

From Where I Sit . . .

WE MUST WIN THIS GENERATION!

Friends, if this generation is brought to Christ, this generation must bring them! Nearly 2000 years after Christ gave the Great Commission, however, Christianity remains a minority religion in the world. I've heard missionaries--especially in the Far-East, in cities of millions of people-- tell of seeing giant Coca-Cola signs, yet where many have never heard of Jesus of Nazareth. The Beatles were more correct than we cared to admit back in the 60's when they claimed to be more popular than Jesus Christ.

Bro. Charles Coil, some 32 years ago at the Oklahoma Christian College Lectures, deeply affected me as a young student there. He told of a student at International Bible College in Florence, Alabama (now Heritage Christian University) who came from a strong denominational background who was converted while at IBC. He proudly informed his family of his obeying the Gospel, only to be told by a preaching aunt, "George (name has been changed), tell me you've joined any church besides the Church of Christ. George, you're an evangelist, and your people are evangelists. George, the churches of Christ are not Evangelistic people!" Bro. Coil relates that George dropped his head momentarily, and then with confidence declared, "They may not be, but by the grace of God they're going to be!!!"

Brethren, by the grace of God, we've got to be!!! Jesus parted with the urgent words of Matt. 28:19-20. These words set in motion a plan that, if diligently followed, could assure that His coming, His work, His death, burial and resurrection would not be in vain, but every man would know His grace, and mercy, and have opportunity to obey Him and serve Him.

The Church of Christ is not just a saved fraternity---we have a reason for being the church of our Lord. Our existence is for a mission just as Christ's life had a mission: John 17:18 -- "As thou didst send me into the world, even so sent I them into the world." Jesus suggests in Luke 19:10 that His life was a mission "...to seek and to save that which was lost."

We have a mission, a sending into our times with the message "To make known the Manifold wisdom of God according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus." (Eph. 3:10). Here is the beginning and the end of why the church came into being at God's command, certainly not just to be a saved fraternity, but to carry out the "ministry of reconciliation" (2 Cor. 5:18-21). A church that is not "mission- minded" has lost sight of her reason for existing. Let there be no mistake about it, **IF THE CHURCH FAILS IN HER MISSION, THE WORLD DIES LOST!! "IF THIS GENERATION IS BROUGHT TO CHRIST, THIS GENERATION MUST BRING THEM!"** Yes, George, we may not be evangelistic, but by the grace of God, we're going to be!!!

The Task Before Us Is Enormous! The world's population is around 6+ billion people and growing rapidly. The death rate in the U.S. is 2,162,000 per year. That's one every 15 seconds!! Hundreds are dying every second around the world!!! According to a 1991 report on World Missions published by Abilene Christian University, there are 1,626,000 members of the church in 13,375 congregations in the U.S. There are 2,235,013 in 36,942 congregations of the church in 224 countries world wide. 4/100 of 1% of the world's population are New Testament Christians.

Brethren, If We Don't Win These People, Who Will?? Sadly, the religions of the world intend to. We must have the same goal in mind.

..... Terry Broome

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