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Passion *for* Mission



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Heartbeat of God

'Mission' is the heartbeat of God. Right from the creation we see God's mission on the earth. The mission mandate was given to humans as the crown of creation. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and every living creature that moves on the ground." Gen. 1:28. God wanted to fulfill His mission through humans, starting from individuals to families to the community. The goal was to let the nations know that He is the Lord Almighty.

God has used different people at different times to fulfill His mission. But the best example is God sending His son Jesus to complete His mission on earth. Jesus knew His mission well and his motto was spelled clearly in the Nazareth Manifesto, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor, He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord"* (Luke 4:16-20). He had a holistic mission. He fulfilled it on the cross when he said, 'It is finished'! And now he has sent us to the world to shoulder this great task which is seen in the Great Commission (Mt. 28:19-20). The goal again is to let the world know that He is the answer to all the problems of humankind.

God's mission (started with the creation of the heavens and the earth leading to its culmination in the new heaven and earth) includes everything in this world to keep it in its created order. So, whatever we do to fulfill that cause is God's concern. We are His agents on earth, His hands and feet making this world a better place to live bringing it back to its original design.

Whatever field the Lord has placed us we are His representatives reflecting His glory and bringing a taste and preserving it from decay by being the salt and the light of the world. "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters" Col. 3:23. We are His workmanship shouldering this great responsibility and it is a privilege to be His agents on earth.

I invite you to explore the theme more as you unfold the pages.



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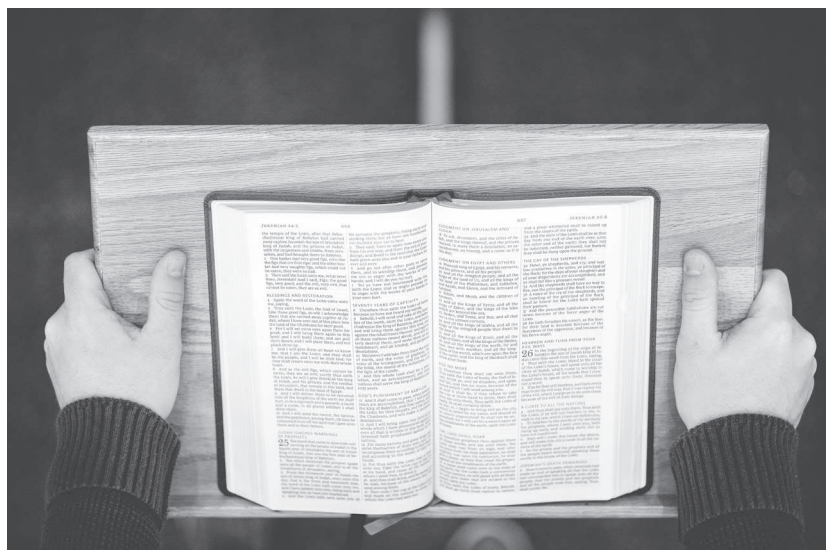
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Biblical Perspectives on Mission

Mission is rooted in the nature of God, who sends and saves His people. The Bible narrates about God as the one who enters into human history and reconciles with fallen humanity, redeems and re-establishes His relationship with His creation. God is a missionary God, who sends His messengers to make known His love. He calls individuals and people groups to witness Him in different periods of history. God took the initiative to draw humankind to Himself through various agents such as, individuals, priest and prophets. However, people still fall short from His plan and purpose; they doubt Him and fall into the clutches of evil forces. Hence, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ to save humankind from

the bondage of sin. Even today, God is still calling individuals to accomplish His mission to witness Him to the people who have not yet heard about his love. Therefore, mission is the foundation of the Christian faith, and the good news of salvation is for every people, nation, tribe, and tongue.

1. Mission as Foundation of Christian Faith

The first book of the Bible narrates about the God who took the initiative to search humankind, calling them when Adam and Eve disobeyed God saying "Where are you?" (Gen 3:9). He continually seeks to reconcile with His creation. God reveals Himself to Abraham and makes a covenant with him and



Lead

his offspring. The Great Commission of the Old Testament declares: "All peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Gen. 12:3). The promise to Abraham implied an invitation for Israel to spread the Good news. God calls Moses and sends him to liberate the people of Israel from the bondage of slavery so that Israel will come to know Him and worship Him. Israelites as a community were chosen by God to represent Him to people of other faith. But, the chosen people of Israel have failed to live according to what they have been called. The Bible records that they have defiled the name of God, following the god of other nations as well. As believers in Christ, we are called to live for Him. Mission was the rhythm of the early church, no matter what they faced. Every Christian has the responsibility to spread the good news in words and deeds.

2. God's Mission is Inclusive

God's mission is inclusive and the notion of cross cultural mission is found in the book of Jonah. God sent Jonah to preach about repentance to the people of Nineveh, who were the enemies of Israel. The people of Israel during the time of King Jehu had to pay tribute to the Assyrian king. Israel was threatened by the Assyrians for less than a century. But, God's

love and compassion transcended barriers and boundaries and extended even to the enemies of his chosen people. His love and forgiveness is boundless and beyond comprehension. In the case of Jonah, the Ninevites were the people who had overpowered and exploited his people. Perhaps, some may justify the reason why Jonah ran away from the assigned task. Jonah might have expected God to destroy the people of Nineveh. Jonah failed to understand the mission of God. Possibly, as believers in Christ, we may have the same attitudes to those who persecute us because of our faith. Furthermore, it is difficult to serve people of different culture and religious background. The story of Jonah reminds us of the depth of God's love to every people group, race, caste, creed and colour because His mission is inclusive.

3. The Awareness of the 'calling' and the Mission of 'sending'

The message of 'calling' and 'sending' is the driving force behind Christian "mission." The people of Israel are called to be the light of the nations. In the Bible we read that Isaiah is aware of God's call and the need to be the messenger of God to every people group. The prophet heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go

for us?" Despite his sense of inadequacy, he offered himself for God's service saying "Here am I! Send me." Prophet Isaiah's mission was to communicate the word of God and call people to repentance. God's presence was with Isaiah as he sent him to convey this message to the Israelites: "I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness" (Isa. 42: 6-7).

The success of Christian mission is the realization of the presence of God in the life of the one who works on His behalf. Jesus' commission of sending, states the similar tone saying 'And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.' God assures his messengers his abiding presence because without his presence all our proclamation and service is futile.

4. The Mission of God in Jesus Christ

In the New Testament God's mission emerges in the life and ministry of Jesus. God sent His only Son as a missionary into the world to save and redeem humankind and all creation. The emphasis of John 3:16

is on 'God', who loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, portraying the very nature of God. Jesus' mission is to "proclaim the good news of the kingdom." Jesus calls the disciples to "follow" him and he calls them to be fishermen. Jesus then "sends" his disciples, empowered them with his very authority and commissioned them to "make disciples of all the nations." This mission is universal in scope. Jesus emphasizes the divine injunction to his course of action saying that 'he came to do his Father's will'. Jesus not only engaged himself in the mission of the Father, but also invited his disciples to continue his mission. Mission is the purpose of God, he empowers them with the power of the Holy Spirit. The Gospel of Luke writes: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). The mission of Jesus is holistic as it encompasses all human needs such as physical, social and spiritual.

5. The Mission of Paul as Tent Maker

The book of Acts 9-12 narrates about the life of Paul. As a conservative Jew, his mission was to persecute the followers of Christ; but, the dramatic encounter with Jesus on



Lead

the way to Damascus changed his perspectives and he became a missionary for Christ. Paul was an itinerant missionary who travelled from Antioch to Jerusalem, then to Syria and Cilicia. He travelled to Ephesus and sailed to Macedonia, and went by foot to Greece and Corinth. His zeal was to make people know the risen Lord. The book of Acts 18:1-4 describes that Paul was a tent maker by trade. Paul supports himself and his ministry by making tents. He also provides financial support to people who are economically poor (Acts 20:33-35) with his income. The book of Acts recorded Paul's ministry along with some women who supported him in one way or the other. As for instance, Dorcas (Acts 9:32-43) in social ministry; Lydia from Philippi in leading a house church (Acts 16:11-14); Priscilla, with her husband involved in teaching ministry (Acts 18:2, 18:26); Phoebe a deaconess, doing the church ministry. Timothy and John Mark worked side by

side with Paul. Hence, Tent making has become a common metaphor for Christians who engage in their secular profession and support the ministry.

We live in a time where the secular culture and politics have influenced Christian organizations and Churches. The concept of world missions has gradually become paralyzed. In addition, the idea of Christian mission is vaguely understood by the Church and individual Christian. Today, even in a so-called Christian states and nations they do not know who Jesus is. In the context of India, missionaries are being threatened and persecuted; and, the Fundamental Rights to profess one's religion is being curtailed. Despite, of all the obstacles and challenges before us God is active in human history. He is searching for someone 'to repair the wall and stand in the gap for him' to fulfil his divine purpose.



Dr. Enolyne Lyngdoh was a former Staff worker of UESI-NE based at Imphal in 1996 (Manipur) and after her completion of her BD based in Dibrugarh (Assam). She joined as National Staff and was based in Gangtok (2004-2007). She further went on her study in Master of Theology and Doctor of Theology in the Old Testament and served as faculty at John Roberts Theological College Shillong Meghalaya. At present, she is the Chairperson of the mission Cell, UESI

A Life That Looks Like the Great Commission



What do all our lives look like? Since I understood the mission which God gave us I wonder about this question as I view my life from the past two years, where I observe various entities that cross my eyes, whether it be the vehicles running on the road, the sweepers sweeping, a father teaching his son to walk while holding his hand, an aunt, young people playing in the garden, or even myself experimenting in my laboratory. We, mortals, think that our labors, duties, commissions, and resourcefulness in this life are very important. Amusingly, the book of Ecclesiastes amazes me, where the 'teacher' describes everything as vanity, nothing new and lasting under the sun but just an assertion that life ends in death and judgment.

We read in Acts 1:8 about "power" that Jesus promised while giving the Great Commission to His disciples before His ascension—"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." This verse summarizes my beliefs for the work I do on this earth, not just as an individual, but also as God's redeemed creation. This power is not an ordinary one, but something that has been changing the entire world, including mankind, in submission to the Trinity for the great Mission that Jesus gave us. The Gospel declares that forgiveness of sins and restoration to the Father through His Son will be preached to all nations. Provisionally, we become part of this commission



the day we hear the Gospel and are saved through it.

Considering the command of Jesus Christ to disciple all nations as our topmost priority doesn't come easy, probably because we feel comfortable where we are or may be because of the importance of other things over the Great Commission! But it is contradictory when we view ourselves as children of God and yet are not burdened with this Commission that He expects from His children.

I recall how God had given me the burden through this commandment during a UESI Mission Exposure program in 2021, particularly on His desire to bring restoration to humanity. Additionally, I attended a state missions conference in 2020 where I heard the testimonies of His servants, which inspired me to fully commit to God at the appropriate time and invest in Him. My perceptions of God's command have been shaped by how Scriptures are taught in mission-related programs, where God has called His people to move outside of their territories for His Great Commission. Throughout the learning of this command, I viewed myself and my life differently from that of others. This command led my mind when I understood I was saved, loved, redeemed, respected,

and forgiven. I realized that there are people around me, near my house, and even across the globe who need to hear about the Gospel and my faith from me and my life. While I meditate and pray, God calls me to fulfill His will in me and grants me enough strength to continue doing the work, which is actually not my work but His work. His command humbles me.

While being a student and a young child of God, I have come across certain things in my life where I have questioned my existence, faith, and values due to downfalls, and physical and mental health. It was only through the walk with Him that He gave me specific guidance to set my faith and values high, feel forgiven, and ultimately fulfill the purpose of my life. More the intimacy with the Lord, more the guidance, more the burden for His command, and more the love for Him which keeps calling me, and assuring me to make my life complete in His command. This still does not state that His work is separated from my daily life! As I hope to do what God wants me to do with my life, either in college as a student, as an adult in my workplace, as a friend to my neighbor, or as a stranger to this world, I have always tried to configure ways to accomplish God's task and will through me. The decisions and ini-

tiatives I make, the responsibilities I carry, and the plans I make for my life ahead are centered around this immense love for God, where He asked me, just as He asked Peter in John 21:15–17, “Do you love me more than these? Feed my lambs. Take care of my sheep”. I love Him with all the might I have within me, especially for His good and great commission more than anything else in this world.

Romans 12:14–15 says, “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach

unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” Indeed, this is a beautiful responsibility to share our faith and re-introspecting on what is most important in our lives. It is God’s calling as a growing relationship that enables me to pause every day in my life and draw closer to Him and His mission. It is the empathy for this world that He inculcates in me through His Word every day, which is much more important than myself, and equips me to be His hands and feet for this world. The day we realize the joy of fulfilling His commission will be the day our lives will exactly look like His children.



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Tentmakers for this Twenty-First Century

Presenting the gospel in the twenty-first century is fraught with great challenges. Conditions around the world demand creative and innovative approaches to sharing the gospel message where conventional methods seem to be coming up short with results. Secularism, postmodernism, and post-postmodernism hold sway, while globalization and nationalism are posing threats. The picture is not altogether gloomy, as situations provide opportunities for creative strategies for sharing the gospel. For instance, the 10/40 window is the geographical nexus where three major world religions are the dominant faith traditions. Although these regions have traditionally been considered “resistant” to the gospel and regarded as limited access zones, recent developments

indicate that a different approach for reaching them is reportedly effective through the medium of tentmaking.

Who is a Tentmaker?

Tentmakers are mission-motivated believers who support themselves in secular work and witness Christ in their being and doing on the job and in their free time. They may be business entrepreneurs, salaried professionals, paid employees, expenses-paid voluntary workers, or Christians in professional exchange, funded research, internship, or study abroad programs. They can serve at little or no cost to the Church.

“Tentmaking is lay Christians going into different nations/places with various professions, seeking to fulfill the great commission of our

Lord Jesus Christ,” says J Christy Wilson. Jr.

Tentmaker refers to a mission-minded believer who works in a cross-cultural situation, is recognized by the host culture as someone other than a “religious professional”, and yet in terms of his or her commitment, calling, motivation, and training, is a witness for Christ in every way.

In the God-given context, the tentmakers’ primary focus is to reflect the love of Christ in and through their respective positions of service/job/education/research and ensures that these roles and responsibilities will not rob his time to be an impact and influence by permeating the pleasing aroma of Christ. The primary goal is to be a witness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The approach is ideal for workplaces or campuses. Casual conversations and personal lifestyles during working and non-working hours give ample opportunity to arouse thirsty souls and they are filled with the living water.

The following are the reasons why tentmaking is important:

- It provides entry into hostile countries. About 80% of the world’s population, including most unreached people, live in

countries that do not allow full-time workers.

- It provides natural, sustained contact with non-believers in restrictive and open countries. This is essential for winning them. Tentmakers relate easily to their professional counterparts abroad.
- It conserves scarce mission funds for ministries that must have full support, at a time of rising costs worldwide and an often-uncertain financial crunch.
- It supplements ministry by incarnating the gospel for millions now able to hear it. The gospel must be seen as well as heard. Tentmakers through their lifestyle win listeners, disciple them and establish fellowships.
- It makes use of today’s vast global job market which God has engineered to help us win the world for Christ. Dare we ignore hundreds of thousands of well-paid job openings worldwide while false religions and cults take advantage of them to spread their heresies?

But Paul, the great church planter of the First century, gave us even stronger reasons for our tentmaking in the Twenty-first century. His timeless reasons will become more important as we near the end of history.



Where should you involve in Tentmaking?

- In entry-restricted areas
- Unreached Universities and campuses

How to be a successful Tentmaker?

- Be sure of God's call – Need to understand the purpose of our lives and to be the light and salt of this world.
- Need to be spiritually qualified and develop a disciplined life – Before we involve in God's missions, we need to be good disciples (Quiet time, prayer life, PBS) of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Develop social skills – we should be good communicators and understand the world with God's perspective to meet the needs of the needy.
- Proper perspective on job and ministry – To be good stewards of job and ministry.

- Need professional qualifications.
 - Need to put our efforts to study well and to get good jobs.

Every believer has only one option: a cross-culture or a counterculture ministry. God called every believer to be His disciple and God wants us to involve in His mission in our own place (counterculture) or non-native (cross-culture).

The church needs thousands of Christian professional people to win souls for Christ, like engineers, scientists, businesspeople, health care workers, athletes, agriculturists, computer technicians, media specialists, and educators of all kinds who can integrate work and witness in the Twenty-first century as the Apostle Paul did in the First century. Mathew 9: 35-38 says, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

Prakash R J, *Member Mission Department*

Readers' Response

Dear CL readers, we would like to get your feedback about CL. Kindly send your constructive feedback to campus.link@uesi.in

Hon. Editor



Integral Mission

Time and again 'Mission' is misunderstood as being one-sided, comprising of certain verbal or non-verbal activities. It is important for us to understand the Biblical concept of Mission in its holistic sense. The effort is to understand Mission in a balanced way integrating both verbal and lifestyle communications or proclamations. We will try to understand certain misconceptions in order to know all about Integral Mission.

I. **Misconceptions:**

1. **Soul winning or social activities in mission:** Many a time we hear the phrase 'soul winning'. Some even claim that they could win a certain number of

souls. However, we know that we cannot separate the soul alone from an individual to win it. On the other hand many are only involved in social work caring for the needs of people around. They are not worried about their souls.

We must understand that our role model is our Lord Jesus Christ who had compassion on the multitudes with both spiritual and physical needs. Mt. 9:35-38. He proclaimed the good news of the Kingdom and healed every disease and sickness. Another time Jesus told the disciples to feed the multitude when he found them to be hungry. Mt.

14:14-16. That means God's concern is holistic, that is for the total person.

2. **Secular/Sacred division in mission:** Often, we hear people say certain things are spiritual and some others secular. For example, singing Christian songs, worship, prayer, Bible study, fasting, preaching, Bible reading are all spiritual things where as all other activities, jobs, music, art forms, media, Information Technologies, various study disciplines, courses, research, banking, agriculture etc., are all treated as secular things.

We need to understand that the whole world and all what is in it belong to God. All activities happening in the world are known to God. It is God's world and he commanded human beings to be fruitful, to multiply and to fill the earth and to take care of his world through hardwork and governance. He made them in charge of his created universe. Gen. 1: 27-28, 2:15, 19. Thus all jobs in the world are holy and godly. The purpose of all works is to bring glory to God. Certainly one must assess whether an activity is within the purpose of God and brings glory to God. We need to avoid activities which harm the creation and all created

things, not to say human beings who are the crown of his creation.

3. **Over Emphasis of going to heaven:**

Many believers in Christ talk about going to heaven and singing many songs of end times. So many end time preachers are there. Many songs are written about Jesus' second coming and taking all believers along with him.

While there is no denying heaven is important, believers are also to live in this world as faithful witnesses of the Lord Jesus having the same compassion of Christ to the people around. Jesus, in his high priestly prayer, prayed for his disciples not to be taken out of the world, but to protect them in the world - John 17:15-18. He also said, "As the father sent him in to the world, he is sending them into the world." We find this thought in John 20:21 too. Yet, only a few songs or sermons emphasize our responsibilities in this world, particularly as to making heaven on earth, as all believers in Christ are already in eternal life. Christ said the Kingdom of God is among us. Exploiting the Nature rather than protecting and preserving the nature created by God; resources like natural

energy, water, air, animals, trees, etc., is neglecting God's world.

Thus over emphasis about going to heaven like with reserved seats is a form of escapism from this world, rather than being involved in the suffering of the humanity of it and preparing it for His coming again. The irony is that, such 'heaven-oriented' believers are not ready to leave this world, as they live with all comforts and riches because they don't live in the light of eternity with regard to their investments and constructions of houses etc.,

4. **Praying at the expense of taking actions:**

Prayers are mainly for personal gains and there is no social element in it. Even if there are prayers for social needs, they risk the chance of remaining as nominal prayers without any proactive actions as result of praying.

Prayers need to be integrated with actions to be taken to solve problems and sufferings of the society and nations around. We must pray like Jesus taught us to pray in the Lord's Prayer, giving praises to God and asking God to forgive as we forgive others. Paul also prayed for believers to have God's love abound in them. Phil. 1:9-11.

5. **Use of Christian Jargons instead of Role Models:**

People especially from other faiths hear a lot of christian jargons and terminologies that are strange or have lost their meaning. Such words have no connection whatsoever to the regular life of people and their sufferings. When we preach that Jesus is the answer, without knowing their questions or the issues they face how can they understand or connect the message with their real life situations. Some people hate words like 'born again', questions like 'are you saved', etc as they don't see role models.

We must understand the culture, religion, social norms and problems to connect the Gospel with their real lives. For that we need to study and spend time with them. Then we don't speak strange words with them or we don't hurt them with our jargons.

Mission means going to remote villages:

Many think that a mission is to always 'go out' rather than being available for God's Mission wherever God placed us. God calls some to go to remote places. But what about all the others? They are just satisfied with church going routine.



Each of us have to involve in God's Mission in some way or the other. Especially now there are so many migrant labourers who are working and staying in our towns and cities. What a ripened situation to care for them! And what about the offices, factories and companies we work at, our neighbours with whom we interact on a daily basis?

We must integrate our faith with our surroundings and engage with the people around us with Christ's compassion.

6. **Holier than thou attitude:**

Many times, we can observe isolated lifestyle of believers rather than a well connected life with surroundings in a given environment. We think that our faith is superior to all other beliefs and so we are above all. We often find fault with others rather than connecting with them effectively by appreciating the good in them. The human incarnation of the Lord Jesus itself was to identify with the sinners and remain without sin. He emptied himself and became a complete human being. If we do not connect with the people around us, we are good for nothing for them. If we keep on isolating ourselves from them, it is like living in monasteries.

Thus our role model is Jesus and we must learn from him as to know how he integrated his faith, life and teachings with his deeds and doing. Then we become humble like Jesus and be willing to give our lives for them as he did to us.

These are some of the prevalent misconceptions about the Christian Mission over the past many years. Missiologists researched on Christian Mission and came up with many concerns on Mission which are an integral part of God's mission. Hence, we need to understand those concerns also to have a holistic understanding of Mission in order to be relevant in our times.

Integral mission is the speaking of and living out the faith in Jesus Christ in every aspect of life. It is prayerful and God-guided work, seeking to restore relationships between God, humanity and the world, and is the work of the believers in contributing to the positive physical, spiritual, economic, psychological, political and social transformation of people.

II. **What is it to be involved in integral mission?**

God created the earth and everything in it and declared that it was all good. He is intimately concerned with what happens to the

creation that continues to depend upon him for its existence.

Given below are five areas of basic human needs:

- Physical
- Mental
- Spiritual
- Social
- Psychological/emotional

Jesus addressed each of these areas in his ministry. He also addressed the causes of the problems people faced.

Here are some examples:

- He spoke out against the injustice and the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and religious leaders.
- He assured people of God's care and provision addressing worry and anxiety
- He dealt with attitudes toward children etc
- He stood up for those treated unjustly, like the woman caught in adultery
- He talked about anger, forgiveness, greed etc.
- He fed, healed and comforted people
- He broke hurtful social, cultural and gender barriers – spoke to women like the Samaritan woman because she

too was created in the image of God

- He talked about eternal life

Apart from our relationship with God, the Bible also teaches about these relationships (amongst others):

- Husbands & wives
- Parents & children
- Men & women (gender issues)
- Employers and workers
- With our enemies
- Sexual relationships
- With fellow believers
- With unbelievers
- With Authorities

Look at the issues of the world which are God's concerns:

1. Reconciliation: Peace with God and Man.

Blessed are those who are peace makers. Peace-making and Ministry of Reconciliation with God and Man, Individuals and communities are all God's concern.

2. Issues of Race-Ethnic War, Racial discrimination: In Exodus God came down to say to the Pharaoh, 'let my people go' through Moses.

3. Gender discrimination: All are one in Christ Gal. 3:28. God created man & woman in the image of God.



4. All kinds of Inequalities, Human rights violations, Caste discrimination, Economic disparity, Child labour, Poverty, Corruption, Manipulation of economic market, Careless use of plastics, Inaccessibility to Internet, Environment exploitation like misuse of energy and resources like electricity, water, Pollution of Air etc.
5. Nationalism vs. internationalism, Invasion to another country, Boundary disputes, nuclear threats, disarmament treaties, Monopoly of Oil resource
6. Good Governance /Administration/ Politics

Beliving students have to think on these concerns and study these subjects to integrate Mission in day

to day living in the Universities, Society and Nation at large. All disciplines of studies and jobs are to be integrated with God's mission to fulfill His purposes for His Universe.

Thus there would be committed and mission minded people with God's concern in all those areas of need and influence in the Society and Nation. We are supposed to be salt of the earth and light to the world. Mat. 5:13-16. The church is a house of prayer for all nations. Mk.11:17. We are given stewardship of his universe. We are His representatives on the Earth.

-Courtesy to the paper *Holistic Ministry-what is it?* by Mike Smallbones, March 2008

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Does my responsibility in God's mission end when I have fulfilled my role in an EU/EGF committee or as a missionary student? Does it end by taking up a job as a tent maker or by joining a mission organization? Does it end after my marriage, in my middle age, with my retirement or after I reach 60? Or does it go on till my death? These are pertinent questions that may arise in a believer's mind.

I am writing this article at 62, after my retirement as a College Professor. I still feel the freshness of God's call and sense that His expectation is very high in my life. Many think that they have accomplished something after being an ICEU/EGF committee member or a leader in an organization. The reality is a BIG NO!

My commitment to God has to be fresh every morning until my death. God would like to use me until my last breath. 2 Tim 4:2 states, "Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage - with great patience and careful instruction". Abraham and Paul are good examples of this.

Milestones of Life

We can pray, "Dear Lord, I am available. Please use me for Your Kingdom's glory." A few practical suggestions: Go for higher studies as a missionary student to an unreached place. Choose a place of work as your mission field if God's calling is very clear or apply for jobs in needy places as tent makers where the gospel has not reached. You can write a book if you have writing skills or even



write a missionary biography. You can encourage others to involve in mission work by preaching and teaching God's Word or involve in counselling. You can regularly pray for God's servants, contribute towards God's ministry, or take up pastoring.

When a person becomes a believer by accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as his/her personal Saviour, the joy of the Lord fills his/her heart and it overflows. He/she would love to share the good news to others. But gradually, the bubbling joy turns cold. Many are content to be Sunday church-goers. Let us not forget that Jesus Christ is our best example. He should be our role model. God's mission through Jesus Christ began with preaching (Matt 4:17) and went on in different dimensions till He was crucified. After His resurrection, He encouraged His disciples to share the Good News by going and making disciples of all nations. The Lord's work is for our life time. It goes on from generation to generation through His disciples (like you and me) until the Lord's Second Coming.

Jesus Christ involved in various missions like healing, preaching, teaching and counselling. He went to villages, churches, street corners, market places and to other places wherever he found needy persons

and had compassion on people. He never restricted his dimension of reaching others with excuses like "I am good in teaching, not preaching", "I am good in counselling, not in healing ministry", or "I am good in evangelism, not pastoring" and so on.

God's mission is to fulfill God's expectation in all of my situations, at all ages, until death, in whatever way He wants to use me.

Continuous call

Jonah 1:1 says that God's word came to Jonah, "Go to the great city of Nineveh, and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." Jonah 3:1 says, "Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: 'Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.'" Twice, Jonah received God's call to go to Nineveh. The love and concern of God towards the people of Nineveh (Jonah 4:11) leads Jonah to hear God's voice continuously. The incessant call of God fulfills His purpose and not our purpose.

Qualification is Immaterial

Jonah had no merit to be used by God because he disobeyed. Yet, he was chosen by God for Nineveh's repentance. Acts 8:3 says that "Saul ... Going from house to house, he

dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.” But, Acts 9:15 reveals that Saul was a chosen vessel of God “to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel”. Through this we know that Saul had no qualification to serve God, yet God’s purpose was to use him for His glory. In the same way, Peter denied Jesus Christ three times (Matt 26:69-75). Yet, Jesus asks Peter, “Do you love me?” three times. Jesus restores Peter from his fallen nature to a resurrected nature and chose him to initiate revival (Acts 2:14-47).

Non-stop Internal Urge

God called Abraham (Gen 12:1), “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you,” and Abraham obeyed. In Genesis 13:16, God promised Abraham, “I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth”. When he was childless, Abraham trusted God (Genesis 15:6). However, the carnal nature in Abraham prompted him to say, “Will a son be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?” God encouraged Abraham, “Is anything too hard for the Lord?” (Genesis 18:14). In their old age, Abraham and Sarah gave birth to a child. When Abraham was happy with his child Isaac, God wanted to test

Abraham (Genesis 22:1-2) to find out his priority. God told Abraham, “Take your son, your only son whom you love – Isaac - and ... sacrifice him”. Abraham obeyed. But God said to Abraham, “... through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me”. Abraham becomes the Father of Faith. These incidents show the continuous conversation Abraham had with God through which came his call, blessings, and promise. The continuous submission of Abraham pleased God. If we are willing to hear God’s still small voice, we will obey Him and we can be used by God to fulfill God’s perfect plan for our lives.

Missionaries’ life of incessant perseverance

Many missionaries heard God’s voice and obeyed Him and came to India from different countries in the 17th and 18th centuries. Among them is William Carey, “The Father of Missions in India”. Through relentless effort, he learnt Bengali, Hindi and other regional languages. He translated the Bible into Bengali, Punjabi, Oriya, Assamese, Marathi, Hindi and Sanskrit. Not only did he involve in translation ministry, he also brought about social reformation in India when he entered India in 1793 at the age of 32. On 11 March, 1812, a fire in



the print shop caused damages and many translated manuscripts were destroyed. He did not stop his mission. Instead, he prayed and started the work all over again without wasting a moment in self-pity. God's love prepared him to persevere when he faced challenges in his personal life like losing his family members.

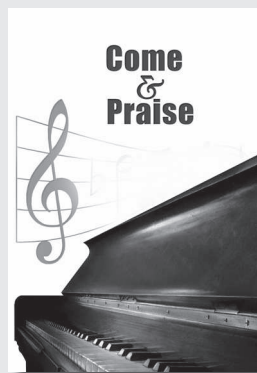
Similarly, when Ziegenbalg landed on 9 July 1706 in Tranquebar, i.e., Tharangambadi, a small town near Nagapattinam, in South India, he faced lots of hardships. He was not

recognized by fellow members and authorities. Later he started to learn the Tamil language and began the translation of the Bible and other literature into Tamil. He was imprisoned and miscreants plotted to kill him. He could have questioned, "Why Lord?". Instead, he continued his work. He died at the age of 36 in 1719. He had spent only about 13 years, but his work was remarkable in God's sight. God expects us to continuously submit to His Call and His Kingdom's extension!



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The Bible for All



Though I was born in a Christian home, family Bible reading was non-existent. Days, when we saw our parents read the Bible, were rare and memorable. I still remember to this day that one winter night when I heard my dad read aloud the passage of the wise men's journey to see the infant, Jesus. Such a memory would not be there if the Bible had not been available in my mother tongue. Sadly, many people groups in our country are still waiting to hear God speak to them in a language they speak and clearly understand.

However, over the past 25 years, there has been a perceptible shift in the Bible translation scenario. The number of people groups without the Scripture has dropped significantly, and ongoing Scripture translation projects have more than doubled. Praise God for the supersonic times

we live in. The advancement in technology has been instrumental in revolutionizing the process of Scripture translation.

Change in the Bible translation scenario till 2021

Scriptures available	1996	2021
Bible	49	81
New Testament	37	134
Translation in progress	65	147
Survey needed	200	105

While the increase in the availability of Scripture among previously Bibleless communities is a reason to rejoice, the inaccessibility of the Old Testament remains a concern. According to the most recent survey report, only one-sixth of the languages in India have the whole Bible. Having visited some Bibleless communities in Western and Southern India, I have seen the plight of people living without the written Word of God. It is a joy to see them now happily reading the



available Scripture portions. But as a person who has the privilege of choosing any version of the English Bible from a myriad of options out there, I know what they are missing out on.

In India, 81 language communities have the complete Bible available, whereas 302 have only the New Testament or the New Testament translation in progress.

The Scripture for every individual!

Along with other organizations in the Bible translation fraternity, we are committed to seeing that every language will have Scripture translation initiated no matter how small the population is. Now I understand what I saw while leafing through NLCI's Prayer Diary. Some of the communities represented there had only a few thousand people, and some were in lakhs. In God's eyes, the number of the population does not matter. And NLCI would not prevent anyone from having the whole counsel of God, based on their number.

Languages with fewer than 5,000 speakers

No. of languages	126
Bible	5
New Testament	14
Translation in Progress	22
No Scripture	85

The Scripture in digital formats

The consumption of visual and audio content has skyrocketed in recent times, and it is bound to continue increasing. Now people can hear Scripture even while on the go. Some of the communities we are working with have the privilege of accessing God's Word in various digital formats such as Bible Apps, Scripture audio device, pictorial children's Bible App.

The availability of Scripture in print and audio

Bible available (in print)	82	Bible available (audio)	15
NT available (in print)	134	NT available (audio)	91+

The number of language communities receiving God's Word and the mediums and platforms to share translated Scripture is growing. We believe the global Bible translation vision of making Scripture available for every individual in their mother tongue will soon be a possibility.



Nzandi T Murry works as a Content Creator with NLCI while pursuing her education in Bangalore. (This article was published in NLCI's Quarterly Newsletter, Expressions in 2021)

Dal and Kay Washer: Missionary Pioneers in Africa



Burden for unreached

The year was 1972, and missionaries Dal and Kay Washer were looking for a new ministry.

After 18 years of serving in Niger, the Washers had set their sights on the country of Benin. When they encountered several closed doors in Benin, they decided to drive west toward the border of a small nation called Togo—one of the most densely-populated African Countries with 40 distinct ethnic groups, many unreached.

New Calling

Dal and Kay were thrilled to find that Togo was different, because Togolese eagerly accepted literature, requesting Bibles in own language. Children and young people, mobbed them as they handed out tracts.

The Washers' disappointment dissipated. It was clear that God was calling them to Togo.

Building Relation

They were planning to build a Team. Washers evangelize Togolese through outreach event like volleyball in their yard (More teammates, including Dave and



Elwanda Fields, Tim and Esther Neufeld, and Jim and Carol Plunkitt, joined the Washers by 1977.



As is often the case with missionary teams, additional people meant more ideas and more opportunities for ministry expansion.

“Dal Washer had the heart of an evangelist; he had the incessant desire to spread the seed of the gospel all across Togo. David Fields was a gifted teacher who focused on deep discipleship”

The Washers pushed the gospel into the corners of the country, and the Fields helped train new believers for leadership.

As church-planting progress in Lomé continued and more missionaries arrived to share the load, Dal and Kay felt it was time to take the gospel further into Togo. They moved to Kpalimé, a city of 30,000 set 75 miles inland.

The team in Togo expands, starting Bible Institutes in both Lomé and Kpalimé to raise up a generation of Togolese leaders.

First Blind School

Kay starts Togo’s first blind school in Lomé. Impressed, the Togolese government grants the Washers land on which to build a larger facility called the Village of Light.

As the school’s successes grew, government officials took notice. With the blessing of Togo President Gnassingbé Eyadéma the Washers



constructed a new blind facility called the Village of Light.

A Prayer and A Termite Mound

Dal and Kay washer boldly prayed for “oh god, these lost people need medical help and water resource.

As the years progressed, the Washers’ prayers grew bolder. They asked for an entire hospital—and their prayers were heard. A local village chief made them an offer: free land in return for a full hospital in Tsiko (pronounced chi-kaw).



After years of team involvement and prayers, they had finally started its first major medical ministry, ushering in a new era of physical and spiritual healing to the heart of Togo.

A Life Well Lived

After living a fulfilled life Dal passed away on the field in 1989 and is buried near seven mango trees on

the campus. Each tree represents an African church that Dal planted. By God's grace, the ministry has multiplied and later 60 churches were established.

Dal's legacy lives on her last day in Togo, Kay is personally awarded the



Order of Mono, the highest honor a civilian or foreigner can receive, by Togo President Eyadéma for her faithful work with the blind.

"As I watch the hospital ministry unfold, I wish I had another life to give to the Lord," wrote Kay before her passing in 2018.

What will you write at end of your life?

(Extracted from <https://www.abwe.org/blog/dal-and-kay-washer>)



Kuldeep Singh hails from Kalka, Haryana, and works in the Indian railway in Kalka, presently holding the responsibility as HEGF Secretary and also a member of the national mission cell.

Themes for Campus Link

1. July-August 23- Coping with Fear and Anxiety
2. Sept- Oct 23- Secularism and Spirituality
3. Nov- Dec 23- Unity in Diversity

Word limit - Article = 1400 words maximum, Poem = 16 lines maximum

You can upload your articles, testimonies, short stories, Bible studies, anecdotes, jokes, poems and cartoons based on the themes at <http://campuslinklive.org/submit-for-cl/> or send email to campus.link@uesi.in

Articles other than these Themes are also welcome!



Student Mission: Challenges & Opportunities

All ministries for the Kingdom of God are both strategic and important. Nevertheless, our focus here is on the importance of the University Mission. The significance of student ministry can't be understood without understanding the uniqueness of universities.

1. Understanding the uniqueness of Universities

Universities are not just a seat of learning, but it is where the political, social, and economic values of students are shaped. Universities have become the sowing ground for the birth of new moral, ethical, and economic theories. In our country, the top university campuses have witnessed a clash of ideologies. Universities are where students learn new ideas and their mind is open. The choices they make in terms of values and the lifestyle they adopt will remain with them for the rest of their lives. It is that we can impact them into a relationship with the Creator.

2. Understanding the changing Profile of students

We live in an age where change is the keystone of life. This age is about speed- living life in a fast lane. College students are the ones who are most influenced by these changes. Student life is completely revolu-

tionized. They are open to a world of information and opportunities. On the campuses we come across 2 distinct categories of students- the urban English-educated upper middle class who have the best of everything and the lower middle class who speak in vernacular and are economically restrained. But both groups want to be upwardly mobile. We can never be isolated from these changes when we reach to the college students.

Some of the areas where we have seen paradigm shifts are the following:

Changing Lifestyle:

- *Modern technology has influenced students beyond our imaginations. Social media has introduced new words and meaning into student life.*
- *Wearing that which is comfortable is replaced by wearing that which expresses oneself.*
- *Craving for more has become the norm, whether it is within one's reach or not.*

Relationships:

The 'me' generation has stepped in, it's no longer us. I, me, myself is the slogan.

Relationships are casual and for convenience, no more a commitment.

Peers are becoming everything in life, even replacing the role of parents and family.

Sexuality and Marriage

Truth has become relative; Students are so open to experimenting with their sexuality. 'What I do is right for me' attitude defines an individual's perspective. It has projected live-in relationships, premarital sex, etc as positive and alright, contributing to a new definition of sexuality and marriage.

Motivation

Money has become the major decisive factor and motivation for the choice of a career, not honesty or integrity.

Religion and Spirituality – most of the students still consider religion as valid. Religious fanaticism and militancy are on the rise. Still, there is a large group who doesn't practice their faith. Influenced by new age gurus, youths between the age of 18 to 24 are turning to spirituality such as practicing yoga and meditation.

3. Importance of reaching out to them while they are still Students

Seeing the nature, and characteristics of the student community will help us to understand the urgent need of reaching them.

- **Potential of students**

➤ **University students are likely to emerge into positions of leadership wherever they go and are thus strategically placed.** Tomorrow's leaders are studying in universities today. Investing in these men and women is an investment in the future.

➤ **University students are bright and dynamic:** Some university students may be lazy; however, very, very few are unintelligent. Most, in fact, are highly intelligent. Ministry to university students harnesses this intelligence for Kingdom work.

➤ **University students tend to be passionate about their beliefs.** There may be exceptions to the rule, but by-in-large students in universities will be enthusiastic about anything they venture out. They are passionate, willing to sacrifice and even to die for a cause. Furthermore, they tend to encourage others to become involved in their interests as well. They have a natural tendency for making disciples.

➤ **University students are innovative and more open to new ways of solving problems.** They may figure out how to accomplish tasks in ways others, who are more set in their ways, could not conceive



- **University students have energy and enthusiasm.** They can work or play long into the night and still have energy the next day. This seeming tirelessness can also be harnessed and directed toward Kingdom service.
- **University students are vibrant; therefore, they can go wherever called to serve with little difficulty.**
- **They are the cream of the society**

4. Pressing needs of the Students

Despite all the potential they have, they go through an identity crisis, life becomes worthless, fear rejection, and emptiness within. Loneliness runs deep within. The suicide rate is high. According to one of the latest reports, on average 1 student commits suicide every hour in this great nation. Does it not disturb us? Can we take this ministry lightly? They long for acceptance, appreciation, and belonging. The unmet inner need, that can only be met by the gospel. Though they are far away from Jesus, they are more ready than ever. It is for us to show the Saviour to them.

Power of university mission (Student Power in worldwide Mission)

- **Power to change**

If they meet the Saviour in their college, their changed lives can trans-

form their families, communities, societies, and nations at large. It's so important that we take this section of our population seriously for the Kingdom of God.

Students are the game changers - politics, entertainment, and sports, all have captured them and capitalized on their emotions, ego, and lifestyle. They are the ones who can reach out to other fellow students in their own generation.

- **Most Strategic for the Mission of God Today**

Student ministry is not only important but also strategic. Student ministry gives us an opportunity to minister to students between the age of 18 to 24. India is the world's youngest nation with 54% of the population less than 25 years old. A study says that 80% of people who give their lives to Christ do so before 25.

A close look at the history of the Christian missionary movement helps us to know the direct influence of the University Mission in the missionary outreach of the church.

University of Halle- Ludwig Zinzendorf one of the founding leaders of the Moravian Mission in 1732 was a Halle University student. He and five other students formed *The Order of the Grain of Mustard*

Seed, a spiritual secret society. Two of the German missionaries-Bartholomew Ziegenbalg and Henrich Plutschau who came to India in 1706 and started the Tranquebar Mission were Halle University graduates.

Oxford University – John and Charles Wesley, both were great missionaries and founders of Methodism. They along with a handful of other **Oxford** Students met together and devoted themselves to the study of the Scriptures and serving others around the 1730s. It was from their university Bible Study that they got the vision.

Cambridge University- The Inter Varsity fellowship of England traces its origin to the great work done by Charles Simeon who was a fellow of **Kings College, Cambridge**. Seven of the outstanding student leaders who applied to the China Inland Mission were from the small Bible study group at Cambridge. C.T. Studd was one among them.

We can read about similar stories in other parts of the world where

the hand of God was moving in mighty ways to fulfill His purposes among the university students. In the history of UESI also we see students and graduates with a vision for world missions. The vision Prof. H Enoch had was not for where he was based, it was for the whole students of India. Today we stand as a witness to that awesome work of God that he started 60 years before.

- **Reaching to nations beyond**

Indian universities have become study locations from African and Middle Eastern countries. God has brought students from closed countries, countries torn by communal, and ethnic clashes to our doorstep. Jesus said, 'Go to all the world and preach the good news to all the creation'. God in His divine plan is bringing nations to us. God is using students to bring peace and hope to the nations. Witnessing in the colleges in India has far-reaching effects or impacts on evangelizing the nations. So, University Mission is strategic in world evangelization.



Annie Saji, UESI staff based in Delhi, is married to Saji Easo (General Secretary, UESI), and they are blessed with 3 children Eirene, Aaradhana & Jonathan. Annie has been working as a UESI staff for more than 30 years.



A Gospel Torch Bearer

*William Carey, a young boy from
Paulerspury;
A Cordwainer he was supposed to be.
It's in England he lived in harmony,
But sailed out as her first Baptist
missionary.*

*After so many years with a burden in his
heart,
He scarcely believed when he reached the
Indian port.
Standing firm with both his feet on Indian
soil
It is here that God had destined him to
preach His Word.*

*Being a stranger in a completely different
world,
With nothing in hand to make his family
comfortable.
New to the place and of challenges
unaware,
He struggled to find his place among the
people here.*

*The East India Company with her
different views,
They came to India for their trade to boost.
As for Carey, it's the lost sheep he was
concerned with,
Leaving the ninety-nine back at home to
search for them.*

*To break the chains of the cruel caste
system,
It is here that he fought for the people of
India.
And to minister to them the Good News of
Jesus Christ,*

*That He alone is the true living God Who
gives them Life.*

*His work in India was mainly on Bible
translation;
To know the language of the people he had
a vision.
He believed in giving the Bible in the
native tongue,
So that people would know the power of
God's words.*

*Carey watched his children die and his
wife go insane,
Yet, he never lost faith or endurance to the
very end.
His mission was to start numerous churches
and schools
So that the native people would see the
light.*

*A man who heeded God's great
commission,
Carey came to the Indian subcontinent
with a mission.
He believed that he could expect great
things from God,
And he came here and did great things for
God.*

*It was on 9 June 1834 that he was no
more,
With a simple headstone: "... on Thy kind
arms I fall".
William Carey who began life as a
Cordwainer,
To us Indians he became the Gospel
Torchbearer.*



Biangkupar Pangniang is an EU Student from Shillong, Meghalaya. He finished his Masters in Geography from North Eastern Hills University and preparing for research now. He is a student representative in the UESI Mission Cell.

Immeasurable Grace

From where do I begin
The everlasting love
The grace that renews
every morning
To the comfort, delight
and joy that you bring
Your love and profound
care
To the endless little gifts
The miracles we've seen
And the extra favor that
can't be forbear
The shield that protects
everywhere
The perfect love that casts
out fear
The gentle voice that

whispers in despair
'Tis the grace that abounds
in care
The air that we breathe
The sunshine that we see
The sudden gust of wind
that touches by
All creation conveys your
presence indeed
The loving kindness that
surpasses all
The precious gift of life we
adore
To the great deeds beyond
esteem
Say it favor or mercy but
Grace we call.



Preeti is currently doing her Masters in English and is a part of Lucknow EU and was involved in Port Blair ICEU previously.





QUIET TIME *Journal*

Quiet Time is a Christian discipline we as UESI members insist on and hold on to. It is not just a discipline but a mark of our consistent journey with our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ. Having said this, it is also important to observe that in the present lifestyle, time has become a luxury and quite often our disciplines are overtaken by other priorities. It is not just the change of priorities, sometimes we lack interest and find it difficult to read and reflect God's word.

"The Word will keep us away from the World or the World will keep us away from the Word"

"Where there is root there will be fruit, so take deep root to have abundant fruit."

"Let Jesus Christ conquer you before breakfast and you will be the conqueror of all circumstances of the day"

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