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GREAT COMMISSION NEWS

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HOLISTIC MISSION

---How Far Do We Go?

Thomas Wang

According to Dr. David Bosch in his book *Transforming Mission*, the changing paradigms of mission thinking since the early church has been as follow:

The Early Church (33-200AD)

Centrality of eschatology

Patristic Orthodox (200-500AD)

Centrality of theology

Medieval Roman Catholic (600-1400AD)

Centrality of church, state and culture

Reformation---Protestant (1500-1750AD)

Centrality of Scripture

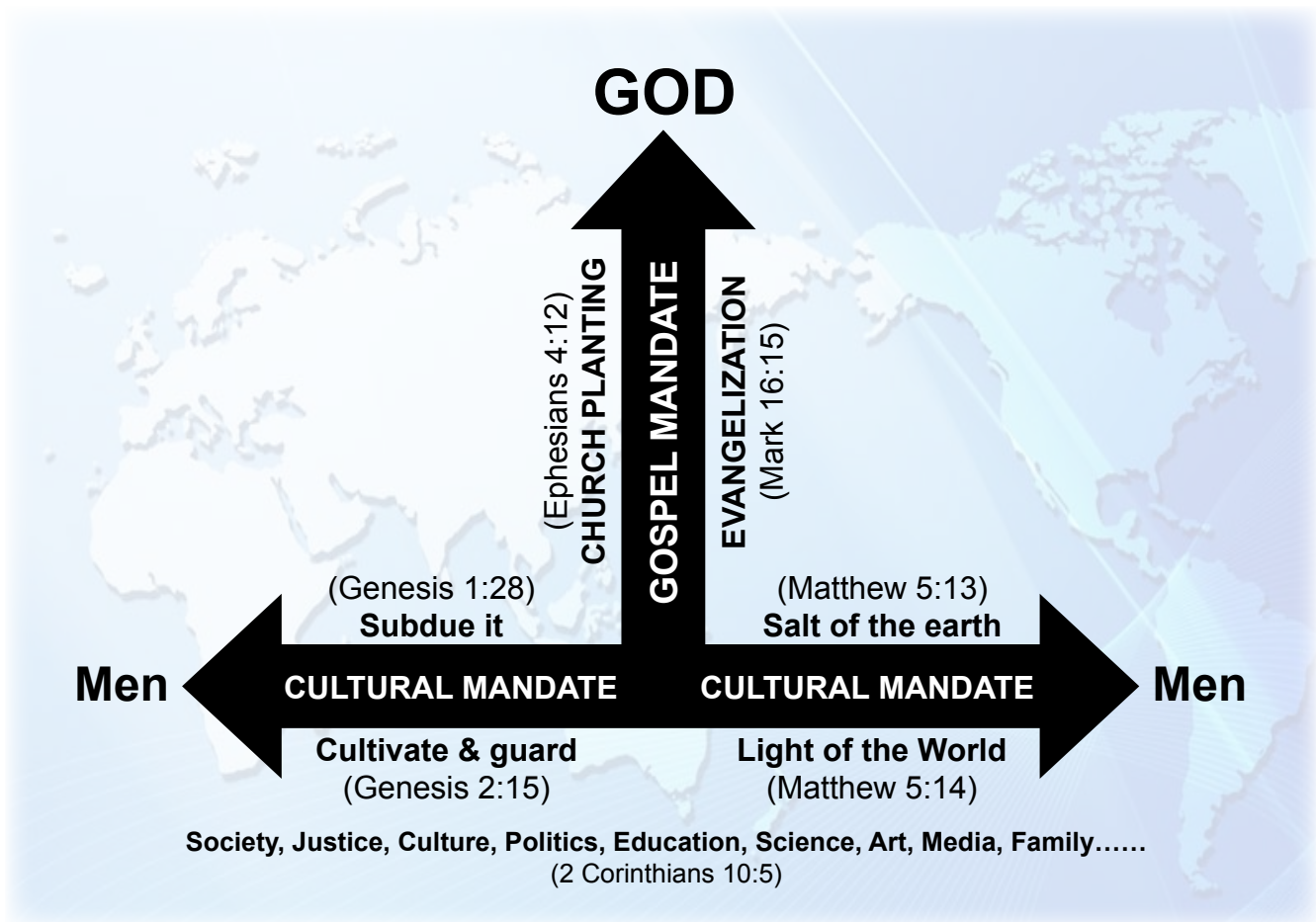
Modern Mission Era (1750-1950AD)

Centrality of mission task

Mission Paradigm at the end of the second Millenium (1950-?)

Centrality of holism---life, deed, word and sign

Indeed, toward the end of the second millenium, the so-called Holistic Mission has been strongly advocated by an increasing number of mission leaders. Traditional missions program such as evangelism, church planting and discipleship training were augmented by services in education, medicine, charity, etc. Missions, hereafter, will incorporate both the vertical (Gospel Mandate) and the horizontal (Cultural Mandate).



Lately however, in addition to the above mentioned mandates, certain mission leader are promoting a third one----the Creation Mandate. It simply means that missions program today should and must include “creation care.”

The Cape Town Commitment of Lansanne III, South Africa, 2010, called for “urgent and prophetic” action on creation care, has provided further impetus for environmental missions.

A series of mission consultations will take place this spring in eastern United States. One of its main topic for discussion will be Environmental Mission : Planting Churches and Trees.

As Christians, we love God and care for His creation. But if creation care is being over-emphasized, it will offset the priority position of the Gospel Mandate which of course is God’s major concern. For no matter how much education and

good life we provide a person, but if we have not led him to Christ, he is still eternally lost. This is the blunt simple fact. There is, after all, a fundamental difference between the meaning and the significance of “saving man” and “saving trees.”

Furthermore, the immensity of the subject of creation care will make any clear-headed churchman shudder. The topic of Global Warming alone (its cause, effect and prevention) could easily deplete human and financial resources of any church.

As God’s stewards we must be faithful to His priority and not the priority of the crowd or the tide. We must “Major the Major and Minor the Minor” according to His teaching and His will.



Reflection and Outlook on Twenty-Year Ministry in Tyumen, Siberia

By Jim & Sally Foote

A Call to Siberia

In September of 1991 just after the Soviet Union was dissolved, Dr. Thomas Wang participated in an evangelistic boat expedition in the Tyumen Region of Siberia and saw a tremendous response to the Gospel. That October, Dr. Wang spoke at the missions conference at Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Brighton, Michigan. He reiterated that the fields were ripe for harvest in Siberia, but the workers were few and challenged Jim and Sally Foote to accompany him on a return trip to the Tyumen region in December. After much prayer and with encouragement from fellow Christians, Jim and Sally concluded that Dr. Wang's invitation was of the Lord and they agreed to go. This was the beginning of a ministry and an adventure with the Lord that was beyond their wildest dreams.



Thomas and Rachel Wang, Jim and Sally Foote at the Red Square, Moscow, 1992

Twenty Years of Ministry Under God's Grace

Jim and Sally visited Tyumen again in 1992 with Dr. Wang and accepted the call to become missionaries. And in 1993, the first short term mission team came to Tyumen. To date, over 300 people have made over 400 visits to Tyumen to serve in these ministries.

After finishing a training program in 1994, Jim and Sally were appointed and supported as full time missionaries ever since by the church in Brighton, Michigan under the leadership of

Pastor Richard Alberta. In 1995, they took up residence in the city of Tyumen and organized the Cultural Educational Center in 1996 with Bible studies held for adults and children.

The Library was founded in 1997 and English lessons were offered based on the book of Mark. A group of “Promise Keepers” came to visit in 1998; and alcohol/drug abuse programs of AA, NA and Alanon programs began.

In 2000, the Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church was organized and legally registered. It has been an active congregation with weekly Bible classes for adults and children, men’s Saturday prayer group, etc. The church has been holding services on the first floor in the new Christian Community Center facility since January 2010. Although the 3rd floor sanctuary was not yet finished, we were able to have the Christmas Worship service there on December 25, 2011.

The Pilgrim Christian School was founded in 2001. After six years, the school was transferred to an independent Russian board.

At that same year, a fund was started for Christian Community Center. As fund grows, land was purchased in 2005, and construction started in 2008. The first level was completed in 2010 and occupied. Work began on the third level in 2011. We hope to complete phase 1 of the third floor by the end of June, 2012. This will include a sanctuary with a seating capacity of about 200 people. It will also provide much needed extra space for many of the current activities. In particular, we will have the capacity for accommodating many more children in our kids day camp program this coming summer.



English Discussions Club Enjoying the Yard

The Tyumen Bible College was founded in 2002. Since then, the bible college has met 3 times a year for 2 weeks of intensive classes. 64 students have completed one or more courses; 25 students have completed the 14 courses required for a certificate; 9 students have completed a three-month practicum in their local churches and 6 students have completed the 28 courses plus practicum required for the bachelor’s program. Most of the teachers pay both their own and their wives’ travel expenses to come from the west to teach. They are a blessing to the whole ministry.

The Pregnancy Resource Center began operations in 2004, and the first of over 20 babies was saved.

Worship at Holy Trinity



Picking up Saved Baby at Hospital



Men’s Saturday Morning Prayer Meeting

Time for a Reunion

In February of 2012, Dr. Wang came again as the guest speaker to the mission conference at Cornerstone Church in Brighton, Michigan and it seemed appropriate to take this opportunity to have a reunion for those who had participated in and/or supported the ministry in Tyumen during the past twenty years. Dr. Wang kicked off the program by reminding the over 100 people in attendance that the fields are still ripe for the harvest and the Great Commission is still in effect. Dr. Wang presented Jim & Sally with a framed photo of him, Rachel, Jim and Sally in Red Square in 1992. Then those present enjoyed some reminiscing while selected ministry milestones were presented.



From right: Rev. and Mrs. Thomas Wang, Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Sheng

A Special Testimony

A highlight of the evening was a testimony given by Irina Anisimova who is currently the Director of the Cultural Center, the Administrator of the Bible college and an elder of Holy Trinity Church. Irina told about growing up in Russia during Soviet times when belief in God was strongly discouraged. She did not have access to a Bible until she was over 30 years old. Yet she knew there was a God because of her believing Grandmother and the testimonies of 19th century Russian writers whose works were widely distributed and could not be censored. She ultimately came to a full understanding and acceptance of her salvation by grace through faith in Christ while attending Bible studies at the Cultural Center.

Future Plans

Our summer internship program provides young people (college age and up) with a longer short term mission experience to explore God's will for their lives in the field of missions. A brochure is available upon request to brakeja@gmail.com.

Work on the second floor of the building will begin when financial resources permit. This space will provide for an expanded library and more offices, classrooms and lavatories.



PRC Director with Young Volunteers



Praying for the Children at a Worship Service

COME ONE, COME ALL!

CRYOUT AMERICA PRAYER RALLY

***Sunday, June 3,
2012 4-6pm***

生命河靈糧堂

***River of Life Christian Church
1177 Laurelwood Road
Santa Clara, CA 95054
(Tel.) 408-260-0257***

Ever since the publication of the booklet America, Return To God a decade ago, several prayer movements have been initiated. Multi-ethnic prayer rallies were conducted in the past years in different locations of the San Francisco Bay Area. Please keep the revival fire burning by your participation.

*"Return, return, O shulammite,
Return, return, that we may look upon you."
(Song 6:13)*

May our loving Lord call His beloved America back to Himself. Amen!





Cost-Effective Compassion: A survey of 16 top development economists from 12 elite universities and the World Bank, resulted in a list of the 10 best poverty intervention programs for the developing countries in terms of impact and cost effectiveness per dollar: 1. Clean Water to Rural Villages; 2. De-worming Treatment; 3. Mosquito Nets; 4. Child Sponsorship; 5. Wood-Burning Stoves; 6. Microfinance Loan; 7. Reparative Surgeries; 8. Farm Animal Donation; 9. Drinking Fair-Trade Coffee; and 10. Laptops to Kids.

<Christianity Today, christianitytoday.com, February 2012>

War on Christians: The terrorist attacks in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia increased 309% from 2003 to 2010. Almost all of these occurred in the Islamic world. From “blasphemy laws” to brutal murders to bombings to mutilations and the burning of churches, Christians in so many nations live in fear. The violence is not centrally planned or coordinated by some international Islamist agency. It is a spontaneous expression of anti-Christian animus that transcends cultures, regions, and ethnicities. But government inaction to protect Christians gives the vigilantes impunity. In Nigeria, Egypt, and else where, groups have vowed to wipe out the Christian population amounting to genocide. Yet, the atrocities are seldom reported by the public media.

<Newsweek, www.newsweekreport.com, 2/13/12>

Nepal: A tricycle designed and built by a Christian worker has given the often abandoned disable persons the freedom to move around and accessibility to jobs, schools, markets, etc. There are 300,000 such persons. The tricycle is hand-powered, sturdy enough for the rough roads, and big enough to protect the rider and to carry packages. Each costs \$200 to make, but it is sold for \$20 to give them sense of ownership/investment. He hires only disable persons, train them and is able now to turn over the operation to them.

<Baptist Global Response, www.gobgr.org, 1/26/12>

India: Tracts generally are discarded rather quickly in the USA. Here, literature are valued so highly that most people read them on the spot and even pass them on to others making them very effective evangelistic tools. At some events, gospel literature can reach the hands of ten of thousands in a few hours. Some will call back to seek further information allowing the workers to follow up.

<Gospel For Asia, www.gfa.org, 2/10/12>

USA: 270 Churches in Sacramento, California have banded together on January 16 for a “Season of Service” of 4 months in cooperation with a mission agency. To show the love of Christ, they start projects to quell hunger, promote health/

wellness, uplift the homeless, improve public education, and help families in need. They have set a goal of logging 3 million community service hours. It will culminate in a two-day festival in June with the gospel preached 8 or 9 times. 2-3000 people will be trained in evangelism along with outreach to the prison and luncheons for business leaders. City is aglow with exciting expectancy of what God is going to do.

<Luis Palau Association, www.palau.org, 2/7/12>

Egypt: A pastor dubbed “Pastor of the Revolution” reports that the revolution is led by students representing all 8 universities in Cairo. With 65% of population under age of 25, these are the cream of the crop. This pastor gained status in the uprising when he was called up on the stage on Tahrir Square in early 2011. With credibility for Christianity at stake, Isaiah 61:1 came suddenly to his mind. The crowd responded enthusiastically when he explained the freedom of hope. “You know why Jesus came? He came to set the captive free!” The young people are seeking freedom and demand a civilian government, and plan to tackle 35% unemployment rate (for those under 25) and growing economic distress. The church right on the Square opens its doors for people to rest. Many came and the gospel has been shared with hundreds of them. They also set up a field hospital outside. The Spirit is working as hundreds receive visions and dreams and come to Christ. They expect thousands more to come before the end of revolution.

<Mission Network News, www.mnnonline.org, 2/9/12>

Trends for Ministry: A noted missiologist spoke on the future of global church, trends and resourcing challenges. In Southeast Asia, the church is growing at a staggering rate. Despite rising resistance and persecution, these new believers are starting to take on missions. The unique challenge is that over 90% of them have no formal training and will never have the chance to get it. An agency is sending training teams to 4 states in India for 4 separate events. They will do training also in several more restricted access nations. Several thousand leaders will be trained in the next few months.

<Global Advance, www.globaladvance.org, 2/10/12>

Papua New Guinea: After the people of a small tribe, Siar, received teaching of the gospel in their heart language, they finally understand the meaning of grace. They become so excited that they cannot stop to share it with others. The translators are working on the book of Acts, and will soon go into the book of Romans.

<New Tribes Mission, www.usa.ntm.org, 1/27/12>

BATON – PASSING

50 Years of Ministry of Rev. Thomas Wang

A DVD about the life and ministry of Rev. Thomas Wang:

How he came to Christ.

How he was called to ministry.

How he started and led the Chinese Christian Mission, The Chinese Coordination Center Of World Evangelism, AD2000 and Beyond Movement, Great Commission Center International, etc.

His leadership roles in the Lausanne Movement, etc.

The DVD is in both Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese) and English.

It is on a free will donation basis, available at GCCI Headquarters in USA.



From Eternity To Eternity

An English version of the widely distributed chart in Chinese of the mighty works of God throughout the ages, developments of the nation of Israel, major events in church history and end-age prophecies. It is very useful to rejuvenate God's people worldwide in our effort to bring the gospel to the ends of the world before He returns.

The chart is in color, 12 pages long, beautifully illustrated and with enriched contents.

It is available at GCCI Headquarters in USA at US\$8 per copy plus postage and applicable sales tax.

