

PASTOR'S STUDY

# Missions Ministry

*"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."  
Matthew 6:9-10*



What is the best motive for taking the gospel to all the people groups of the world? Is it merely **duty**? (Jesus did command His disciples to "...go and make disciples of all nations..." in Matt. 28:18-20.) Is it **compassion and love for the lost**? (In Matt. 9:36-38 Jesus saw the multitudes, and felt compassion for them and said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest field." Paul was compelled into the ministry of reconciliation out of a heart of love for Christ and the lost. "*The love of Christ controls us...*" II Cor. 5:14) Is it because **billions of lost people will not believe and be saved if they don't know about Christ**? (Paul wrote in Romans 10:13-15, "*Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.*" How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?")

All of these are legitimate and appropriate motives for being involved in world evangelization. But I would suggest one primary underlying motive that will sustain our sending, giving, praying, and going: passion for God's glory. God has a passion for His own fame among all the nations of the earth. God said in Isaiah 48:11: "*For My own sake, for My own sake, I will act; for how can My name be profaned? And My glory I will not give to another.*" John Piper has written, "*Missions is not God's ultimate goal, worship is. ... Worship is the fuel and goal of missions.*" (Let the Nations be Glad, p. 15).

Pastor Mark Musser.

## The Craziest Statistic You'll Ever Hear About North American Missions

One out of five non-Christians in North America doesn't know any Christians. That's not in the fake-Gandhi-quote "I would become a Christian, if I ever met one" sense. It's new research in Gordon-Conwell's Center for the Study of Global Christianity's Christianity in its Global Context, 1970-2020. Missiologist Todd M. Johnson and his team found that 20 percent of non-Christians in North America really do not "personally know" any Christians. That's 13,447,000 people—about the population of metropolitan Los Angeles or Istanbul—most of them in the United States.

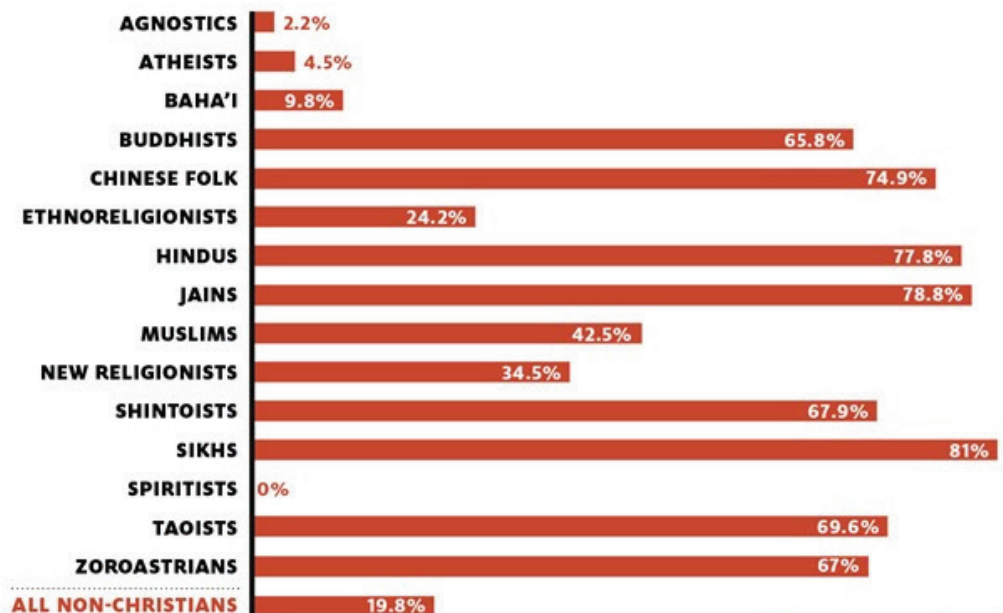
And that number includes atheists and agnostics, many of whom are former Christians themselves and more likely to have close Christian contacts. Without that group, 60 percent of the non-Christian population has no relationships with Christians. Worldwide, the numbers are much worse: more than

8 in 10 non-Christians do not personally know a Christian. But Christians only make up a third of the world's population. The United States, meanwhile, ranks in the top 10 Christian countries, with 80 percent of the population identifying as Christians. The biggest factor in explaining why so many North American non-Christians don't know Christians is immigration, Johnson said. The U.S. attracts more Buddhist, atheist, and agnostic immigrants than any other country in the world. It ranks second for Hindu and Jewish immigrants, and seventh for Muslim immigrants.

Migrants move into enclaves and don't venture out. But even Christians who live close to Chinatowns and Little Italys don't often venture in, Johnson said. "The United States is a very strategic place for people to interact," he said.

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## NORTH AMERICANS WHO DON'T KNOW CHRISTIANS



Source: Center for the Study of Global Christianity

Christianity Today

# Missions Ministry

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"It's ironic in a place with all the freedoms to interact that people don't do it. In light of the deficit of contact, what better thing could happen than to have a bunch of people move into your neighborhood and build houses of worship?"

Jeff Christopherson, vice president for the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Missions Board, agrees. "We hide in our own evangelical ghetto," he said. "We send our kids to Christian schools, we go to churches that would only be welcoming to people that think like us." While NAMB focuses on church planting, he said fledgling churches best connect with immigrants who don't know any Christians through community service programs.

"People who have never been attracted to a worship service are attracted to a mission," he said.

Johnson thinks America is suffering from a serious

*"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."* - Matthew 5:14-16

## Missions Conference Weekend: September 21-22



Our annual missions emphasis weekend is coming a bit earlier in the season this year. Please plan to attend! Our speaker is Dr. George Murray, Chancellor of Columbia International University in Columbia, SC. He is a former missionary to Italy and a gifted speaker with a passion for the Great Commission.

We are also looking forward to having Jim and Eileen Nielsen with us. They will be sharing about their ministry among the residents of the Tsunami-affected areas of Japan.

We will begin our weekend with a covered-dish dinner at 5:30 pm on Saturday night. On Sunday, there will be sessions during the Sunday School hour, the worship service and also a Sunday evening service. Please mark your calendars!

## Recommended Missions Readings:

Radical and Radical Together by David Platt

The author urges us to do the following:

1. Pray for the entire world
2. Read through the entire Word of God each year
3. Sacrifice your money for a specific purpose
4. Spend some time each year serving in another context outside your comfort zone
5. Commit your time to a multiplying community

A Mind for Missions by Paul Borthwick

The basis of missions is to reveal God's glory to others. Where do we start? The author gives many suggestions:

1. Pray in response to current events
2. Read missions histories and biographies, and read about current issues in missions
3. Get some first hand experience with another culture or ethnic group
4. Be a generous giver of your money and time
5. Keep a globe or world map visible to remind you of the Great Commission

*"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"* - Romans 10:13-15



*"He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."*

Mark 16:15

*"He told them, The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*

Luke 10:2

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Acts 1:8

*"For this is what the Lord has commanded us: 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'"*

Acts 13:47

## Meet the Missions Committee:

Present members of the missions committee are: Pastor Musser (our liaison to the elders), Karen Perez (chairman), Ralph and Terry Diaz, Retha Frisby, and Peggy Meehan.

We usually meet once a month and open each meeting with prayer for our missionaries and their current needs.

In addition to seeking to educate the congregation about missions, our two biggest projects are preparing the annual budget in march, and hosting and planning for New Village's annual missions conference. We welcome your prayer support and participation.

# SEPTEMBER 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship Service 1	2	3	Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer 4	5	Fusion (Grades 6-8) Youth Group Ignite (grades 9-12) Youth Group 6	7
Worship Service 8	9	10	Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer 11	12	Fusion (Grades 6-8) Youth Group Ignite (grades 9-12) Youth Group 13	Men In The Morning 14
Worship Service 15	16	17	Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer 18	Women's Bible Study in Philip-pians 19	Fusion (Grades 6-8) Youth Group Ignite (grades 9-12) Youth Group 20	Missions Confer-ence Dinner Missions Confer-ence 21
Worship Service Missions Confer-ence 22	23	24	Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer 25	Women's Bible Study in Philip-pians 26	Fusion (Grades 6-8) Youth Group Ignite (grades 9-12) Youth Group 27	Men In The Morning 28
Worship Service 29	30					