

Anthology from MissioNexus, Volume 2- #2 <http://missionexus.org/>
(18 Quotes Selected by Doug Nichols)

1. A Wind in the House of Islam: Muslim Movement to Christ (David Garrison)

Over the past three years, Dr. David Garrison has conducted a global survey of Muslim movements to Christ. His survey discovered 82 such movements over the course of nearly 14 centuries of Muslim-Christian interaction. Garrison's survey took him 250,000 miles throughout the Muslim World from West Africa to Indonesia and everywhere in between, where he was able to gather more than 1,000 interviews from Muslim-background believers within these movements. [p. 11]

2. Miraculous Movements: How Hundreds of Thousands of Muslims Are Falling in Love with Jesus

Leader Edge Book Summary (Jerry Trousdale)

God is powerfully working in some of the least expected places in the Islamic world. Trousdale documents these "miraculous movements of Muslims to Christ" by using story after story as evidence. This is not a book on levels of contextualization or "insider movements." Rather it is on methodology of entering into the often risky Muslim context, to bring a community to saving faith in Christ. Access this MissioNexus.org/pg12 [p.12]

3. Missions: Western Christians in Global Mission *Leader's Edge Book Summary* (Paul Borthwick)

This book helps the reader understand how the North American church can adjust to the changes in world missions as it faces the reality of the Majority world church. Brothwick is generally optimistic about the continued role of North America in missions, but he is also realistic as he pinpoints some of the wariness Majority World churches have toward North America mission efforts as they increasingly become the new dominate force in world missions. Access this resource at MissioNexus.org/pg16 [p.16]

4. Should We Send Our Missionaries into Danger?

How should the church and mission-sending institutions respond when the ones we send insist on obeying God's directions, even when it involves entering or remaining in harm's way? In preparation, both the sender and the sent should understand the theological function of dangerous missions. But how can we decide whether a

dangerous mission is merited? Since 1983 I have been interacting with American Christians about missions. I have gained the distinct impression that many American Christians view self-sacrificial missionary behavior as admirably insane. How are we to combat the majority negative view of dangerous missions? The first step is belief. We must have that extends beyond the surface, leading an individual to radical obedience, even reckless abandon. We must have faith that Christ can and will save people from every tribe, tongue, and nation. We must believe that God is completely in control of not only our lives, but of the action of our persecutors. Dangerous missions may seem unnecessary to Western Christians because of a lack of faith not only in the sovereignty of God but also in the necessity of the Gospel. In order to answer if we are to send missionaries into dangerous situations, we must first outline the importance and necessity of a Gospel witness. [p.24]

5. The Existence of Eternal Judgment and Hell

Scripture teaches us that hell is a place of conscious, eternal torment. As Christians we must not be defined or constrained by the finiteness of human logic. God, not logic, defines both heaven and hell. The Bible is God's Word for guiding and instructing, us accordingly. And God, through the doctrine of hell, instructs us about himself. I agree with Christopher W. Morgan and Robert A. Peterson who explained, "Hell emerges from a biblical understanding of God. It reminds us that though God's love is central, it should not be viewed independently of his other attributes. His love is in unity with his justice and his holiness." Hell is proof that our holy God righteously judges sin. And in stark contrast with the teachings of the day, hell is a real place of conscious eternal torment for all who sin and stand apart from Christ.[p.25]

6. The Exclusivity of Jesus the Christ

Central to the Gospel proclamation is the exclusivity of Jesus as the one and only way of salvation. We find this clearly taught all throughout the New Testament, especially in Jesus' own teaching. Ott explained that Jesus himself claimed "the unique identity of the true God of the Old Testament and insisted that he was the only way of salvation. "Matthew's Gospel is particularly rife with evidence of Jesus' claims. That he fulfills the Old Testament prophecies (Matthew 5:17), reinterpreted the law (Matthew 5:21-44), and claimed divine authority (Matthew 28:18; John 8:58), including authority over the forgiveness of sin (Matthew 2:5, 10). Jesus even claimed Old Testament titles and roles reserved only for God (Psalm 8:1-2; Isaiah 8:13-15; Psalm 27:1; Ezekiel 34:10-22; Psalm 23:1-4; Daniel 7:9-14; Joel 3:1-12). The relationship between God the Father and Jesus was intimate and unique (Matthew 11:27; John 5:19-23). In John 14:6 Jesus

claimed to be the exclusive, singular, sufficient path to God. The preponderance of Scripture and Jesus' own claims clarify the facts: there is only one narrow path to God, and that path is Jesus.

The exclusivity of Christ is singularly sufficient to propel missionaries to a potentially mortal risk for the sake of the gospel. Aware that Christ alone is the answer, we must share God's message with a Muslim who is convinced of another path. If, on the other hand, we question the existence of hell, the eternality of judgment, and the exclusivity of Christ's sacrifice, perhaps we may doubt the essential nature of our witness. [p. 26-27]

7. Surviving a Kidnapping: How to Be a Hostage Survivor (Bob Kalmiser)

As state sponsorship for terrorism comes under international scrutiny and intervention, many terrorist groups have turned to kidnapping to finance their activities. As the potential for kidnapping of missionaries increases, the need for individuals to be prepared to survive becomes more and more important. This webinar presents the essentials for survival and the keys for improving the circumstances of a kidnapping. [p. 25]

8. Why Costly Missions

While perhaps unseen to us, it is clear through Scripture and countless stories that God uses the suffering of His witnesses both to move the hearts of sinners and encourage other believers to proclaim the Gospel with a greater sense of urgency and boldness.

God also uses suffering to strengthen our reliance on Him. In 2 Corinthians Paul pleads with God three times to remove a "thorn"—a cause of suffering in his life. But God would not take it away, but instead says, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (12:9). [p.28]

9. Should Senders Protect Missionaries & Prevent Them From Terrorist-controlled Areas?

If the mission of God is God-ordained and Spirit-empowered, then the action of the missionary and the senders come to a question of obedience. The role Christ's messengers play is critical, urgent, and inherent to the spread the Gospel of Christ. Jesus Christ has commanded the spread of His Gospel into all nations, and God has sovereignly ordained His people to be the means by which the Gospel spreads. What is more, both Testaments provide ample precedent for the willful, obedient pursuit of God's mission, even at the risk of personal injury. We should consider the theological,

personal, and institutional questions mentioned above in light of our sovereign, omniscient, loving Lord. Our obedience to His command should flow in response to who He is and what He has done, regardless of personal cost. [p.29]

10. Mission Focus

Missionjobs.com is dedicated to mission-minded organizations and the jobs they provide, from mission and educational organizations to churches to corporate institutions. [p.30]

11. Mission Agency's Shouldn't Prioritize Personal Safety of Missionaries above the Gospel

As an individual, church leaders, member of a congregation or a representative of a mission agency, we should not assume that God gives us permission to prioritize safety and security over and above the advance of God's mission and the preaching of His Gospel. Missiologists, missionaries and senders alike should approach missions with a heightened awareness of the biblical, theological, and historical prototype of the obedient witness and martyr's death. We have seen that God is good and sovereign. So when faced with danger, persecution, and death in the advance of His Gospel will we trust our sovereign Lord and obey His guiding voice? [p.31]

12. World Religion Database (Data and Insight) WorldReligionDatabase.org

The World Religion Database contains detailed statistics on religion affiliation for every country of the world. It provides source material, including censuses and surveys, as well as best estimates for every religion to offer a definitive picture of international religious demography. It offers best estimates at multiple dates for each of the world's religions for the period 1900 to 2050. [p.38]

13. The Future Of The Global Church (Author Interview) Patrick Johnstone

Johnstone weaves together the strands of history as he presents statistics on world religion in an overview of the Church and its past accomplishments, present state and future projection. Current global challenges to world humanity are identified, as well as ways the Church needs to address them. Access this resource at MissioNexus.org/pg40. [p.40]

14. Dispatches From the Front (Mission Videos) DispatchesFromTheFront.org

Believers everywhere desperately need a renewed vision of Christ and the unstoppable advance of his saving work in all the earth. *Dispatches From the Front* videos highlight the marvelous extent, diversity and unity of Christ's Kingdom in our world. The journal format for each video episode underscores the daily unfolding of God's activity on the "frontlines," bringing viewer's up-close with the sights and sounds from distant corners of the Kingdom. [p.42]

15. The Syrian Eyes That Haunt Me

According to *The New York Times*, nearly three million Syrians have fled their country, becoming refugees in surrounding countries. Approximately 100,000 men, women and children are fleeing Syria each month. [p. 48]

16. Missionaries Must Count the True Cost of Discipleship

Whether through flannel shirts of flannel-graph, we need missionaries dedicated to counting the true cost of discipleship who will go forth and call others into the beautiful mystery that life is only found by those willing to lose it for the sake of Christ (Matthew 10:39). Missionaries who are fearless in the face of risk, held afloat by the conviction that no amount of darkness will ever be able to extinguish the light of His bride. [p.61]

17. From Building-Centered to Missionary-Sending

It has been said the typical American cannot tell you the names of their four closest neighbors—and Christians are no different. It's also been observed that many churches function as building-centered organizations. Sadly, while Christians are shuttling between home and church—from one building to another—we're missing the mission field in between: our very own neighborhood. The lack of relational knowledge and connection put us at risk of missing Great Commission opportunities right where we live. [p.62]

18. How the Gospel of Christ Empowers Risk-Taking

Everything we need, we already possess in Christ. This means that the what-if had been taken out of the equation. We can take absurd risks, push harder, go further, and leave it all on the field without fear—and have fun doing so. We can give reckless abandon, because we no longer need to ensure a return of success, love, meaning, validation, and approval. We can invest freely and forcefully, because we've been freely and forcefully invested in.

The Gospel breaks the claim of reciprocity and circular exchange. Since there is nothing we ultimately need from one another, we are free to do everything for one

another. Spend our lives giving instead of taking; going to the back instead of getting to the front; sacrificing ourselves for others instead of sacrificing others for ourselves. The Gospel alone liberates us to live a life of scandalous generosity, unrestrained sacrifice, uncommon valor, and unbounded courage. – Tullian Tchividjian [p.72]