get you ready for it. It's a total church missionary endeavor. It's 1 Samuel 30:24. Some of you will go down to the battle and some of us are going to stay by the stuff. We will build around you everything you need—the support through MARS, the prayer support, and being a part of your team.

I gave you four key concepts that we will build into your life. You will learn the true meaning of these four words.

1. **Adaptability**—You're going into a culture that you're going to have to adapt to.
2. **Flexibility**—You're going into a culture that you're going to have to be flexible with.
3. **Compatibility**—You're going with people and working with people you're going to have to be compatible with.
4. **Durability**—You're going to be in a different time zone, working long hours, and you're going to have to be durable enough to get through it.

The result will be a world vision that you don't have right now: understanding another culture. As I started this thing, I told you that it starts with our own culture. It starts with you looking around you—your marriage, the people you work with. Not everybody sees things the way that you or I see them because they come from a different culture. Our job, and the success of this

church, has been your ability to transcend into somebody else's life. Now we're going to take it up to the next four or five levels, and you're going to do it in another country. Just as the Bible conference changed many of you, going on these trips will change you, too. Then you're going to bring it back and what God did in your life is going to change us. **That's the ministry of a New Testament local church working together.** So now I've given you everything you need to know about all that God is doing, the great principles and verses, and now you understand the Biblical New Testament approach to missions. This will be our mandate: "Ready for Either!"