

Matthew 28:16-20
Luke 24:49-53
Acts 1:4-8

Missions Focus
April 24, 2016

Reaching: Any Place, Any Price “How We Do What We Do”

Introduction: This month we have focused our attention on the issue of missions at GT.

Main Objective:

- Heighten prayer effort
- Expand partnership potential
- Increase personal investment

Week 1: Why We Do It

- Because we recognize the ultimate goal of Christ is not missions, but worship.
- Because we know that when He is proclaimed, mercy will be revealed.
- Because when people come to Him, He is satisfied.

Week 2: Omar Beiler

Week 3: Dan Pongratz

Today—How we will do what we do

Context of discussion—Great Commission

- Matthew 28—Universal call to disciple with assurance of God’s presence
- Luke 24—Wait for the Spirit’s empowering
- Acts 1:8—Strategy is unfolded

Very practical message today—Unfolding the Mission Paradigm for GT

How will we do what we do?

I. By following the articulated strategy of Jesus.

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8 NKJV

(Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, uttermost parts of the earth)

A. The early church reality

1. Acts 1-7—Pentecost, Jerusalem Church, Stephen
2. Acts 8-12—Judea/Samaria

Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. 2 And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. 3 As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison. 4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Acts 8:1-4 NKJV

3. Acts 13-28—World

Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away. Acts 13:1-3 NKJV

B. What does that strategy look like for GT?

1. Jerusalem—Muncie community: Sutton, 1st Choice, Muncie Mission, Blood-N-Fire, Safe Families, Treefort, benevolence, every day outreach, Chi Alpha, GT Kids

2. Judea/Samaria

1. 6 county radius—1/4 million unchurched
2. Randolph, Jay, Blackford, Grant, Madison, Henry Counties
3. DNA of GT—Biblical teaching, authentic care, sincere worship

3. Uttermost parts of the earth

1. World Missions
2. Trips/Support/Disaster Relief

How will we do what we do?

— Strategy of Jesus

How will we do what we do?

II. By depending upon the empowering source of the Holy Spirit

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. " Acts 1:8 NKJV

A. The empowering of the Spirit was promised to those who tarried in His presence.

Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high. " Luke 24:49 NKJV

NOTE: Pentecost

B. Importance of Spirit empowering is the love (compassion of God that is poured into believers by the Spirit's power).

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. Romans 5:5 NKJV

1. Cannot adequately love and sacrifice without baptism of His love.
2. Baptism of love brings down all barriers.
3. Love my neighbor—all become my neighbor.

C. GT practical response

1. Prayer focus
2. Quarterly corporate prayer
3. Daily prayer
4. Weekly prayer

How will we do what we do?

III. By focusing on the proposed intention of making disciples.

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19 NKJV

A. Disciples not converts must be our focus.

1. Discipleship takes place in the presence of God (worship—can't forsake it/can't replace it).
2. Discipleship takes place in the context of community.

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-48 NKJV

3. Discipleship takes place under the guardianship of His Word (biblically sound believers)

B. Practice for GT

1. Focus on WORSHIP, CONNECTION, WORD
2. What we support will shape that same vision. (Systems to develop whole man)

How will we do what we do?

IV. By sharing with one another in sacrifice and the investment necessary to fulfill our calling.

A. Giving—first of ourselves, then our resources

Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: 2 that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. 3 For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, 4 imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God. 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 NKJV

For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened; 14 but by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack — that there may be equality. 15 As it is written, "He who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack." 2 Corinthians 8:13-15 NKJV

B. Praying

1. For workers

Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. 38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." Matthew 9:37-38 NKJV

2. For Word to have free course

Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you. 2 Thessalonians 3:1 NKJV

C. Surrendering

For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." 14 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 preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:13-15 NKJV

1. May mean our kids
2. Our best to serve
3. Call of God still happens

Conclusion:

1. Not just a special month to educate.
2. A month that changes the course of GT future.
3. It's not just us—it's the world to which we are called.
4. God so loved the world!