

Back to Jerusalem Movement (BJM)

Vision Statement

July 7-8, 2004, San Francisco



PREAMBLE

During the 1940's in China, brother Zhang Guquan established the "Northwest Spiritual Band" and pastor Mark Ma organized the "Everywhere Evangelistic Band". They headed for Xinjiang and Tibet, aiming for Central Asia and the Middle East for evangelistic outreach all the way back to Jerusalem. Workers arrived in Xinjiang and planted churches. After 1949 they were prevented from going further west. They stayed and continued to do evangelism and church planting. Brother Zhang passed away in 1956. His partners Mecca Zhao and his wife Grace to this day are still burdened for Jerusalem. Recently, this vision of Back to Jerusalem has been rekindled among some house church leaders in China.

This Consultation acknowledges the BJM is a God-given strategic vision that is a part of fulfilling Christ's Great Commission. It is gaining considerable interest both inside and outside of China, and increasingly demands a multinational effort by the Church worldwide.

To ensure the movement's integrity, it is our prayer that this vision will not be harmed by human weaknesses such as misrepresentation, sensationalism, arrogance or exaggerations.

We further ask the Lord to protect us from spiritual attacks, that we will be unified and transparent as we commit ourselves to this challenging and significant task.

OUR MISSION

We commit, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, to obey the vision given by God to the Chinese church, to complete the Great Commission in Central Asia and the Middle East, in co-operation with the global church, to the glory of Jesus Christ.

BIBLICAL MANDATE

We recognize that the Bible reveals God's global purpose, mandating His people to complete the evangelization of all peoples so that they will be blessed, and that God be worshipped and glorified.

The Bible is the authoritative source for our vision, mission and our methods. Therefore BJM must be faithful to God's Word in every way. We receive our calling to:

- **COMPLETE THE GREAT COMMISSION.** Christ has given His Church the task of discipling all peoples. This mandate is supported by the history of God's work throughout the Scripture. The fulfillment of this mandate is foretold in many biblical stories and statements.
- **WORK IN HOPE THAT GOD WILL BRING TRANSFORMATION AND BLESSINGS TO ALL PEOPLES.** The mandate to evangelize all peoples serves to bring lasting transformation to countries, cities, and communities in the 10/40 window, for Christ's greater glory.
- **WORK TOWARD THE HOPE OF GOD'S GLORY IN A NEW JERUSALEM.** The beginning point of world evangelization was Jerusalem. In God's promises

and covenants, the vision of a New Jerusalem stands as a symbol of the healing of nations, and the coming of the Kingdom of Christ.

HISTORICAL

We see BJM as an extension of all that God has been doing throughout history to fulfill the Great Commission. This sense of continuity encourages BJM to:

- **HONOR CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH.** Above all we celebrate our Lord Jesus Christ as Head of all churches.

- **ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITION.** We salute the many generations of faithful service of churches and missions throughout the world.

- **COOPERATE WITH LIKE-MINDED GROUPS.** BJM seeks to learn from, and serve alongside, the ministries who are currently serving within the 10/40 window.

- **INHERIT THE VISION.** Recognize the distinctive legacy of BJM as prayer, sacrifice and suffering, our vision will be fulfilled in the same manner.

CULTURAL

We thank God for blessing the world with a variety of cultures. God has mandated and Christ has given great examples of communicating the Gospel within cultures with wisdom and sensitivity. This recognition of the diversity and value of cultures encourages BJM to:

- **RECOGNIZE CULTURAL DIFFERENCES.** There are shortcomings and merits in every culture. The ease or difficulty in cross-cultural exchange depends on complex factors and the history of exchange.

- **PAY THE PRICE TO COMMUNICATE CROSS-CULTURALLY.** This means respect for the local culture, willingness to adapt to different cultures and readiness to learn from them. Reaching people from a remote culture will call for sacrifices and long-term commitment.

- **WORK IN COLLABORATION WITH INDIGENOUS CHURCHES AND MISSIONS.** As we serve together in humility, appreciation and respect, we minimize our weaknesses and maximize our strengths.

STRATEGIC

We believe that God has granted the BJM vision to the Chinese church, and also to the universal Church. It is

another impetus to fulfill the Great Commission. Christ calls and guides His Church to accomplish this task, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and for the glory of the Father. The need to act with strategic wisdom encourages the BJM to:

- **COMMUNICATE.** First and foremost, we must mobilize the Christians worldwide to prayerfully support and uphold this endeavor. We must at all times communicate this vision truthfully and in a spirit of love and service.

- **MOBILIZE.** BJM missionaries must be proven in their local ministries and then further equipped to serve cross-culturally. Western and overseas partners can help bridge the Chinese house churches to the unevangelized peoples in the 10/40 window.

- **COORDINATE AND NETWORK.** We wish to identify, consult, and connect with existing and potential ministry partners, both within and outside the Chinese Church. We fully recognize BJM is a multi-channel, multi-ethnic undertaking.

- **BUILD CAPABILITIES INCREMENTALLY.** We plan to work in a progressive, persistent way in many geographic and cultural settings. The idea of "midway stations" expresses a desire of cooperating in "gateway cities" throughout the region. These centers can provide for on-site cross-cultural experience and training.

- **EVALUATE AND REALIGN EFFORTS PERIODICALLY.** We will establish realistic short-term, med-term, and long-term goals and milestones relating to the BJM. Leaders and coworkers should regularly evaluate the progress in fulfilling the Lord's command in His global harvest.

CONCLUSION

According to God's will and the leading of the Holy Spirit, we pledge together to bring the good news of Christ's salvation to the ends of the world, and eventually back to Jerusalem. We further pledge that we will fulfill this calling with,

- **CAUTION AND SENSITIVITY.**
- **LOVE AND SERVANTHOOD**
- **INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**
- **UNITY AND PARTNERSHIP**

We seek His guidance and help, and to God be the Glory. Amen.