

# On Mission 2020

*Topic Focus: Mobilization*

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## ***How to Mobilize in a Personal and Strategic Way***

Hi! My name is Chris Conti. I'm in Lima, Peru, with the mission SIM. I'm a Mission Mobilizer and I love to think of how to mobilize in a personal and strategic way. So that's what we're going to talk about today.

So nowadays within missions and mobilization, there are so many great resources out there. There's so much great material. There so many mission courses. But as a mobilizer, we need to discern. What is specifically needed for each specific person. So a mission course, there's probably 10 or 15 different great mission courses. So which mission course is best for this person at their level of interest, their level of time, commitment? And so with each piece of material we need to think of personalizing. I think of these great companies of Facebook and Netflix. Every time you get on one of those sites, they have advertising that is relevant to you. With Netflix, whatever movie you have watched now they are recommending other movies to you.

It's just like this, we need, as mobilizers to discern where a person is at, in where they are, and what their interests are, and then mobilize directly and personalized to them. Now of course, Netflix and Facebook has technology and algorithms and all of this, but we have the Holy Spirit to guide us and so we need to pray how to specifically meet the needs of each person. So the concept I want to talk to you about is going to the root issue, looking at each each person, each group, and trying to figure out what exactly they need. And so there are three steps to doing this. We need to study the interest level and the understanding level that this person or this group might have. We need to discern what is the biggest issue that they might have or ask God to show us which one we should we should talk about first with them. And then we need to target our efforts and all our resources in an intentional way.

Let's do a case study. We're going to think of a pastor who might say the following... Now, this one phrase comes from the mission course, "Your church can change the world." So this pastor might say, "You know, you want me to be more involved in missions, but you were asking me to invest money, time, and personnel which I don't have. To evangelize ethnic groups, which I didn't even know existed. Using structures and strategies that I don't know anything about. For reasons I don't even understand. To save souls that will never attend my church." Now, this is a great phrase and of course, no one pastor is going to say all this, but it's a great example.

And so as mobilizers, we would want to look at each area and pray that God will show us, which ones of -which thing that this pastor says that we need to confront or we need to offer resources for. I see two basic categories here. One is showing his feelings or attitudes. Maybe he has shown some fear. With fear, we need to show truth. We need to teach what is true. Maybe he has misconceptions about what missions means. He might be exhausted. He might feel pressures. And so we need to be part of the church and walk alongside. Build trust with this pastor. He might be showing pride issues, which mobilizers it's probably not our job to confront, so we would just pray in this case.

The other category I see is, he might be showing that he's uninformed or he's misinformed about missions. With all of these ideas of not understanding geography or ethnic groups of the world or mission systems and agencies and all of this. Or he might have studied the Bible. He might know it very well, he knows all these Greek words and everything. But he hasn't seen all the dots that connect to show us God's heart for His mission.

So in all of these cases what we can do as mobilizers is offer resources, praying through which resource is the correct one, which mission course is the correct one for this pastor. It's also very important to recognize our role personally. What do I have? What am I bringing as a mobilizer? Sometimes, there's limitation sometimes there's advantages. For example I work in Latin America - so how can a female, single, foreigner... What is my role in mobilizing a Latino pastor? Well, we might see limitations, but also I see many advantages to this. And so one example that we do in Latin America is, I don't try to teach pastors, what I do is I help create atmospheres where the pastors are going to be mobilized. For example, hosting a pastoral breakfast and inviting pastors to teach pastors. So my role in this would be hosting, would be inviting, would be creating this atmosphere for mobilization to take place. I don't need to be the one always teaching. Another big concept is we need to make bite-size commitments and bite-size teachings because many people cannot handle a big teaching that often is overwhelming. For example, giving someone a buffet instead of something bite sized. A buffet, it's really overwhelming. You walk in and there's so many different places and so many different choices to start and it's overwhelming to many people.

So -and often we teach like that, we teach giving everybody the entire world or our teaching is so lofty and so high that it doesn't meet everybody. So I want to talk to you about making your teaching more bite sized, thinking about how to have bite sized commitments for people instead of buffet where they're overwhelmed. Because leaving a buffet often at least for me, I leave feeling guilty. I've usually need to throw away food. You feel overwhelmed. And this is not what we want in mobilization. We want people to feel empowered not guilty.

So let me give you two examples of what we have done in Latin America that just expressed this and show this idea. So one idea is a commitment map. We give a church a map, a huge map and we give everybody in the church a sticker, a blank sticker. And with the mission teaching that Sunday or that conference, we will teach them that, everyone can be part of God's Great Commission and so the challenge is write your name on this little sticker and pray that God will show you where in the world that He wants you to focus for this year, and where your prayers

should be focused, where some of your finances might be focused that you can investigate a little more, read the news about this one area of the world. And then we invite everyone to come forward and put their stickers up. In this moment, instead of being overwhelmed that the world is so big, how can we pray for the whole world, now the church sees with all these stickers that they're covering the entire world. If they do their part, the other people in other than the rest of the church will do their part. And they will cover the entire world. So these bite sized commitments can show that it's doable. It's something that everyone can be part of and together we can make a difference. Now of course, a bite sized commitment, we always want to keep adding a little bit more. And so each teaching each Sunday we can maybe add a little bit more of the teaching to it, add a little more challenge to it. We can help share. The youth group can do presentations. Or a dinner -bringing food from their different cultures in that of their country. So bite-sized commitments can always grow, but it's best to start small. Be practical and relevant. And then we can help it grow in each person. But the idea is that everyone can be involved.

Another example of a bite-size commitment that we use in Latin America is we challenge an entire group or the church to set their alarms on their cell phones or their watches is for 10:02 and this is taken from Luke 10:2 where Jesus Himself taught us to pray for more workers in the harvest. So the commitment in some people their prayer life is very disciplined, In some people in our churches they're not disciplined even pray for one minute. So this will be a challenge. To pray for one minute every time their alarm goes off, and their commitment is to pray for more workers. Now that's a bite-size commitment. It's a very small commitment that everyone in the entire church can do from age 10 and up everybody can do it.

Now we can always add more to it. For example, we can say another week, where does God need more workers? Where have you heard that there's more need? Okay, so they might mention a few places in the world. Well, now we're going to pray specifically for these places in the world that God would send more workers. Or we might say some professions - maybe there's doctors, maybe there's teachers, where does God need in what kind of people does He need in different areas? And then we can pray for that. So again this is the idea of praying intentionally to give bite-sized commitments in ways that people can be more involved and in practical ways.

So as mobilizers, we have great materials. There's great resources out there. There's lots of mission courses. So our challenge is to meet the needs of each person personally and to challenge them to grow in their commitments to Great Commission. May the Holy Spirit guide us.