

On Mission 2020

Topic Focus: Mobilization

Irmiyaa Williams - Global Frontier Missions Mobilizing a Diverse Missions Force

Hi! My name is Irmiyaa Williams and I serve as Training Team Member with Global Frontier Missions in Clarkston, Georgia. and I want to share a little bit of my story and talk about three points that I believe are really helpful when it comes to mobilizing a diverse mission force whether you're part of the local church or on staff at a missions agency.

So growing up in a mostly black context, I'd heard of missionaries, but didn't give much thought to them. And when I did, I didn't picture someone that looked like me. So, of course, when I decided to surrender my life to Christ over four years ago, I didn't really consider ever giving my life long-term to cross-cultural ministry. But that all changed one day when this couple from Madagascar came to preach some random Sunday. And the sermon was simple. The text was the famous Great Commission Matthew 28:18 through 20. But God used that sermon to change my life forever. After hearing God's call in His heart for all Nations and just being informed about the billions of people that have never heard the name of Jesus, much less the gospel, uh, something changed in me that day.

So that leads to my first point, which is "Proclaim." God's word is littered with hundreds of verses about His desire to be glorified among the nations. And we know from Romans 10 that faith comes from hearing the Word of Christ. Obviously, in context, that passage is talking about the saving faith. But the principle remains the same, the faith to leave comfort, to give your life in service to the nations for the sake of Christ, it's going to come from the faith inspiring Word of God. God used a simple 30-minute sermon to change my life forever. So may we not ever underestimate the power of God's Word.

My second point is "Remind." Most of us know what it feels like to hear a message, be convicted only to have that conviction gradually fade away. One of the main words that God used in the Old Testament when he was speaking to Israel, was the word "remember." He would say, "Remember that I brought you out of Egypt." "Remember my faithfulness to you in the wilderness." "Remember." "Remember this covenant with me." And one of the main ways to help people remember is to remind. When I heard that life changing sermon, I didn't immediately act on it, but I wasn't allowed to forget it either. Whether it was through emails from Voice of The Martyrs or notifications on my phone for the unreached people group of the day. The fire that was in me for the nations, it didn't flicker away. But it was just constantly being kindled. So if you work for a local church, keep the call to make Christ known globally before your church. Pray

every week for an unreached people group, having unreached people group of the month, give calendars to your members, anything that would spark and kindle that fire to make Christ known among the unreached. And if you're part of a missions agency and you've gone to a conference or a University, keep going. Keep trying. Make your presence known on that campus. Become a familiar face at that conference. Keep reminding.

My last point is "To pray." You may be saying that seems pretty obvious, but you'd be surprised at how many churches and organizations, place too much trust in their own efforts and programs and expect to see lasting results. We've got to remember that we're not after diversity in itself, but the goal is faithful obedience in the life of every believer across all races and all ethnicities. That kind of God-glorifying, self-sacrificing faith-based obedience is not a work of the flesh. It could only happen by the power of the Holy Spirit. We know that the Lord of the harvest is the Real Sender and His means of sending is through the prayers of His people. Let us not get so wrapped up in clever schemes that we forget the basics.

So again, the three points are proclaim, remind and pray. As we hopefully await the fulfillment of Revelation 7:9 when the great multitude is gathered around the throne to worship our Lord Jesus.