

On Mission 2020

Topic Focus: Mobilization

Ryan Shaw - GMMI, Global Mission Mobilization Initiative
Multiplying Mission Mobilization Movements

My name is Ryan Shaw and I serve as International Lead Facilitator of GMMI - Global Mission Mobilization Initiative. It used to be SVM2- Student Volunteer Movement 2. and I'm based and talking to you right now from Chiang Mai, Thailand. I want to talk to you a little bit today about Multiplying Mission Mobilization Movements.

Multiplying mission mobilization movements. We're living in extraordinary times. Things are accelerating in the Global Church as the Holy Spirit is ramping things up, preparing the bride of Jesus Christ, the body of Christ for her ultimate victory, the fulfillment of the Great Commission. And Jesus is inviting us, you there - campus ministries, local churches, mission agencies into a partnership with Himself in this process of fulfilling the Great Commission. His Will and his purpose is that there are multitudes of thriving, spiritually vital local churches among every single ethnic people group on the planet. Church planning movements being multiplied. That is the will of God in our generation. Yet when we look around the world, there are so many unreached and unengaged people groups still to this day. So, what's the disconnect? What is missing? I want to suggest that part of our problem has been failing to grasp the distinct role of mission mobilization. Mission mobilization is different from the idea of just a few professional missionaries being sent from local churches and from ministries. The Spirit is sounding the trumpet globally of the importance of not merely a few individuals, engaging in cross cultural mission among the unreached but the Lord wants to highlight another theme, and that theme is the body of Christ as a whole, prioritizing fulfillment of the Great Commission. Cross-cultural mission itself is different than mission mobilization. We could say that cross-cultural mission is pursuing the end goal among the unreached, all these church planting movements among all the ethnic people groups. Whereas, mission mobilization is the means of empowering and equipping the global church to rightly engage with that end-goal. Cross-cultural mission is what we do on the field among unreached people groups whereas mission mobilization is the work of waking the global body of Christ to her primary mandate of taking the Gospel of the Kingdom to every ethnic people group.

So why does this difference matter? Because research proves that less and less believers sitting in our pews in your local churches, in your denominations have any real understanding of what the cross-cultural mission and vision of God really is all about and how they can practically and proactively engage in and play a vital role in it. I want to suggest that mission mobilization is more than the often individualistic, one by one approach of recruiting for mission agencies, or

the popular concept of hosting periodic mission conferences. Mission mobilization is the strategic process of seeing a community of believers moving along the spectrum, moving along the journey of becoming educated, inspired and activated each member of those ministries, each believer engaged in particular roles in the Great Commission.

Fulfilling the Great Commission means multiplying mission mobilization movements across every level of the body of Christ in every nation, every disciple, every local ministry, every denomination, every church network has a role and a responsibility in this glorious endeavour of the fulfillment of the Great Commission. Now I want to focus on seeing mission mobilization movements at the individual local ministry level. And then I want to talk for a moment about multiplying them at a denominational church network kind of level.

In our international mission mobilization work, we are observing the concept of an entire local church or campus ministry being mobilized and equipped for mission together. We call these individual local ministries a great co-mission ministry. And these ministries are committed to implementing core tools within the life of that particular fellowship. And these core tools are helping that fellowship to mobilize, equip and send their own members into cross-cultural mission, mobilizing them and equipping them in cross-cultural mission. And so through this process believers are learning the variety of roles that are happening in cross-cultural mission. And they themselves are beginning to identify 'which role do I have,' 'how do I fit in to this grand scheme, this big picture that Jesus has of the fulfillment of the Great Commission.' And so as they are being educated and inspired through -in mission mobilization in their local ministry, some of these will inevitably sense the Lord calling them into long-term work as a long-term Christian worker among the unreached.

Now many local churches and ministries they're also a part of wider, larger umbrella associations - we call these denominations, right? Church networks. So these larger entities also have a huge role to play in seeing local churches within their umbrella entities empowered as these great co-mission ministries. So yes, we want to focus on individual local ministries being mobilized and equipped and then sending their own. But then, we want to work also through denominational structures, so that they can see these mission mobilization movements multiplied within their umbrella structure among local ministries that are connected to them. What if hundreds of local ministries that are directly connected to a particular denominational structure, what if those got activated? As these great co-mission ministries emphasize -local ministries that are emphasizing in the life of the ministry - not just maybe once a year for a conference, not just a periodic Sunday message - but more than that, they are integrating into the life of the fellowship, these core tools of mobilizing and equipping their own people.

So how can this happen? How can we multiply mission mobilization movements among denominational ministry structure situations? By setting aside specific leaders that are already in your existing ministry structure as missions mobilizers. And these mission mobilizers they reproduce informational and instructional seminars within the local churches that are a part of the denominational structure. And these seminars that are happening in the local churches they're envisioning the churches as these great co-mission ministries. They're giving information about the Great Commission, practical ideas to understand the status of the Great Commission,

and then they're envisioning these local churches as these great co-mission ministries that we've already discussed. And these leaders, these mission mobilizers, they're doing this over and over again hosting these seminars. We call them 'Great Commission Seminars' in many of the local churches connected to a particular ministry structure. So within a ministry structure, a denominational structure, there's this capacity to reproduce these seminars and to see these multiplied mission mobilization movements. Now this emphasis on multiplying mission mobilization movements at our local ministries this could revolutionize our mission efforts together across denominational -many denominational and organizational structures and lines. We can see mission mobilization become embedded within the life of local ministries and this will produce incredible results.

Right now it's common for someone to have to go outside of their local ministry to go to a course, to go to a conference, to be inspired in some way by mission. What we're talking about is reversing it so that the local church becomes the incubator for the missions vision, becomes on fire for mission within the local community so that when that person goes out, yes and gets the course or gets the conference, then they come back in and that's able to be sustained. It's able to be even increased and matured, that vision and that passion. That fire that the believers have when they go outside if they have it on the inside this will help our efforts in a significant way. And so not only will this help in the number of long-term cross cultural workers, but also maybe more importantly, the number of believers in general who are seeing the big picture of the Great Commission correctly and they are then aligning their lives to serve it living for the glory of Jesus in all the earth among all the ethnic peoples. Even if they never leave their hometown, they might never leave their local church, in your local church at home and that's OK. But they can be impacting unreached people groups because they are engaging in their role and because there are aligning and understanding with his big picture vision. They're seeing it correctly.

I want to challenge you and your local ministries to consider this idea. What could it look like to have mission mobilization movements being multiplied in your local ministry setting, in your campus ministry organization setting? May the Lord Bless you.