

***Marching to a Different Drummer (Rediscovering Missions in an Age of Affluence and Self-Interest)*** by Jim Raymo (published by Christian Literature Crusade, 1996) (24 Quotes Compiled by Doug Nichols)

### **1. Godly Walk**

However important a knowledge of cultural anthropology and the intricacies of modern communications may be, these will never—must never—displace, let alone replace, the personal light of holiness from close daily relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. (page 12)

### **2. Some Must Go!**

This is no longer the task of the “Westerner” to the rest, nor has it become the task of the “Rest” to the west: it must, rather, be the task of all the Church to all the unreached. Equally, the task will not be achieved by highly advanced state-of-the-art technology—even if backed up by huge financial donations—without humble believers from one group “going and living amongst” others. This “going and living” also demands a foundation of self-sacrifice, burning faith, true holiness, and a belief in the possibility of universal fellowship with believers of other cultures. The would-be missionary must accept our Lord’s invitation to “deny self, take up the cross and follow Me” (Luke 9:23). (pages 12-13)

### **3. Qualifications of Today’s Missionaries**

Patrick [Johnstone author of Operation World] affirmed the need for a new generation of career missionaries who bring with them:

- a passion for evangelistic, church-planting ministry.
- missiological knowledge and skills.
- appreciation of the need for cross-cultural sensitivity.
- awareness of and appreciation for national church/mission partnership.
- a commitment level equaling that of 19th century missionaries, who traveled overseas resolved to pay the ultimate price, if necessary, to see the church planted in new areas.
- a flexible commitment to a region of the world or group of peoples, with a willingness to move and adjust in accord with changing political situations. (pages 18-19)

### **4. Quality**

... fields are pleading for quality over quantity in the workers sent to the field. (page 20)

### **5. Is Short Term Effective?**

It is not my intent to suggest that every Christian should minister cross-culturally or that every missionary will do career service overseas. Rather, under God’s sovereign leadership the question we need to ask is where does each of us fit in God’s missionary

agenda for the world, for which every Christian has some responsibility. Tentmakers and short-termers are filling critical gaps in mission outreach. But some who perceive these as substitutes for career missionary work need to reconsider. Are long-term results the product of short-term efforts? (page 21)

## **6. Agency Verses Independent**

Traditional missionary agencies are happy to see new workers sent directly from local churches, brimming with enthusiasm and coming to the field to shoulder part of the unreached-peoples task. However, experience has shown that frequently these independent teams end up leaning heavily on the mature agencies and workers for logistical, leadership, and even pastoral help. Unless the church missionary efforts are led by experienced missionary personnel at home and abroad, they often end up trying to “reinvent the wheel,” and frequently must rely heavily on the support of agency missionaries already on the field. Sometimes they flounder and have to return home early. (pages 28-29)

## **7. Is God Limited by Numbers?**

Though this [drop in number of career missionaries] could be grounds for pessimism in our outlook for the future of missions, we must remember that the work of world evangelization is the Lord’s not ours. It is our privilege but not finally our burden: the Lord has assumed that responsibility. Certainly, God is not wringing His hands in despair over the missions situation, nor has He changed His promise to us: “And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” (Matthew 16:18) (page 31)

## **8. Why All this Emphasis on Self?**

“By concentrating day and night on your feelings, potentials, needs, wants and desires, and by learning to assert them more freely, you do not become a freer, more spontaneous, more creative self: you become a narrower, a more self-centered, more isolated one. You do not grow, you shrink.” —Daniel Yankelovich (page 33)

## **9. Investigate and Obey**

David Bryant of the “Concerts of Prayer” movement describes World Christians as “day-to-day disciples for whom Christ’s global cause has become the integrating, overriding priority for all that He is for them. Like disciples should, they actively investigate all that their Master’s Great Commission [sic] means. Then they act on what they learn.” David Bryant (page 46)

## **10. Where is my place?**

Bethany Fellowship Missions states in its promotional material: the question is not “Am I called to missions?” The question is “Where do I fit in God’s missionary plan to which every Christian is called?” (page 47)

## **11. The Martyr Method**

“On an even more radical level (though a quite ordinary one from the New Testament perspective), we are reminded of martyrs whose least concern was their well-being or esteem—except in the sight of God. George Otis asked the Second Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization in Manila a set of startling questions: Is our failure to thrive in Muslim countries owing to the absence of martyrs? Can a covert church grow in strength? Does a young church need martyr models? People in many places around the globe understand the words of Jesus with all their radical impact: to choose Christ is to choose death, or at least a high risk of death. David Barrett estimates that in 1993 about 150,000 Christians throughout the world died as martyrs. He foresees the annual number increasing to 200,000 by the year 2000.” John Piper (page 49)

## **12. Faith in God, Not Faith in Faith**

Martin Luther wrote: “Faith is only as strong as the One in whom we believe and trust. The efficacy of faith does not rest upon the intensity with which we believe, but in the reliability of the One in whom we believe. It is not the greatness of our faith but the greatness of God which counts.” (Page 114)

## **13. God is Our Provider**

There are no human guarantees. Assurances from supporters may be given, but God alone can be counted on to “meet all our needs in Christ Jesus.” We trust that the power of God is sufficient so that expansion and ministry outreach is not controlled by fixed budgets (though budgets may be useful guides) or by troubled economic forecasts, but rather by the promises of God in His Word (Hebrews 11 and 2 Peter 1:4). When individuals begin to look to the mission, friends, or supporting churches as the source of financial supply, disappointment and disillusionment will follow. The mission agency is only a channel used by God, who is the source. (page 114)

## **14. Is Our Trust in God or in Our Plans?**

Discussion arises periodically among advocates of the World Christian movement concerning the application of strategy, planning, and technology in missions versus the spontaneous guidance of the Holy Spirit. In a missions class at a Philadelphia seminary, Dr. Harvie Conn referred to the contrast between the spontaneous work of the Holy Spirit in the early church and our modern tendency to highlight the need for cultural analysis, church and parachurch cooperation, and the use of hi-tech methods and equipment. He argued that we are becoming lopsided in our dependence on human means and planning strategies. (page 120)

## **15. Led by God**

“There does not seem to have been anything very remarkable in the strategy [of the early church].... They had an unquenchable conviction that Jesus was the key to life and death, happiness and purpose, and they simply could not keep quiet about Him.

The Spirit of Jesus within them drove them out into mission.” Michael Green (page 122)

### **16. Plan But Trust**

God has had to deal repeatedly with His people’s tendency to rely on their own strength and independent means to accomplish His work. Many of us are happy to see 20th century technology used for the advancement of God’s kingdom, but we also must recognize that throughout history God’s power has been demonstrated through the crucified Lamb. Oswald Chambers reminds us that Jesus founded His kingdom on the weakest link of all—a Baby. Management by objectives, organizational networking and electronic communications are valuable assets in the task of worldwide evangelization unless they deceive us into a false sense of human sufficiency. We must remain aware of the need to make intelligent application of the tools God is providing in our day in the context of Psalm 127:1: “Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain.” (page 123)

### **17. Move Forward in Faith**

“The spontaneous expansion of the Church reduced to its elements is a very simple thing. It asks for no elaborate organization, no large finances.... What is necessary is faith. What is needed is the kind of faith which, uniting a man to Christ, sets him on fire. Such a man can believe that others finding Christ will be set on fire also.” Roland Allen (page 125)

### **18. Don’t Pass the Buck**

Robertson McQuilkin, former president of Columbia Bible College (now Columbia International University), responds to the question “Why not let the nationals do it?” by saying, “There are not enough ‘nationals,’ meaning non-Western missionaries, to finish the task.... Thrilling as the surge of ‘third world’ missionaries is, and exhilarating as it is to contemplate that God may be by-passing the deficient Western church to get the job done, there are still not nearly enough cross-cultural pioneer church-starting evangelists from third world countries.”

McQuilkin also reminds us that it is biblically and theologically unsound to assign our responsibility to someone else: “So long as there remains anyone on planet earth who has not heard with understanding the way to life in Christ, and so long as there is a community without a church, no congregation can stop reaching out and say, ‘It is finished; the task you have given us to do, we have accomplished.’<sup>10</sup> With large numbers of people groups still needing a gospel witness and active church, we should never eliminate the obligation of any part of the body of Christ to personally participate. Rather than predicating an either/or situation, partnering in ministry should be encouraged as an important trend and direction for world evangelization.” (page 136-137)

## **19. No Time to Sit Back**

We can be extremely grateful for the rise of the non-Western church. It is one of the most significant developments since modern missions began 200 years ago. However, this rise of Third Worlders does not lessen the responsibility of the Western church. It may suggest different strategies, and may alter our plans for pioneer locations. It may also speak to the spirit in which Western missionaries approach their non-Western co-workers. (page 139)

## **20. Partners**

William Taylor, director of the World Evangelical Fellowship's Mission Commission, says that when it comes to partnering issues, we must face four hard questions: "One, how can the West stimulate non-Western missions without dominating them in terms of money, power, structures and initiative? Two, how can the West partner with sensitivity when the West subconsciously operates from a position of international leadership and initiative? Three, what kinds of partnerships does the non-Western world want where they are seen as true equals and not merely cheap labor for effective cost-reduction ....? Four, is the Western movement ready to serve as silent partners when the ravenous promotion machinery demand credit in order to generate more funds?" (page 139)

## **21. The Gospel (Not Methods) Fits All**

One size does not fit all. Certain church-growth principles may not apply across all cultures. We are not likely to be able to adequately discern what does apply and is relevant and what doesn't apply and isn't workable in a particular culture without the understanding that comes from spending an extended time living and learning there.

For example, church leaders from around the world have visited Bill Hybel's Willow Creek Church in Barrington, Illinois, to study church-growth principles. Valuable keys can be shared in such seminars, but much of the success Hybel's church has enjoyed is culturally bound and not suited for transplantation to other settings. Any attempt to export a particular model of Western church growth would obviously require the wise leadership of an experienced missionary/ national team on the ground. A missionary mentor can fail to be effective and culturally relevant if no long-term overseas experience guides his or her "enabling" and mentoring. (pages 142-143)

## **22. Effective Use of Short Termers**

In our short-term program at WEC International, we have found that a thorough debriefing period and ongoing specific prayer for and correspondence with the short-termers are critical factors toward long-term commitment. If combined with practical training in cultural adaptation and proper debriefing, short-term service can be fruitful and beneficial.

Perhaps this is why agencies like OM and YWAM put academic preparation and practical ministry experience together in cross-cultural training programs for short-term work. My own short-term introduction to missionary work involved a college vacation spent in Mexico with OM, and then summers in Europe doing street evangelism with Christian Corps. We were constantly reminded of the importance of applying all three important elements of the training we were receiving: knowing, being, and doing—or academic preparation, spiritual formation, and practical ministry experience. (page 151)

### **23. It's Not Over Until It's Over.**

To be biblical we must understand that redemption and global outreach originate in the heart of God; the Great Commission is a divine imperative, not a reflection of cultural imperialism. People are lost without Jesus Christ, the only mediator between God and mankind (1 Tim. 2:5) and the only source of true salvation (Acts 4:12; John 14:6). As Christians, our mission and our privilege is to declare Jesus to a lost world, to every people, tribe, tongue, and nation on the earth. God has sovereignly chosen to change and redeem the people on this planet through us, His Church. (pages 177-178)

### **24. Missions Is God's Enterprise**

Consider this comment from Herbert Kane in *Wanted: World Christians*: “Of one thing we may be sure. The modern missionary movement is God's enterprise, not man's, and He is well able to take care of His own enterprise. The kingdom is His, the church is His, the power is His, and the glory is His. In spite of all evidence to the contrary, this world is God's world. He is in ultimate control, and He has no intention whatever of abdicating. The missionary movement of our time is part and parcel of His plan for the world, and it will continue to the end of the age.” (page 193)