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Train & Multiply™

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Reach Every Nation



Pastoral Leader Training Booklet

27

Train & Multiply™



T&M™

Ask the Lord to use this study to prepare your church to support mission, and send missionaries.

THE GREAT COMMISSION IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Jesus Christ has commanded us, “*go and make disciples of all nations.*” (Matthew 28:19) God’s plan of reaching all the nations of the world had been revealed ever since the first book of the Bible. According to Galatians 3:8, the Gospel was announced to Abraham. In Genesis 12:1-3, God promised Abraham that “*all the nations of the earth*” would be blessed through his offspring. Later, God repeated this promise when Abraham had been willing to obey the command to sacrifice Isaac.



“Through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed.”
(Genesis 22:18)

PRACTICAL WORK

- Memorize Genesis 22:18: “*through your offspring all nations of the earth will be blessed.*”
- Share your missionary vision and the teachings of this study with your church.
- Pray for missionary work weekly, with the whole church.
- Take up a monthly offering for missionary work abroad.
- Encourage your congregation to be a missionary church. Prepare and send missionaries.
- As a church, concentrate your missionary efforts on an unevangelized group.
- To prepare those of your members who feel the Lord’s call to be missionaries in their own city or country, or abroad, continue with level three of T&M. (See the Student Activity Guide.)

John is about to go to North Africa with a missionary team. What a privilege, for our church, to send and support him!



“And this gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations - and then the end will come.”

(Matthew 24:14)

In the Bible, the word “nations” refers to cultural groups, (not countries). Where in the Bible, do we find, for the first time, the promise to “*bless all the nations on the earth?*”

In _____

Mark the correct answer:

The word “nation” in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) means:

- ☐ cultural groups.
- ☐ political countries.

In the Old Testament, Abraham’s descendants (the Israelites), did not function as His instruments, taking this promised blessing to all the cultural groups of the earth. Quite the contrary! Many disobeyed God, worshipping their pagan neighbors’ idols.

Later the prophet Jonah went away in a ship, to avoid going to preach in Nineveh, where the pagan people lived.

So we can see that, through their disobedience, the Israelites did not become God's instrument for blessing the nations.



In the Old Testament, who were responsible for sharing God's promise of blessing to all nations, but failed to do so?

- ☐ The Israelites.
- ☐ The Edomites.

But when the Lord decides something, nothing stops Him.

Isaiah 49:6 declares, "I will make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth." Eternal salvation came, not through the whole nation of Israel, but through

What can you do to overcome these barriers?

The Lord seeks men and women of faith to fulfill His plan of blessing all the nations of the world.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying: "*Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?*" As did Isaiah, let us answer: "*Here am I, send me.*"

(Isaiah 6:8)

Today, the Lord asks His churches:

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."
How then can they call on the one they have not believed in?
And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"

(Romans 10:13-15)

How sad! The other nine missionaries preferred to stay where there already are churches.



These barriers are formidable. No one can cross them unless their Church sends them with much prayer and faith.

The church in Antioch fasted and prayed, and laid hands on Paul and Barnabas, so that God would give them power to overcome all barriers. (Acts 13: 3)

Which of the barriers mentioned above, would be the most difficult for you to overcome? Why?

one Israelite descended from Abraham, Jesus the Son of God. He is the Messiah, the King anointed by God, who brings blessing to all nations.

THE GREAT COMMISSION IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Jesus Christ came to fulfill God's eternal plan. The last command that Jesus gave His followers was to go and make disciples of all nations. This fulfils the ancient promise to Abraham. The Lord Jesus said:

"This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world, and then the end will come."

(Matthew 24:14)

According to Galatians 3:29, who are Abraham's descendants now, who are heirs to the promise that God made to Abraham?

The last pages of God's Word show who will gather before God's throne. (Revelation 7:9)

“After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb...”

Soon God’s plan and the Lord Jesus Christ’s command will be fulfilled!



Welcome from all nations!

The Lord’s eternal purpose to bless all the nations of the world is revealed throughout the Bible. It begins in the book of _____ and continues through to the final book of _____.



YOU WILL SUFFER!



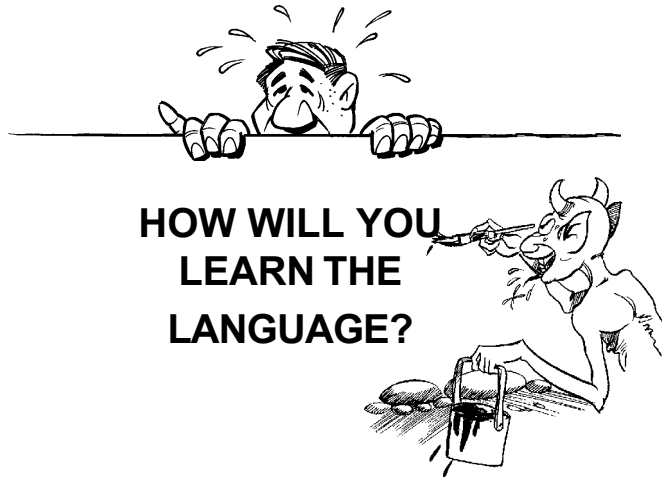
5. Barriers of Selfishness or Fear

Jesus Christ told us to look at the fields ready to harvest. (John 4:35) But some churches only look at the needs of their own people. They do not see these large unevangelized fields in other places.

The devil encourages weaker Christians to stagnate behind these barriers. Although there are thousands of missionaries, few go to unevangelized groups. For every ten missionaries, nine go where there are churches already. Only one in ten goes to unreached nations where there is no witness to Christ. The most important thing is to go where the Lord leads, and not hide behind a multitude of excuses.

3. Linguistic Barriers

Unevangelized groups speak other languages. Their customs are very different from ours. We cannot communicate the Gospel to them until we have persevered in learning their customs and language well.



4. Barriers of Persecution

In unevangelized fields, the missionaries and the newly converted suffer. In fact, every year, thousands of Christians die as martyrs in Asia (the number rises every year). Many more will die. (Revelation 6:9-11, 12:17, 17:6)

THE GREAT COMMISSION IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

The Acts of the Apostles tells us how the disciples began to fulfill the Great Commission. The book repeats this command of the Lord Jesus Christ in its first chapter. (Acts 1:8)

Memorize this verse now, please:

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

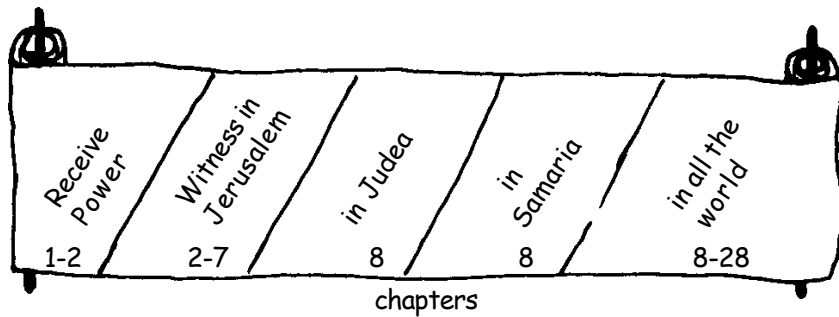
(Acts 1:8)

Which is the key verse of the book of Acts?

Acts chapter _____ verse _____

This verse sums up the beginning and growth of the church of Jesus Christ, of which we are told in Acts.

THE BOOK OF ACTS:

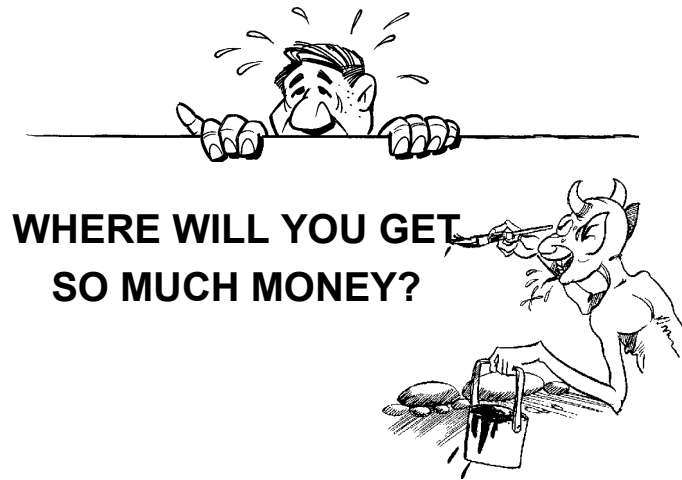
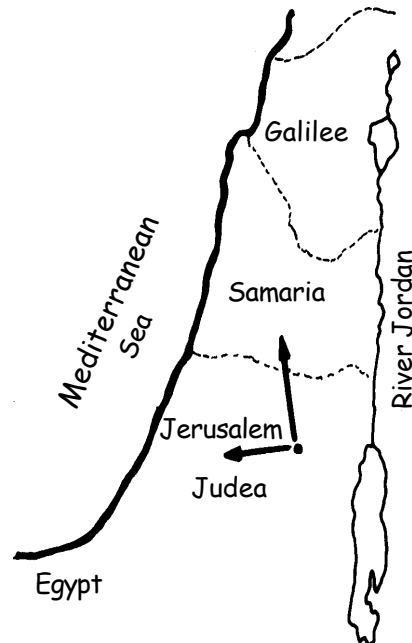


(Chapters 1 to 2)

They receive the power of the Holy Spirit to witness to the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Chapters 2 to 7)

They witness courageously in the city of Jerusalem. The church grows fast there.



**WHERE WILL YOU GET
SO MUCH MONEY?**

2. Barriers of Official Prohibition

The greater part of unreached groups live under governments opposed to the Gospel. They do not allow missionaries to enter. They do not allow anyone to evangelize. “Underground” churches must be formed to evangelize in secret. This takes much courage.



**NO VISAS FOR
MISSIONARIES!**



Through strong faith and fervent prayer the Lord breaks down, and allows us to cross, these barriers:

1. Barriers of Distance

Nearly all unevangelized groups live in far off or isolated places. Without fervent faith, we will not dare to go to them, because of the distance and the cost.

(Chapter 8:1-4)

They evangelize in the regions of Judea and Samaria, where they went because they were persecuted in Jerusalem. The Lord permitted this, so that they would go to the surrounding areas.

(Chapter 8:4-25)

Philip preached in Samaria. The Samaritans were a neighboring people with a different culture and religion. There was always tension between them and the Jews.

(Chapters 8:26 to 28)

They began to reach foreign nations.

To extend Christ's Kingdom to the nations, the Lord miraculously took away Paul's and Peter's racial and religious prejudices. (Acts 9 and 10) Paul changed completely when he was converted and followed Christ.

In a vision repeated three times, God commanded Peter to eat animals considered unclean by the Jews. In this way, the Lord convinced Peter that he could accept and evangelize non-Jews. These were the people of different cultures, with other religions and customs, whom the Jews considered unacceptable, and had no contact with them.

What was the purpose of the vision Peter had in Acts 10:9-16?

Acts 1:8, the Lord Jesus commanded them to go to Samaria, a neighboring people of different customs. What cultures or people groups correspond to “Samaria” for your church (having another culture, but nearby)?

Acts chapters 13 to 28 relate the missionary Paul’s journeys. He went to Asia, Greece and Rome, the capital of the Roman Empire. Churches were established in these places, in more distant nations.

- God is a Person, not something created, and commands us not to worship created things. (Exodus 20:1-18)
- Jesus Christ, God’s Son, has power over all spirits; He saves us through His death and resurrection.

FIVE BARRIERS WE MUST CROSS

Peoples where the majority has not yet heard the Gospel form half of the population of the world. God’s plan is to have in His presence, in glory, families from all these groups. To achieve this, He wants churches planted in each group. Satan tries to prevent us fulfilling this Great Commission of the Lord. He discourages us with various formidable barriers:

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm.”

(Ephesians 6:12)

ANIMISTS

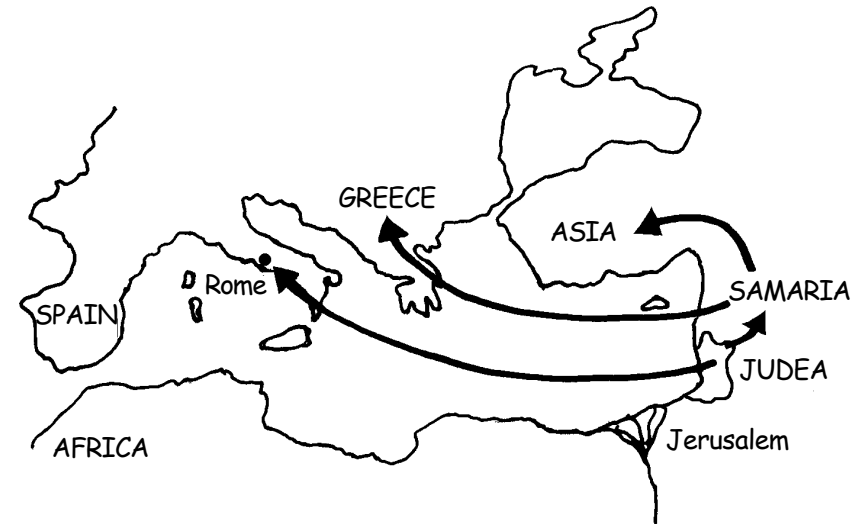
In every continent, there are tribes or ethnic groups which are, mainly, “animistic.” They believe that there are spirits in plants, animals, rivers, lakes, rocks, etc. They do not know the saving Name of Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, or His saving power over every spirit. They live in fear, superstition and anguish, and try to please and placate the spirits which they believe affect every aspect of their lives.



Aspects of the Gospel which must be emphasized, to free animists, are:

- God created all things, plants, animals, etc. (Genesis 1 and 2)
God has power over all Creation.

In Acts 15, a special council of Christian Jews in Jerusalem decides to accept non-Jewish Christians. They would not have to change their culture to become brothers in Christ.



In the book of the Acts, how far did the Gospel reach?

They did not wait to evangelize all the cities of Judea before going to Samaria. Paul did not stay in one region until it was all evangelized. Once he had started a work somewhere, he left it in the care of the local elders and went off to some other unevangelized place. He traveled far from his own country.

The work of the believers in Acts is our example, for evangelizing people of other cultures and in distant countries. They wanted to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Neither the lack of resources, not persecution, nor cultural barriers prevented them from going.

THE GREAT COMMISSION IN THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

Since Apostolic times, the Gospel has spread through all the world according to God’s plan. It has reached all continents, through great sacrifices on the part of Christians.

The early church grew quickly. It took the Gospel to Rome, where Paul died as a martyr. There it grew deep roots, and in time became what is called the Roman Catholic Church. At first this church evangelized widely. Missionaries were sent to all of Europe. Many of these were monks, dedicated to the Lord. They gave up their families and worldly goods and ties, to travel to distant dangerous places. Like the Apostle Paul, they were unmarried, and worked to support themselves. They took vows of chastity, poverty and obedience to the Lord’s commands. Many gave their lives to reach

How do Muslims think they are saved?



Here I pray five times a day.

MUSLIMS

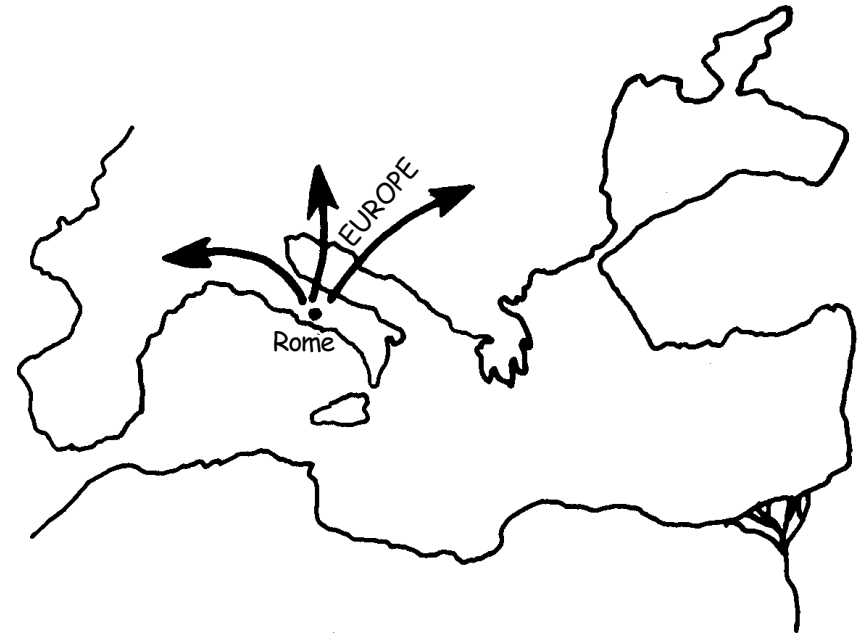
They are mainly concentrated in about 30 countries, in North Africa, the Middle East and in southern Asia. Many of them are fanatical followers of their religion. They send Muslim missionaries to other countries to win followers. They do not allow Christian missionaries to enter their countries. They persecute and kill those who have been converted to Christ.

Muslims believe in one God, Allah. They accept parts of the Bible as his word, but they believe that Christians have changed the Bible. They do not believe Christ to be the Son of God, or that He saves. They think He is only a prophet.

Muslims follow their prophet Muhammad, who lived in the seventh century. The Quran is their holy book which they respect more than the Bible. They believe that God revealed it to Muhammad. It teaches that Jesus ascended straight to heaven, without dying.

Their religion is something like that of the Pharisees in the New Testament, trying to save themselves through good works. They still do not know that Christ saves through faith, not by works.

the tribes of Europe. The church spread through Spain, France, Germany and Britain.



After a time, some leaders of the Roman Catholic Church began to move away from the truth of the Gospel. Their ambition was to be the only interpreters of God's Word, and "sell" salvation. They persecuted those who did not recognize their absolute authority. John Hus was burnt alive in 1415 because he taught that every Christian has the right to read the Bible and to follow its teachings as his greatest authority. Thousands of Christians were killed at that time.

The Roman Church did not permit translation of the Bible that would enable people to study the Scriptures in their own language, evangelism stagnated. But in the sixteenth century, the Lord reformed His Church.

With the growth of the evangelical movement, and increasing translation of the Scriptures, many separated from the Roman Catholic Church to be able to read and obey the Bible. Other sincere Christians stayed within the Roman church, hoping to reform it from inside.

Since the Protestant Reformation, which began in the year 1517, the whole Bible has been translated into hundreds of languages. Translations of the Scriptures are still needed for thousands more languages.

At first, the Roman Church:

- ☐ was idolatrous, controlled by Roman Emperors.
- ☐ evangelized widely, and was faithful to God's Word.

BUDDHISTS

The majority of Buddhists who have not heard the Gospel live in the countries of Southeast Asia, Mongolia and China.

They follow the teachings of Buddha (the enlightened one). Like the Hindus, they believe in a type of reincarnation. Some Buddhists spend a long time in meditation. They seek to escape from the cycle of reincarnation, and to stop living totally, because they believe that life is suffering. Others have made Buddha their god; they pray to him and to other gods or spirits, to get help here on earth.

They do not know God, personal and almighty, who has delivered us from evil in our lives, through Jesus Christ.

Like Hindus, Buddhists believe reincarnation. What does this mean?



I don't eat beef,
because the cow is
sacred.

Hindus worship many gods, including some animals. They also believe that, after death, one is reborn as some other person or animal, according to one's actions in the previous life (reincarnation). This process of death and rebirth continues until the person has paid for all their sins and reached perfection. They think the sufferings of this life are the result of sins committed in a previous life. They still do not know that Jesus Christ forgives sin.

What do we have to tell them, so that they can escape from their idolatry, superstition and wrong belief in an endless cycle of reincarnation?

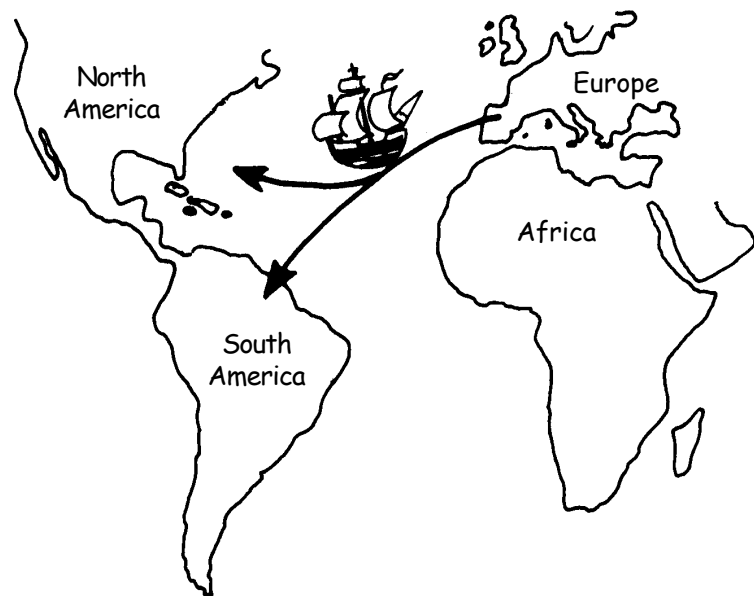
The Roman Church was at first biblical, and obedient to the Gospel and the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ, but afterwards deviated in many ways from the Word of God.

What prevented efficient evangelization of the nations?

- ☐ Not translating the Word of God into the languages of the nations.
- ☐ Not having transportation.



Among the first evangelical missionaries to leave Europe, were the Moravians. The Moravian church started with a revival. God brought this about through the fervent prayers of their leader, Count Zinzendorf. Of each 60 members of the Moravian churches, one went abroad as a missionary. As they were poor, many did not have financial support from their home churches in Europe. They worked to support themselves as the Apostle Paul did.



Many of the first missionaries died through not being used to the climate or the new diseases they met. Nevertheless, they continued going out, because they had a passionate desire to reach the uttermost parts of the world in obedience to the Lord. Many traveled in groups, others alone, as merchants.

communist government, many Chinese have become totally materialistic. The government has persecuted Christians severely.

Within the country of China there are hundreds of “nations” with different languages and cultures - who have millions of people, but very little Christian witness.

Some Chinese follow the religion of Tao. Others are Buddhists, Muslims or follow Confucius.

Thank the Lord that there is strong growth in the Chinese church. But there are still hundreds of millions of Chinese who have not heard the Gospel.

HINDUS

The majority of Hindus live in India. They are the most idolatrous people on earth. The Gospel has penetrated some parts of the country, especially in the south. But there are still hundreds of cultural groups with different languages, who have not heard the Gospel.

Half the world's population has still not heard the Gospel.

The people who have not yet heard the Gospel, are in the following five large groups:

- Chinese
- Muslim
- Animist
- Buddhist
- Hindu

CHINESE

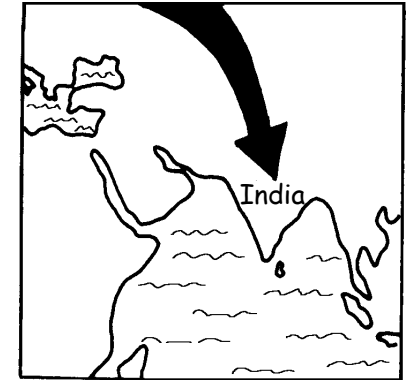


1 in 5 people
in the world
are Chinese.

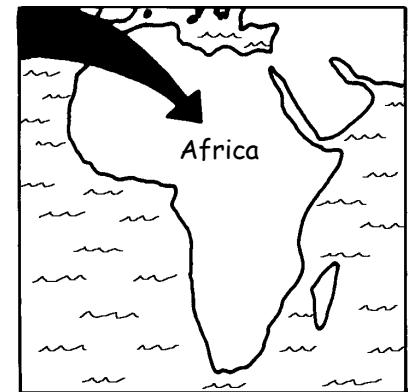
China is the country with the highest population in the world. Of every five people on earth, one is Chinese. Under their present

How did many of the first evangelical missionaries support themselves? _____

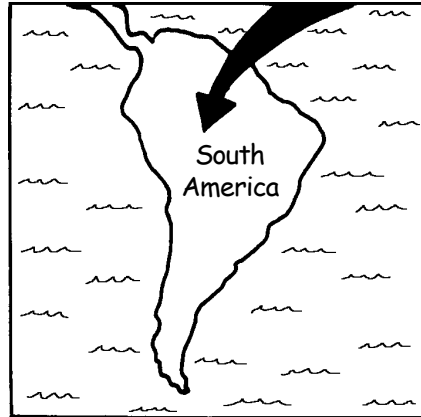
In 1792, William Carey organized a missionary society and traveled to India, where, together with his fellow-missionaries, he translated the Scriptures into more than 30 dialects. His motto was: “expect great things of God, attempt great things for God”.



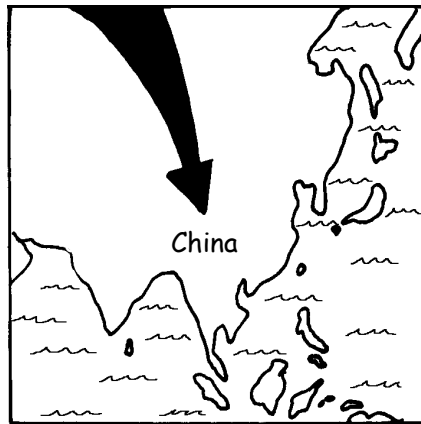
In 1841 David Livingstone started to explore the jungles of Africa. The widespread interest aroused by this, led to hundreds of other missionaries penetrating the interior of this continent, following his example. Through these efforts, many millions of Africans have been converted to Christ.



In 1882 Francis Penzotti started to take the Bible to all the countries of Latin America. Although he was jailed for his faith, he carried on with the work. Through the vision of missionaries such as he, the Gospel has reached nearly all of Latin America.



From 1865 on, Hudson Taylor mobilized 800 missionaries, moved by his vision of reaching China for the Lord. He suffered much. He buried his wife and his daughter in China, but persevered. He and other faithful missionaries in China left a vast work which even now has continued to grow under violent persecution.



WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE?

What have we yet to do, to fulfill the Great Commission of going to all nations? Where in the world are there still no disciples of Christ?

The population of the world has increased so much during the past century that only half have heard the Gospel. There are 12,000 cultural groups which still have no church, and where the Gospel has not been presented.

There are whole nations with no church. In some countries, a single missionary tries to reach a million people (and at the same time must work for his living, without letting the authorities detect his missionary work).

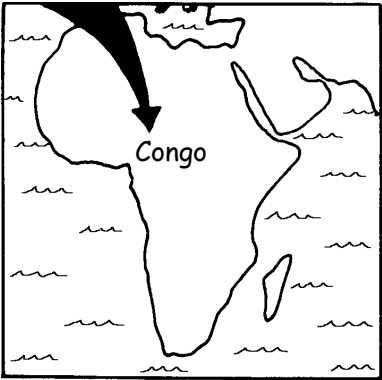
What proportion of the world's population has still not heard the Gospel?

- ☐ A quarter.
- ☐ Half.

Is it God's will that only Christians from rich countries should fulfill His Great Commission? Does God's eternal plan depend on the rich? Paul says that God uses what is weak and despised in the world to shame the rich, strong and wise. (1 Corinthians 1:26-28) Missionaries can earn their living, as did Paul, the Moravians and the monks of old, by working.

What can your church do, to strengthen this new missionary movement, and to share it?

Many women have contributed to the modern missionary movement. In this century, Helen Roseveare reached the Congo (now Zaire, in Central Africa) as a missionary doctor. She wanted to marry, but God had other plans for her, so she served as a single woman.



During the war of independence there, she was imprisoned and treated brutally by guerrillas. But she persevered. She left in the Congo a Center for Medical Studies and an effective witness.

In modern times there have been great missionary movements. God has raised up men and women of vision, as missionaries. These have mobilized thousands more to go.

We can praise the Lord because many of these countries are no longer needy mission fields, but also send missionaries.

The present great missionary movement, in which thousands of missionaries are going out from relatively new churches throughout the world, started with much prayer. It is motivated by the simple desire to obey the Lord Jesus Christ.

Through the vision of brave missionaries, today we know the love of Christ. If they had stayed at home to preach in their own countries, (where there is also great need), we would not have received Christ's Gospel. Thanks be to God that they obeyed Jesus Christ!

In these days, a new missionary movement is developing. Its impulse does not start in Europe or the United States. It is originating in the "third world" countries. In India, the national churches are sending missionaries to their own country's unreached tribes, and abroad. Some of these missionary agencies reject aid from churches outside India. They prefer to depend on the Lord. Their missionary organization is national and autonomous. The Lord blesses them for this; their work has flourished much more than that of organizations that depend on resources and leadership from outside their own country.

Many missionary agencies involved in this new movement depend only on:

- ☐ foreign funds.
- ☐ their own resources.



More than 15,000 evangelical Africans, Asians and Latin Americans are working in foreign countries as missionaries, sent by their own churches (many of which are very poor). We pray that the Lord will raise up many more to obey the Lord of the harvest.
(Matthew 9:37-38)