

On Mission 2020

Topic Focus: Mobilization

Randy Mitchell - One World Missions Imperatives of Mobilization

Greetings! My name is Doctor Randy Mitchell. I have had the opportunity over the last thirty years working in mission mobilization to speak with leaders and sixty nations and it is a great honor to have this moment with you to talk about the importance of mission, and mission mobilization in regards to finishing the task.

Now it's important from the very beginning that we discuss a couple of important definitions. Doctor Christopher Wright writing for Lausanne made this statement, "When we define mission, we are thinking about a multitude of activities that God's people can engage in by means of which they participate with God on His mission." Now "mish-ons" when we speak of missions, now we're speaking of a variety of activities that are focused on the redemptive work of Christ. So let me read a Scripture to you. In Matthew Chapter Nine verse Thirty-five, the Scripture says, "Jesus was traveling through all the towns and villages and teaching in their synagogues and preaching the good news of the Kingdom, healing every form of sickness and disease." So here we see clearly Christ on mission. But in the next few verses, we begin to get an idea of the motivation behind that mission. The Scripture says when He saw the crowds, when He saw them, He had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd. There is the motivation. It is the love of God in action. God's redemptive purpose and plan being lived out in the life and ministry of Jesus. But notice what He does next. He invites His disciples to join Him in this mission. He says to them, the harvest, look, is plentiful but the workers are few. So ask the Lord of the harvest therefore, to send out workers into His field.

Prayer is essential at all levels of mobilizing Christ's Church. Christ uses this means to draw his disciples into that mission. It's an interesting thing about this word "send." This word send is not like I would dispatch someone on a personal errand. The word here "send" is used in other places in the Gospels and is much more forceful. The language is much more forceful. As a matter of fact, the Greek word that is used here "Ek bola" is actually used later in the Scripture when it describes how Jesus casts out demons as they have possessed or oppressed people. The word is much stronger than send. The word is to cast out, to throw out. A better definition would be to "thrust out" so Jesus here is asking His disciples to pray with Him that the church would be thrust out. That the compassion of our Lord, the love that God has for His people would thrust them out into a world where the harvest is indeed plentiful.

So we see the importance of prayer in motivating. Prayer in transforming. Prayer in moving God's church in His mission. So when we think about mobilization, we think about mobilization

as movement. Both toward God and with God on mission. It involves all of God's people fulfilling the biblical promises and prophecies of the ingathering of people and peoples into God's Kingdom for the sake of his glory.

So it's important now that we define, well, then what is mobilization? Mobilization includes both logistically and strategically and effectively recruiting, developing, training, and then deploying which includes sending all of our resources in a manner producing maximum effort to accomplish the Great Commission. Mobilization occurs along the continuum. It's made up of a number of processes and in order for a church to be fully mobilized, His potential to be fully realized, well, the truth is, it requires a lot of laborers. It requires a lot of mobilization efforts, trainings.

It requires a lot of programming. It requires essentially the church coming together to work, to disciple people, to expose them, equip them and then deploy them on God's mission.

Mark Chapter Three gives us a picture of how Christ did this, of how he disciplined, and that discipleship was a means of conveying His mission, and inviting participation among His followers with that mission. In Mark Chapter Three, we see that Jesus chooses His disciples, those that He wanted to be with Him. Now notice in the reading of this verse, what occurs, Jesus chooses them, first to be with Him, to spend time with Him. And then secondly that He might send them out to preach the Kingdom. What comes first? That they would be with Him. In relationship with Him. That they would learn from Him. That they would gain a sense of the Father's heart. This compulsion, this compassion for God's mission. First, that they would be with Him. And this is how, this is where the heart transformation occurs.

Then secondly, that He might send them out. But notice the order, what comes first, that they might be with Him. That He might be transforming their lives, shaping them into gospel witnesses. But along side of this prayer, mobilizers need to become skilled. Both in their response to the local church and in the relationship with the mission community.

Congregations, many times, have set their hearts on things other than God's mission. And congregations, including the peoples who make up those churches, often need heart transplants. How would you like to have a heart transplant done by an untrained person? No, thank you. But the task of reaching the nations is the most important task which God has assigned to His church. This is going to require transplanting. Transplanting the heart. The heart of vision. A heart of understanding, in order to do mission and to do it right. As a mission mobilizer, we owe it to the church and to the nations to acquire the skills and the knowledge necessary to help do these effective heart transplants - with vision and with understanding.

So, In conclusion, let me offer up a few specific prayer points. Some things that we can lift together to the Father. Let's pray that the heart of the church would once again be turned to God and to His mission. Let's pray that our eyes would be effectively open to the lostness of the whole world and that we would no longer be blinded to the need of the unreached, the least reached peoples of the world. Let's pray for the love of God to saturate, to fill our hearts to

become motivation that His compassion would once again drive His church, thrust His church out into a lost and dying world. Let's pray that the potential of the mobilized church to be -would be fully realized. As we lead God's people, from discovery through development and finally to deployment or effective engagement. Let's pray that the whole church all over the Earth, in every nation, in every region, in every corner of the earth would come together, to radically collaborate as one church that we would praise as one church and speak as one church and work as one church. To see God's will done on earth. And finally, let us pray His Kingdom come. His Kingdom come. That God may be glorified above all.