

On Mission 2020

Topic Focus: Mobilization

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Three Rivers of Mobilization

Foresight is much more about shaping the future than it is predicting it. 1 Corinthians 2:16, Paul quotes Isaiah 40, and then makes a statement concerning all believers. He says, "We have the mind of Christ," having the mind of Christ means we understand God's plan for the world and it gives us strength to move forward. We are the most creative and innovative people because we have the mind of Christ.

My name is Brent and I serve as Director of the Christar International Network. Our office is located here in Malaga, Spain in the Business and Innovation Center of Europe. You know our first missionary was sent out 110 years ago to Asia and she was what I would call a "marketplace professional." She took with her, her typewriter for her income and also as the way to engage the unreached people group that she was sent to in East Asia.

I want to present to you, a couple of things today. They're not new, but they're becoming a greater force in reaching unreached people groups today through mobilization. You see in today's world windows and doors of opportunity are opening and closing much faster than any other time in history. Global megatrends and shifts in demography, environment and economy are creating new space for mobilization among least reached people groups. As these megatrends become more and more of reality, it is the mind of Christ that will inform us and guide us as we navigate towards 2030 and the world.

What started as a trickle several decades ago, that was set forth by some forward-thinking men and women have now become three streams and I would even say Three Rivers of Mobilization: Traditional Workers, Marketplace Professionals and Business As Mission Practitioners, these make up the three rivers. River Number One: Traditional Workers. They are greatly needed to engage unreached people groups. For example, the migration estimates in Europe alone show great opportunity to plant churches among unreached people groups. I think it's an opportunity that is unprecedented. The doors are open wide for more workers. However, in some countries, it is becoming next to impossible for traditional workers to have access to residency and long-term ministry opportunities in some countries.

That brings me to River Number Two: Marketplace Professionals. Marketplace professionals are sought after around the globe for their skills. An example would be a forensics accountant for one of the largest accounting firms in the planet. He took a job among unreached people groups across the world from where he was working through a company transfer.

And then River Number Three: Business As Mission Practitioners. Entire communities are being transformed for Christ through BAM companies. An example would be the huge impact that the BAM movement is making in Asia to address human trafficking. You can Google the writeups. They're just amazing.

These Three Rivers: Traditional; Marketplace; and Business As Mission Practitioners provide us the platforms to finish the task of engaging, evangelizing and planting churches among unreached people groups. It will require some commitment of course from the body of Christ. The first is closer partnerships between churches and sending agencies. The workers needed for the fields are already in the pews of our churches and the expertise and knowledge to plant churches among unreached people groups is embedded in our sending agencies. Secondly, downstream equipping for the mobilized. We can no longer wait two or three or sometimes many more years for people to make it to the field. Those windows and doors to engage most likely won't be there if we have to wait that long. Our processes for training and equipping workers must take advantage of emerging technologies and increase connectivity to deliver the right tools at the right time at the right place to our workers. Investment in BAM startups. We need more incubators focused on Christ-centric bottom lines of profitability, sustainability and church plant ability.

The BAM Global Task Force and I are calling for a consortium of churches and businesses and agencies to create a global platform to fund and to equip startups at their earliest stages and not waiting for them to be at the second stage of funding or for acceleration. We need this to finish the task among unreached people groups and to expand the Kingdom of God.

In closing, I and others are convinced that the opportunities provided by these three rivers of mobilization give us platforms to finish that task. And Lastly, in an attempt to be a good steward of resources, I will make links available to some of these analysis on mega trends that we have. As well as some of the information and resources that I have shared about Three Streams and Three Rivers of Mobilization. God bless.