

Where are Missions (and older missionaries) Headed?

If missions are not careful, they may become like the old empty cathedrals in Europe. While sidetracked, our main activities could become caring for missionaries, building retirement homes, increasing allotments, upgrading insurance, and obtaining nicer offices instead of taking the Gospel to the masses.

If we get sidetracked with the baby buster, seeker, emergent, or warfare seminar mentality instead of taking the message to the lost, missions in the twenty-first century will become nothing more than a shell. This shell might possibly have much activity, but no life.

Our purpose should be to “Proclaim [Christ], admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ” (Colossians 1:28, nasb).

All evangelical missions and churches need to plan together to evangelize and disciple the millions in India, lost Europe, Muslim Africa, and the Middle East, the world’s 160 million street children, the 800 thousand teenage prostitutes of Thailand, and the major unreached cities of the world, such as the 450 un-churched slum areas of Manila, the over nine million people of Calcutta, and the one billion Muslims. This will take more than supporting a national worker or needy child (each of us should do both!).

Churches and missions need to recapture the word “sacrifice” for the sake of the lost. We cannot wait. **Let’s reach our generation now with the Gospel.**

Charles Spurgeon said from his sickbed, “If you do not wish to be full of regrets when you are obliged to lie still, work while you can. If you desire to make a sickbed as soft as it can be, do not stuff it with mournful reflections that you wasted time when you were in health and strength!”

Why don’t some of us older pastors and missionaries forget about retirement, break out of the “we deserve a break” mold, and give all we have before death for the Gospel’s sake and God’s glory? We should not just talk about our heroes such as Paul, C.T. Studd, Hudson Taylor, George Whitefield, David Livingstone, L.E. Maxwell, William Booth, and Amy Carmichael; let us emulate them! Missionaries, pastors, and Christian workers today should recommit ourselves to die in the battle, if needed, with our backs bent under the Gospel plow and our bodies worn out in ministry for the masses who need the Gospel of salvation in Christ. Let’s say with the Apostle Paul, “And for this purpose [we] labor, striving

according to His power, which mightily works within [us]” (Colossians 1:29, nasb).