



# INTRODUCTION TO MISSIONS

**SESSION 1**

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**GLC 4**  
▲UPGRADES

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# GLC 4

▲UPGRADES

## **INTRODUCTION TO MISSIONS, SESSION 1**

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# EXPLORE

## Why study Missions?

In groups of 3-5:

- Discuss: what you think “missions” is about?
- Why should do you think we should be studying about missions in GLC4?

# EXAMINE

## What is a “mission”?

Usually we think of...

- **Mission** statements
- **Mission** trips
- Diplomatic **Mission**

### Biblically

- **Jesus’** mission:
  - “to seek and to save what was lost” (Luke 19:10)
  - “...not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mt. 20:28)
- The **disciples’** mission:
  - The Great Co-“mission” (Matt. 28:18-20)  
<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

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## Review: The Great Commission

- Key verb: make disciples
- Scope: all nations  
(ethne = “peoples”)
- Method: reproductive discipleship

## Unpacking the Great Commission

Notice: We are to teach everything Jesus commanded

*This already implies multiplication through reproduction!*

### Jesus’ Game Plan

“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

### Jerusalem

- Where they were, among **their own** people, language and culture
- Not to avoid people from other cultures, but that the primary task is to “**bloom where you are planted.**”
- Implication: don’t wait for a **special calling** to go and be a missionary – begin here and now, right where you are

### Judea

- Geographically and culturally near, the area immediate surrounding Jerusalem (*like reaching Bulacan or Cebu*)

### Samaria

- Geographically near, but culturally not the same (*like reaching Aetas in Pampanga or Muslims in Zamboanga*)

## Ends of the Earth

- “Ends of the Earth”: Places and people groups that require crossing geographical, linguistic and cultural barriers to reach for Christ.
- In today’s world, \_\_\_\_\_ % of the world’s population would need someone to cross cultural barriers for them to hear the gospel

## Status of the Great Commission, how are we doing?

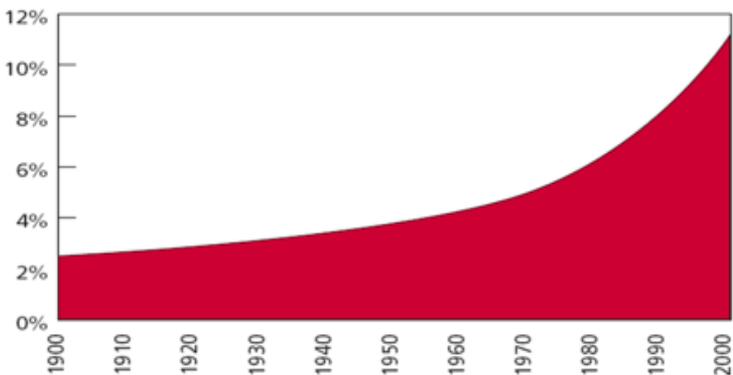
### Present Status

- 1/3 of the world’s 7 billion people claim to be adherents of Christianity
- 1/8 would claim to be evangelical Christians
- Each year \$20 billion is used for missions around the world
- 450,000 evangelical missionaries

### Growth of Biblical Christianity

- In AD 100: 1/360
- By AD 1000: 1/69
- By AD 2000: 1/9
- Today: around 1/8

### Believers as a Percentage of Total World Population in the 20th Century



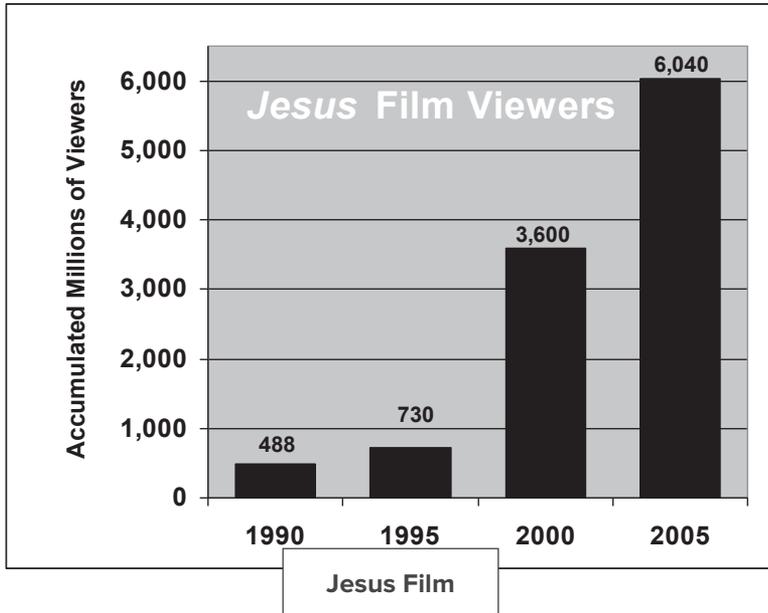
### Final Frontier: Cities

- Since 2008 – more people in the world live in cities than rural areas
- Most missionary activities have focused on tribes and rural areas
- Others have focused on the poor and disenfranchised
- Thus in many countries Christians are seen as backward and uneducated

### Intentional effort is needed to reach the least reached

- Most are in Asia
- Most are from Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu and restricted access countries
- Many are in cities

### Status of the Great Commission



## Status of the Great Commission

### *Status of the Gospel for Every Person*

The Gospel for every person	Population	%
Have heard the Gospel in some form	~4.3 billion	70%
Virtually no exposure to the Gospel	~2.0 billion	30%

**Why hasn't  
the Great Commission  
been completed?**

## Challenges of the Unfinished Task

### ***Spiritual Challenge***

- Satan does not give up ground without a battle
- More Christians were martyred in the 20th century than in the previous 19 centuries combined

### ***People Challenge***

- Remaining people groups are the most difficult to penetrate

### ***Political / National Challenge***

- The countries with the most unreached peoples tend to be closed to Christianity

### ***People Challenge***

- Remaining people groups are the most difficult to penetrate

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## **Afghanistan**

- 28 million people
- Perhaps 5-10,000 Christians, <.02%
- 48,000 mosques but no church buildings
- 75 unreached ethnic people groups
- Average annual income of \$240 US dollars
- Life expectancy of 43

## **Imbalance in Missions Finances**

- Question: For every \$1 of Christian giving to all causes how much goes to financing pioneer church planting among unreached peoples?



*Answer:  
Less than 1/10th of a cent*

## **Why are we to complete the task?**

Not because it is our duty...  
though it is.

Not because it will bring eternal life to many...  
though it will.

Not because it will improve the lives of the poor...  
though it will.

Not because it will make the world more honest and safe...  
though it will.

Not because it will improve the environment...  
though it will.

Not because we will be rewarded...  
though we will.

- What aspect of God's commission and plan excites or challenges you the most? Why?

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### That There Might Be Worshipers

“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb”

*Revelation 7:9*

## EXPRESS

What have you learned or have been reminded of that is significant to you so far?

What do you think CCF's role should be in light of the need to fulfill the Great Commission of Christ?

## EXPERIENCE

Pray about God's call for Missions. Discuss this with your Dgroup leader and your Dgroup members to encourage them to pray for you as well.





