A Faith-based Missionary Outreach Sustained Through the Prayers, Financial Gifts, and Partnership of God's People

# **Look On the Fields**

# For They Are White unto Harvest

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Jesus said to His disciples, *The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore to the Lord of the harvest that He would send forth laborers into His harvest* (Matthew 9:37-38; Luke 10:2).

Speaking of harvest, I grew up on my parents' 300-acre farm in the fertile Finger Lakes Region of Upstate New York. With springtime came the thawing of wintered earth. That's then we prepared our fields for planting. We plowed, turning the sod over, then harrowed, and lastly leveled out the fresh new surface with a cultipacker roller. This readied the fields for planting all the various crops, both to sell and store to feed our 40 Holstein milk cows. Summer saw these planted seeds grow and mature into ripening plants.

With Fall came harvesttime; my favorite season. Green Maple leaves turned yellow and reddish, like calendar photos. The summer's heat would yield to cool. Farmers would be harvesting the fruit of their labors. Fields of grain would take on a rich golden hue, resembling a sea of gold moving in the breeze. When wheat seedheads became heavy with maturing seeds, dad would inspect a few to see if they were ripe and ready for harvest. Wait too long and crops would spoil. Farmers often hired others with their special machinery to quicken harvesting. I recall the smell of fresh earth during harvesttime. It all seemed so peaceful. Aah, memories of youth.

Jesus told His disciples of a different harvest, that of saving souls. "Say not, 'here are yet four months, and then comes the harvest?' Behold, I say to you, 'Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are already white for harvest.""



THE HARVEST IS PAST

## PRESENTING THE GOSPEL LOCALLY - THE CONVERSATIONAL APPROACH

When is the best time to witness to your neighbors, coworkers, or friends? It's ASAP, given the opportunity and as the Lord prompts or leads. What's the most effective way to present the Gospel? I find that the conversational approach usually works way better, and much easier, than the blunt, "in your face" approach. You'll get immediate results in knowing what the person believes. Don't get many good opportunities? You can easily create one. I have developed an approach that works well. Start a normal conversation. Relax, keep it all positive, and leave the blunt part until the end of your presentation. While conversing, I mention church going in a casual manner. Then ask, casually, "By the way, are you a church goer too? Just wondering?" Use this exact phrase. Do Not, however, ask "Do you go to church?" It typically comes across way too abrupt, like a detective interrogating a suspect.

Done right, you'll often hear, "Interesting you ask, I used to go to church, but don't now. I know I should, though. Thanks for asking." That's an ideal response since it breaks the ice in a congenial manner. Some might say I'm Catholic, or another denomination, etc. I acknowledge whatever is said without comment, then offer the following statement. "I heard something quite interesting the other day. This person said, 'What answer would you give God if He were to ask you right now, why should I let you into Heaven?"

Keep in mind that you're *not* asking your listener that question directly. You're simply relaying what the other guy said. Now, you must ask your listener's opinion by saying, "What would you say if someone asked you that?" You didn't put anyone on the spot, or pique anyone's ire. It's just a simple query but the message got through, loud and clear. It's known as the *third-party inference approach*. It takes the pressure off both you and the person you are speaking with, yet it puts the big question *On the Table*, so to speak. It reveals your listener's core beliefs, i.e., what he or she is trusting in, all by asking a simple indirect question.

There are a variety of answers. Most people will studder a bit and say, "Oh! Wow! I never thought about that before. I've always tried to be good, etc." Catholics might announce, "Well, I'm Catholic," assuming that's it. I don't confront anyone, just say that "People offer many different answers, but there's only one answer that God will accept. Do you know that answer?" I follow by saying "You'd better when the time comes, since we're never assured when we'll take our last breath." Finally, I'll say, "The right answer is I'm Trusting in Jesus.""

I then ask them once more, "Now, if God were to ask you that, what would you say?" "I'm trusting in Jesus" is the usual quick response. I'll than add, "That's the right answer, but do you really mean it in your heart?" "Yes, I really do!" is their usual earnest response. I continue, "I ask because God knows your thoughts." By then I have their undivided attention.

I then open to Roman's 6:23, read the verse and explain how it tells of two opposite destinations and the reasons for both. Eternal death in the Lake of Fire for those without Jesus. Or, eternal life in Heaven with God if you're trusting in Jesus alone and nothing else. That's because the payment for sin is eternal death for all those not trusting in Jesus, who gave His lifeblood for them on the Cross. He paid for all your sin in full, past, present, and future. If so, you've now been given Eternal life as God's gift of Love if you're trusting in Him. If possible, I follow up personally. If not, I try to steer them to a solid Bible believing church with correct doctrine. And also pray for them.

### PRESENTING THE GOSPEL ON THE MISSION FIELD - REACHING THE UNREACHED PART I

Our approach may differ, depending on the previous amount of understanding the unreached people group has. Do they have any exposure to the Judeo-Christian worldview, no matter how vague or slight? They may have a God consciousness, stemming from legends about a Creator, the Creation, the Flood, or an original father and mother. Even if twisted and barely recognizable, it's a starting point that usually needs some corrective teaching, like Catholic exposure.

Many cultures, even remote people groups, have redemptive analogies, to some extent. Like Missionary Don Richardson's warring cannibalistic tribe. They had a Peace Child belief that he was able to refer to in presenting the Gospel. Doing so bore much fruit. Don saw many souls saved, churches started, and former enemies befriended. Whereas before using the Peace Child analogy, nothing much occurred.

The Thais have a very usable analogous story as well. It's about an older brother who loved his younger brother so much he assumed the blame for his sibling, who had murdered their mother in a fit of anger because she didn't fix him the food he liked. When the older brother learned of what his younger brother had done, he bore the brother's guilt by telling the police he was the guilty party. He was arrested, judged, and executed in his brother's stead because he loved him so much.

Stories or legends like these are not equal to the Scriptures, but can be used as a springboard when presenting Biblical truth. That's after the kinks and missing parts are replaced with the pure Word of God in presenting the Gospel. Yet the missionary must always be alert to the potential of the Gospel being accepted alongside old beliefs and practiced as a mixed bag. That's known as Syncretism and can be difficult to spot until it reaches mature stages, which then is too late.

#### REACHING THE UNREACHED PART II

This is when the missionaries' work to the totally unreached begins. These are divided into two classifications, yet with similar teaching needs: Asians have a Metaphysical Worldview where all realities are equally true to the persons that hold to them. They have minimal exposure to, or knowledge of, the Western Judeo-Christian Worldview and no concept of Biblical Origins, or a Creator God. Then, there's tribal or ethnic people groups often existing in remote jungle settings. That's those in the 10-40 Window of unreached people groups, or other difficult to access locations due to geological barriers. These lost ones have absolutely no exposure to, or knowledge of, the Western Judeo-Christian Worldview and no concept of Biblical Origins, or a Creator God.

In both of these dissimilar groups, the missionary must begin with *Origins*—where did it all come from? If one tries to present Christ without them knowing His true identity as Creator of the Nature they adore, and as their Lord and Savior whom they do not yet know, failure is sure. Without that essential knowledge, the Thai, and most Asians, believe the nature they all love merely happened into existence. Also, if you tell the average Thai that "God Loves you and Jesus died for your sins," which the Christian tourist or uninitiated missionary might say, they'll give the foreigner a knowing smile, and repeat a well-worn Matra: "All religions are equal, because they all teach us to do good. One religion is as good as the other. Our Lord Buddha teaches us to do good, and your Jesus teaches you to do good. What's the difference? It's all the same.

I mentioned before that I wrote a surprisingly successful pocket-sized booklet called *Considering Creation*. Now over 120,000 in print (with many more needed), it introduces the *Intelligent Designer* through considering His Intelligent Design, seen in various examples of nature and our miraculous human organs, like our eyes and all they can do. It then introduces ancient writings (Scripture) that describes the Creator and his attributes. Then, six, 24-hour day Creation, Adam and Eve, the Garden, God's warning, the temptation, fall, curse, and promised Messiah; Jesus, who came to rescue us from our sin. Formerly unshakable Thai Buddhists love it, saying they never realized it before, but there has to be a Creator. They read it, then give the little booklets to their spouses, friends, and relatives to read. It's amazing. I've seen Buddhists get saved just by reading it, which is highly likely once they truly understand who Jesus actually is—their Creator and Savior, not the foreigner's religious Guru.

Jesus tells of the Nobleman who went into a far country to receive a Kingdom before returning. When departing, he instructed his servants to "Occupy till I come." That's us! I believe what we need to be occupied doing is what's most precious to God. Reaching the unreached with the Gospel and see them brought into the fold. Revelation 5:9 tells of some from every tribe, tongue, people and nation will be seated at the Marriage Supper, praising the Lamb who is worthy. Reaching the yet unreached takes a team effort. Paul laid out the ground rules in Romans 10:13-15: "Whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a (missionary) preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?"

Cheryl and I deeply appreciate all of you who support our ministry, both financially and in sustaining prayer. Your monthly gifts are the lifeblood of our ministry. They play a vital role in enabling us to do what we do best as God's servants—reach the unreached masses in Thailand with the Gospel. I leave for Thailand on April 25, where I have a full plate of things to accomplish. Please pray for my safety and good success, Ron.

Use this **QR** code link to support our ministry with a *deductible* gift through our mission agency's link. Once open, scroll down in the wide window labeled **Give**, then click on **Myers**, **Ron**.

