ALL GENERATIONS

“With my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.”

— PSALM 89:1, NIV
2010-2011 MISSIONS THEME

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THIRTEEN
INSPIRATIONAL
SERMON
Outlines
For Missions Sundays and Banquets

COMPiled BY
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TEXT

Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 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, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen (Matthew 28:18-20, NKJV).

The story is told of the Lord Jesus returning to heaven on Ascension Day. His mission on earth had been accomplished. On His arrival He was met by a band of angels who provided a royal greeting complete with songs of praise and adoration. He was paraded through the golden streets of Glory and worshipped in a ceremony led by Gabriel.

“Welcome home Jesus!” they called out to Him. “Were you able to complete the task You went to do?”

Jesus replied, “Yes, I was born in Bethlehem. I lived among people, loved them, taught them and performed miracles for them. I revealed to them why I came to earth. Then I died on a cross outside Jerusalem, was buried in a tomb and was sealed by the Roman government. On the third day I rose from the grave. Behold, I am alive for evermore! I died for the whole world so that every sinner might be saved.”

Gabriel spoke up. “You said You died for the whole world. But does the whole world know about Your death and salvation?”

“No,” replied Jesus, “but I told my disciples to go and tell them.”

Gabriel then asked, “But Lord, what if they fail? What alternative plan do You have?”

Jesus said, “I have no other plan!”

I. The Mandate

*He [Jesus] said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15, NKJV).*

Jesus left each of us a mandate. This mandate is more than working on projects, more than doing programs. This mandate is to share God’s love and salvation with every person.

God loves every person on earth. The world’s population currently is more than 6.5 billion people. Approximately one-half of these have never had an adequate witness of the gospel.
Four truths about this mandate:

A. It is a command with no other option but to obey.

B. It is a capability divinely given to us by God.

C. This capability cannot be achieved without His power.

D. This mandate can only be kept through faith.

II. Faith Promise Giving

A. To complete the unfinished task, we must pray for more faith, not just for more money.

B. “Faith” in Faith Promise Giving is trusting God for what are yet unrealized resources to invest in obedience to the Great Commission.

C. “Promise” in Faith Promise Giving is keeping your word once the miracle happens and giving the resources we receive, instead of indulging yourself in selfish desires and pleasures.

D. Faith Promise Giving is growing into responsible stewardship through faithful, consistent and regular giving.

E. Faith Promise Giving is an agreement between you and the Lord that looks to the true Source for a weekly, monthly or annual commitment.

III. A Faith Promise Commitment

A. Does not depend upon known resources, but rather depends on a sense that God would be pleased to channel such missions finances through you.

B. Faith Promise Giving is not what you think you can afford to give, but what you believe God wants to do through you.

C. Faith Promise Giving is a commitment big enough to stretch your faith and challenging enough to force you to your knees.

D. Every Christian is represented by one of the following:

1. The Dead Sea: The Jordan River daily pours millions of cubic feet of water into the Dead Sea, but no marine or animal life lives there. You can jump into the water but you cannot stay under the water because of the mineral content; it forces you to float. The Dead Sea has no life because it is always receiving water but has no outlet. It never releases water. It only takes in but never gives out.
2. *The Sea of Galilee:* Water flows into the Sea of Galilee from the mountains of Lebanon. You can stand at the head of the Jordan River where it flows out of the Sea of Galilee southward. You can watch fishermen daily harvest tons and tons of fish. Though it is heavily fished, it continues to have a great fish population. The Sea of Galilee has so much life because it not only receives water from the mountains of Lebanon but it also is constantly giving out water southward into the Jordan River.

IV. **CONCLUSION**

The apostle Paul was let down over the walls of Damascus to escape for his life. Someone held the rope so that he would not fall (2 Corinthians 11:32-33).

Are you willing to hold the rope for our missionaries? You can hold the rope by praying and giving financially.

**How Much Shall I Give?**

A. If I refuse to give anything to missions this year, I am practically casting a ballot in favor of the recall of every missionary.

B. If I give less than before, I favor reduction of the missionary forces proportionate to my reduced contribution.

C. If I give the same as before, I favor holding the ground already won; but I oppose any forward movement.

D. If I increase my offering beyond former years, then I favor an advance movement in the conquest of new territories for Christ.

*AGWM missionary Benny Ferguson is the facilitator of the Missions Awareness Team.*
THE WHOLE WORLD
Howard Cummings

TEXT

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2).

INTRODUCTION

Prayerfully purpose that your church will be different and that the difference will be in the distance. To be sure, many Christians and churches have very limited vision — stretching no further than the proverbial “end of their nose.” However, God honors and blesses the church with a global vision. God’s vision is global and John urged believers to look beyond themselves and see the world as God sees it — the whole world!

The term “whole world” focuses not only on geography, but on humanity. In every nook and cranny of this globe there are people who need Jesus … people who have never heard the “Name that is above every name.”

Although our message is not political and most people think “globalization” refers to economics and politics, the church cannot hide its head in the sand. What the famed auto executive Lee Iaccoca said about business, the church would do well to apply in its all-important business of winning souls: “We have to have a global view to survive.”

Christ expects believers to be global Christians. He wants His Church to be global in its outreach. If the Church is not concerned about world missions and if it is not global in its vision, it becomes irrelevant!

The mission of the church is:

• More than a nice philosophy tacked to some office wall or Web site.
• Bigger than a well-worn Christian “cliché.”
• Engraved in the very heart and soul of the body of Christ … from the mind of Almighty God.

To reach every person with the good news of salvation — not just a part of the world but the whole world — is our reason being.

I. Our mission is revelatory.

A. Nothing is made so clear as the will of God regarding the lost.

1. Some Charismatics are always looking for some “new revelation.”

2. But there is not much point in following a “new” revelation until we obey the “old.”
3. God’s will regarding the lost is obvious.

4. He is not willing than any should perish.

5. No Christian should ever ask: “Is missions God’s will for me?”

6. Both the individual and the corporate will of God are plain. Those who obey the Great Commission understand more fully the “greater revelation.” The Bible is the “more sure word of prophecy.” The Bible, the product of divine revelation, holds the missionary order as the highest imperative. Obedience to the Great Commission brings an ever-deepening revelation of God. Because of this —

B. We see the lostness of humanity without Christ.

1. The world is lost without Jesus.

2. The heathen are not better off in their sin. *The way of the wicked will perish (Psalm 1:6).*

C. We see how very much God cares about the lost.

1. He cared enough to send the very best — His Son.

2. Jesus came to earth as the first missionary.

3. Shouldn’t we give our very best to reach the lost?

D. We see the singularity of salvation through Jesus Christ.

1. There are not many different ways to get to heaven.

2. “*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved*” (Acts 4:12).

E. We see the urgency in our mission. As the above facts become clear, we are motivated to prioritize.

II. Our mission is redemptive. All over the world, people are being redeemed.

A. We network with a caring and effective missionary force.

1. Dedicated, anointed people will use every method available.

2. People will “reach out and touch someone” with divine love.

B. Doors are opening that we never dreamed would open.

1. New nations … strange sounding tongues … realignments
2. A whole generation once thought lost to communism is hearing the gospel and responding to the good news.

3. Wherever we go, we go with the gospel of redemption.

4. Social betterment occurs, but we’re not there just for social betterment.

5. We are there to present Jesus, the Redeemer.
   Our dedicated missions force always has as its over-arching goal the redemption of people. Bread for the hungry? Yes, but also the “Bread of Life.” Healing and health? To be sure, but always as a means of presenting Jesus, the “Healer of broken hearts.”

   Christians committed to missions must always keep in focus what our mission really is!

   A well-known wood carver in the German Black Forest was meticulously working on some statues when he was observed by a young, hot-shot from the United States. The American watched him work for a while and then couldn’t resist criticizing his methods. He said, “If you would create an assembly line and employ lesser talented people to do some of the utilitarian work, you could make more money.”

   The old wood carver didn’t even look up as he replied: “I’m not making money, I’m making statues.”

III. Our mission is to rescue.

   A. Our work is cut out for us. It’s a matter of life and death … for some there is no tomorrow.

   Our work is cut out for us. It’s a matter of life and death … for some there is no tomorrow.

   As I repeated the last sentence 27 more people were born. By this time tomorrow 146,000 people will have died. Approximately half will not be saved.

   B. Missions is the “911” call for the Church.

   1. We can’t afford the luxury of sitting in some “ivory tower” of religion.

   2. We are spiritual paramedics, rushing to the bleeding, bruised and broken people of this planet.

   3. We must do as our Master did and as He commanded us to do.
      “’Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’"
“Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14: 21, 27).

CONCLUSION

We’re on a rescue mission to this hurting world. A loving generous and compassionate response will touch the world.

You can give — you can pray — you can rescue the perishing. You and I can and must reach the whole world!

*Howard Cummings is a Missions Awareness Team associate member.*
OCTOBER 2010 MISSIONS SUNDAY SERMON OUTLINE

Mobilizing, Advancing, Training
David Reddout

TEXT

“Go and make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20).

INTRODUCTION

Today is one of the most exciting days for world missions! God is moving in incredible ways throughout our world. The Holy Spirit is guiding us in the task of world missions.

One of the resources available to our churches is the Missions Awareness Team (MAT). This team is comprised of missionaries, missionary associates and former pastors who are committed to advancing the cause of world missions. Our focus of help is in three areas:

I. Mobilization

A. Mobilization of missionaries, churches and districts

1. Jesus said, “Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field” (Matthew 9:38).

2. Workers are coming.
   (a) During 2009, AGWM cleared 372 missionaries to leave for the mission field.
   (b) This was an increase of 103 missionaries (38 percent) from 2008.
   (c) These young warriors are now itinerating or on the mission field.
   (d) They need our assistance.

B. The MAT team is there to help our missionaries from their first steps all the way to their “boots on the ground” moment.

1. We point the way for these missionaries to help them through the process.

2. We encourage them.

3. We assist them in any way we can.

4. We stay involved with assisting these missionaries.

C. We mobilize the church.

1. I believe churches want to help.
   (a) 21 percent of our churches gave nothing to missions in 2009.
(b) I am convinced that many of these churches want to be involved, but they just don’t know how.

2. Through the development of a local MAT team, some churches are being mobilized to reach a new level of involvement in world missions.

II. Advancing

A. The Assemblies of God is advancing God’s kingdom into all the world.

1. We are so blessed to be a part of the worldwide fellowship of the Assemblies of God.

2. Every 10 seconds someone in the world is becoming a part of the Assemblies of God.

3. Every 39 minutes a new Assemblies of God church is being started.

4. Today we number more than 63 million.

B. The local church must also advance to maintain this worldwide harvest.

1. God is calling new missionaries.

2. God is providing resources.
   (a) In the midst of a downturn in our economy God is still our resource.
   (b) It is not a matter of income, it is a matter of faith. As is happening with others, we also are experiencing a renewal in our commitment to God and His Kingdom.
   (c) This is not a day to retreat, but rather a day of advance.

C. Our laborers are advancing the Kingdom.

1. We are in the least-reached areas.

2. We are in the cities.

3. We are in the jungles.

4. We are a 360-mission. God so loved the world.
   In America, Africa, Asia Pacific, Eurasia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and in Northern Asia, God is calling people to know HIM.

III. Training

Our tasks are to assist in training.

A. The Assemblies of God provides training for our new missionaries.
1. From how to present their need —

2. To helping the career missionaries arrive at their place of ministry —

3. To assisting them in learning to live in a different culture —

4. To a lifetime of learning.

B. We are providing training for our churches through our MAT teams.

C. We are providing training for our district leadership.

1. Through Flashpoint

2. Through district MAT teams

3. Through missions tours around the districts

4. Through other resources such as literature, media and Web sites

IV. What are the challenges for today?

A. Laborers

1. The task has not been completed.

2. Four billion have still not had an adequate witness.

B. Prayers

1. Without the work of the Holy Spirit our task will not be accomplished.

2. ASK is what our Lord has told us to do.

3. He can and will PRAY through us.

C. Givers — Faith Promise giving

1. Giving according to God’s ability

2. God can get it to us if He can get it through us!

V. CONCLUSION

A. What can one person do?
One example is Unión Television started in 2003 by AGWM missionary to Ecuador Bill McDonald. Unión can now touch 500 million Hispanics across
the Americas (including parts of the United States) with moral, family-value programming and the Word of God.

B. Together we make a difference as each one does his or her part.

What is God saying to you today?

*AGWM missionary David Reddout is the Missions Awareness Team Representative for the Gulf Region.*
NOVEMBER 2010 MISSIONS SUNDAY SERMON OUTLINE

THE END OF THE STORY
Paul Brannan

TEXT
I will sing of the Lord’s great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations. (Psalm 89:1).

INTRODUCTION

When reading a book or watching a movie, we seldom appreciate it if someone reveals the ending before we finished. The Christian life, however, is different. John the Revelator revealed the end of our story when he wrote:

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb” (Revelation 7:9-10).

Each of us has written the story of our past in one way or another. Some of that may have included suffering and, certainly, the ugliness of sin. The next chapter tells of our finding Jesus as our Savior and the transformation that took place. We became new creations in Christ. For those who are new believers, only few pages have been written. Many chapters now have been completed for those who have known Christ for many years.

The past pages may, or may not, reveal an obedient and overcoming life, but those chapters have been completed and cannot be rewritten. We must now carefully write, page by page, our present story.

We have seen the glorious ending of our life’s story: The joy of the occasion, the company of the throngs around us, and the majesty of Jesus Christ upon the throne! But wait! Before we write any more pages, shouldn’t we determine that we will not go there alone?

In our text we see David’s determination to take others with him, when he wrote:
“... with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations” (Psalm 89:1).

David didn’t say, “To my generation,” nor did he say “to all generations.” He said, “through all generations,” meaning all those who will live from that time forward. Shouldn’t we have the same determination? The answer is a loud “yes!” That is a tall order, but that is what Christ expects from each one of us.
That is why Jesus commanded His followers to: “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:15-16).

Since not everyone can physically go into the whole world, how can we make it happen? There are three ways we can come into obedience to Christ’s command:

I. Some will obey Christ’s commands to go as missionaries.
   A. The Assemblies of God now has more than 2,700 missionaries serving in 213 countries and territories around the world.
   B. The national churches where we have invested our prayers and finances for so many years now have sent out more than 8,000 missionaries to other countries.
   C. Most missionaries received their missionary call, or were strongly influenced, as a result of a missionary speaker.
   D. Many will go for a one-year or other short-term assignments; others will go for a lifetime.

II. Everyone can speak to the nations through their faithful intercessory prayer for our missionaries and the needs of a lost world.

Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus: Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should (Ephesians 6:19-20).

   A. The level of a missionary’s effectiveness on the field will be determined by the level of intercessory prayer here at home in his or her behalf.
   B. AG World Missions makes Call to Prayer available to us. This tool makes it possible for us to pray for every missionary on his or her birthday.
   C. (Note: Share with the congregation the various opportunities that your church provides for prayer for the missionaries.)

III. Everyone can give to help send others to the mission field.

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? (Romans 10:14-15).

   A. BGMC, Speed the Light, Light for the Lost and Women’s Ministries all give great assistance to our missionaries, providing them with many of the tools needed to fulfill their call.
B. The monthly support of our Assemblies of God missionaries is critical. The monthly faith promise, made by each individual or family, will make it possible for us to support even more missionaries. We see this biblical pattern in the testimony that Paul wrote concerning the Macedonian church. *For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability.* (2 Corinthians 8:3).

C. Paul gave us the assurance that God will always make it possible for us to give to missions when he wrote: *God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work* (2 Corinthians 9:8).

CONCLUSION

Yes, I know. We can’t do it alone. We must have partners. We must not only partner together here at home as *senders*, but we also must partner with the missionaries in their ministry as *goers*. Together we can finish the job.

That is why John wrote to the Elder Gaius: *Dear friend, you are doing a good work for God in taking care of the traveling teachers and missionaries who are passing through ... So we ourselves should take care of them in order that we may become partners with them in the Lord’s work* (3 John 5, 8, TLB).

The record of our lives is not yet completed, but at least we now have an outline to follow. May each chapter speak clearly of His faithfulness through all generations!

*AGWM missionary Paul Brannan is the Missions Awareness Team editor.*
DECEMBER 2010 MISSIONS SUNDAY SERMON OUTLINE

GOD’S LOVE SONG FOR THE WORLD
Norm Campbell

TEXT

Your love, God, is my song, and I’ll sing it! I’m forever telling everyone how faithful you are. I will never quit telling the story of your love — how you built the cosmos and guaranteed everything in it (Psalm 89:1, The Message).

I. Music in any language stirs the deepest emotions of a man, woman, boy or girl.
   A. Why does the military have marching bands?
   B. Why do we sing the national anthem at the beginning of every ball game?
   C. Why do we sing Take me out to the Ball Game, or God Bless America in the seventh inning of a baseball game?
   D. Because music stirs us. We stomp our feet, clap our hands, we swing and sway.
   E. Music moves us and motives us.

II. God’s love song tells the greatest story every told.
   A. God loves us so much that He gave His only Son as a sacrifice for sin on a cross (John 3:16).
   B. His blood now cleanses us from every sin (1 John 1:9).
   C. Every person in the world can be saved — no exceptions (Romans 10:13).

III. Jesus commands us to sing this love song to the whole world (Matthew 28:19-20).
   A. Every Christian is commanded to be a missionary (Romans 10:14-15, Mark 16:15).
      1. We can go as missionaries ourselves.
      2. We can help send other missionaries through prayer or financial help.
   B. How can we send others? Through faith promise giving
      1. Our tithes belong in the local church; our faith promise giving should be giving above our tithe.
2. Our monthly faith promise giving is an act of faith.

3. Without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews II:6).

IV. The key phrase is that God will bless us abundantly after we sing His love song to the world (Mark 16:17-18).

*AGWM retired missionary Norm Campbell is the Missions Awareness Team representative for the Southwest Region.*
JANUARY 2011 MISSIONS SUNDAY SERMON OUTLINE

ALL GENERATIONS
David Reddout

I will sing of the Lord’s great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations (Psalm 89:1).

I will sing of the Lord’s unfailing love forever! Young and old will hear of your faithfulness (Psalm 89:1, NLT).

INTRODUCTION

“No one has the right to hear the gospel twice, while there remains someone who has not heard it once.” — Oswald J. Smith.

I. It is our responsibility to tell others about the faithfulness of the Lord.
   A. The task of world evangelism has been given to the Church.
   B. Only those who have experienced the faithfulness of the Lord can clearly tell others what He has done.

II. It is our joy to tell others about the faithfulness of our Lord.
   A. The greatest joy we can experience, other than our own salvation, is the joy found in leading others to know Him.
   B. Luke 15 records the story of heaven rejoicing when one is found.
   C. There is joy in heaven and earth when one, young or old, is found.

III. It is our privilege to tell others about His faithfulness.
   A. The Church has been given this great responsibility.
   B. The Church can share in the joy of the Lord when one is saved.
      The opportunity of telling others of His faithfulness has been given to us, not the angels.
   C. We can tell those at home about His faithfulness.
      1. In the way we live
      2. In the manner in which we talk
      3. In the conduct of our lives
D. We can tell those in other countries about His faithfulness.

1. Through our praying
2. Through our going
3. Through our giving

IV. It is our goal to tell others about the faithfulness of our Lord.

A. No child should live in poverty. Neither should any child live without hearing of His faithfulness.

B. No adult should live in darkness, drought or famine. Neither should any adult live without knowing a Lord who will give light, water and food.

C. No one should die without an opportunity to hear about His faithfulness.

CONCLUSION

This is my commitment: “I will tell young and old of your faithfulness.”

AGWM missionary David Reddout is the Missions Awareness Team representative for the Gulf Region.
FEBRUARY 2011 MISSIONS SUNDAY SERMON OUTLINE

WE HAVE OUR ORDERS
Howard Cummings

TEXT

“Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation” (Mark 16:15).

INTRODUCTION

In the early days of the Revolutionary War, Colonel Ethan Allen led his ragtag troops — the Green Mountain Boys — against the British fortress, Fort Ticonderoga, to one of the first important victories of the war.

The British commandant, Captain Delaplace, awakened to the knocking of 83 men with Allen’s troops, and opened the window of the stockade to gaze out in bewildered astonishment. “By whose authority do you act?” the British leader asked.

The attacking troop commander responded: “In the name of the great Jehovah and the Continental Congress.”

We have our orders as well. We act — we do what we do for our church’s global mission — upon an authoritative commission. No less than the King of kings and Lord of lords has issued our mandate. And, just before He gave the Great Commission — just in case any one of any age would argue — in case anyone would need to be reminded “by whose authority” this is, He said: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go ...” (Matthew 28:19).

We are under orders …

I. To extend the Kingdom

“Your kingdom come, your will be done ...” (Matthew 6:10).

“This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14).

II. To spread the gospel

A. There is only one gospel. That gospel has always had a “Go” in it.

B. “Go into all the world” (Mark 16:15).

“Go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19).

III. To honor the harvest hands

A. How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear
without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news” (Romans 10:14-15)!

B. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue: if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor (Romans 13:7).

C. Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in our power to act (Proverbs 3:27).

D. “He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me. Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man’s reward” (Matthew 10:40-41).

E. Dear Friend, you are doing a good work for God when you take care of the traveling teachers/missionaries who are passing through, even though they are strangers to you … You do well to send them on their way in a manner that pleases God (3 John 5-6, NLB).

F. Missionaries are the “front line troops” of the church. The Scriptures are clear that believers are to give the missionaries honor, love and support for their work.

IV. To pray for the harvest

He [Jesus] told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field” (Luke 10:2).

Certainly disciples are essential today if the Church is to finish the task.

A. A renewed interest and commitment to prayer

B. The willingness to take a step of faith with finances

C. Obedience to the orders that come from the highest authority.

V. CONCLUSION

By whose authority? We respond in the name and by the authority of the Lord of the Harvest!

Howard Cummings is a Missions Awareness Team associate member.
MAKE HIS FAITHFULNESS KNOWN THROUGH ALL GENERATIONS

John W. Flower

TEXT

I will sing of the Lord’s great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations (Psalm 89:1).

INTRODUCTION

This psalm is a maskil of Ethan the Ezrahite.
- He lived during the time of Solomon.
- He was a singer from the tribe of Levi.
- He was a wise man (1 Kings 4:31).

A maskil is a psalm that teaches you something.
- There are instructions in this song.
- There is something special to teach.
- This psalmist wrote in a very clever way.

A generation
- Refers to a measure or interval of time, a life cycle.
- Refers to a stage or degree in a succession of natural descent such as grandfather, father, son.
- Refers to successive improvement in development, stage or period of sequential technological development and innovation.
- So what is Ethan the Ezrahite who wrote Psalm 89 trying to communicate to us? How does that connect with our responsibility as “fishers of men?” (See Matthew 4:18-20).

I. Our responsibilities as followers of Jesus Christ

We live in a world that is full of people searching for
- Truth
- Meaning
- Happiness
- Success
- Wealth
- Significance
- Relationships
- Many other goals

As a child of God, He has given us instruction that are found in the inspired Word of God. All of it is for our edification, learning and growth.
But let’s look at Jesus’ final words to us before His ascension.

A. “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them … and teaching them …” (Matthew 28:19-20)

B. “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation” (Mark 16:15).

C. “Stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high” (Luke 24:49).


F. Again, Jesus tells us in Acts 1, that because we will be His witnesses here at home and to the ends of the earth, we are to wait for His power because we cannot do any of this in our own strength. To accomplish this we will need the power of the Holy Spirit.

Aren’t these words enough?

In E.M. Clark’s book, The Key to Blessing (his final work to you, the church), I was struck by one of the forwards by George O. Wood who wrote: “I pay special attention when a revered leader says: ‘This is my last word to you.’”

Since these are Jesus’ last words to us then they must be of utmost importance. As members of the church of God, obeying His words must be our highest priority. Don’t you agree?

Our mission is to be that light in this dark, searching world. For He [the Lord] is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

II. Faithfulness of God

Ethan the Ezrahite is writing of the faithfulness of God in this Scripture text. In a way he is “reminding” God of the covenant He had made with David (His chosen one) that He will establish His line forever and make His throne firm through all generations.

This is a psalm of great excitement and glory.

What’s interesting to note here is that things weren’t going so well for the kingdom of Israel. The Pharaoh of Egypt had marched against Jerusalem with a large army, conquered the fortified cities and plundered the gold from the temple. Everything had gone wrong for King Rehoboam and the nation.

But, despite the circumstances, Ethan praises the Lord anyway. Listen to what he says in Psalm 89:9: You rule over the surging sea; when its waves mount up, You still them.
What a tremendous promise of His saving power and a reminder of His sovereignty. Remember that He is God supreme and does what He pleases. See Job 23:13, Psalm 115:3.

Faithfulness continued:

A. *The heavens praise your wonders, O Lord, your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones* (Psalm 89:5).

B. *O Lord God Almighty, who is like you? You are mighty, O Lord, and your faithfulness surrounds you* (Psalm 89:8).

C. *It is good to praise the Lord ... to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night* (Psalm 92:1-2).

D. *I will sing of your love and justice; to you, O Lord, I will sing praise* (Psalm 101:1).

E. *Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures* (Psalm 119:90).

His faithfulness will be made known through all generations (Psalm 89:1). He is faithful and His Word tells us that He will be with us until the end of time. See Matthew 28:20.

He wants all people groups to know this and to be able to sing those same praises of His faithful lovingkindness.

The concept of faithfulness and covenant are connected. God has made a covenant with us. He is Jehovah — the very Name means “covenant-keeping God.”

A. *And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come”* (Genesis 9:12).

B. *“I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you”* (Genesis 17:7).

C. *Then God said to Abraham, “As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come”* (Genesis 17:9).

D. *“This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord — a lasting ordinance”* (Exodus 12:14).
III. Generation

This word occurs 118 times in 114 verses in the King James Version. It must be important to God! It is important to us because *generation* represents time to mankind. It is a critical element because in many ways it defines who we are.

- In the legacy we leave
- In the accomplishments we’ve made
- In the influences that we will perpetuate
- In what people or history will remember about us

Time is a physical property and time is a dimension of our space. Time is linear. Time is varied by gravity, mass and acceleration.

God wants us to know and understand that His faithfulness, His saving power, is not limited by time and space. Gravity has no affect on Him. Mass or acceleration is not in His essence because He is omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient.

So He gave us words to describe that attribute (generation) that relates to us as time.

A. “I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you” (Genesis 17:7).

B. The faithfulness of God in saving those who put their trust in Him

C. Those who surrender their will, their heart, their mind their emotions, their all. *I surrender, Lord, take my all!*

D. That’s the message that He wants all peoples, all tribes, all nations, *all generations* to hear and obey.

E. But time, as we know it, is short. The clock ticks and waits for no one. I believe with all my heart that we are living in the closing chapters of history. Jesus told us in Matthew 16:1-5 to interpret the signs of the times. Look at current events through the third lens of Scripture; this will put *urgency to the matter.*

God has been preparing a generation to accomplish His purposes in these end times of history. I believe this is the generation that will be instrumental in the last harvest. This is the generation that will *see* the last great harvest!

There is no generation gap in the things of the God. *All Generations* of the Church need to respond; must respond.

- Children
- Youth
- Young adult
- Middle aged
• Seniors
• It’s never too late to get involved in being fishers of men. It’s never too early to start.
• What is the Holy Spirit saying to you today? How will you respond to the tug of your heart? Pray? Give? Send? Go?

*All Generations* need to respond; and this refers to those who have not yet yielded their hearts or have heard the message.
• Today is the day of salvation; do not hesitate another moment. He whispers your name. His nailed-scarred hands are open. *Come!*
• His Word tells us that the gospel shall be preached to all and then the end will come. See Matthew 24:14.
• “Holy Spirit, prepare those hearts even now as we pray. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

**CONCLUSION**

My prayer today is that people will know Him, be able to sing the praises of God’s faithfulness, and that *all generations* will remember the works of His Hands. *Will this be your song?*

I still remember the day You saved me  
The day I heard You call out my name  
You said You loved me and would never leave me  
And I’ve never been the same

We will remember, we will remember  
We will remember the works of Your hands  
We will stop and give you praise  
For great is Thy faithfulness

You’re our creator, our life sustainer  
Deliverer, our comfort, our joy  
Throughout the ages You’ve been our shelter  
Our peace in the midst of the storm

With signs and wonders You’ve shown Your power  
With precious blood You showed us Your grace  
You’ve been our helper, our liberator  
The giver of life with no end

**Tommy Walker, We Will Remember, WeMobile Music ©2005 CCLI #4556277**

AGWM missionary John W. Flower is the Missions Awareness Team representative for the Northeast Region.
ARE YOU A GOER OR A SENDER?
Paul Brannan

TEXT

I will sing of the Lord’s great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations (Ps 89:1).

INTRODUCTION

In spite of all the trials and even failures that the Psalmist David experienced, he was compelled to announce God’s faithfulness. He was determined to proclaim God’s goodness in such a way that it would touch all the generations that would follow.

If David felt compelled to share God’s faithfulness to others, how much more should we feel obligated to carry the good news around the world because of Calvary and Christ’s command?

Jesus has commanded every believer to be involved in reaching the world with the gospel. Obedience to the Great Commission was so important that it appears in all four Gospels. Later, Luke underscored the importance of the Great Commission when he wrote in Acts 1:8: 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.

With these words, Jesus made it clear that we should all share the good news, beginning at home and expanding our outreach until the whole world has received the gospel. This means that everyone is called to be a witness, but not all are called to be missionaries.

Reaching the lost beyond our circle of influence comprises only three types of Christians.
(1) Those who go
(2) Those who send
(3) The disobedient

This means that every believer should be either a “goer” or a “sender.” We should constantly witness by our words and deeds to those around us, but the one who goes to another culture, possibly to another country and language, becomes a missionary or a “goer.”

I. What should I do to become a “goer?”

A. Several questions to ask

1. Have I been a faithful witness to my family, friends and community?
2. Am I soul conscious?

3. Do I have a good reputation among my peers?

4. Have I received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, according to Acts 2:4 that empowers me to be a more effective witness?

5. If married, how does my spouse feel about becoming a “goer?”

6. Have I determined whether what I feel is a burden or a call?
   (a) The Holy Spirit will burden a person to feel the need to pray for a certain country or people.
   (b) A call is an urge so strong that we must go and tell the people of another culture about Jesus.

7. Do I (we) feel this is a lifetime call, or do we want to go for a period of time before making that commitment?

B. Several steps to take

1. If you are a teen, consider going on a missions trip with a group from your district. If no trip is planned, contact the National Youth Department for information about joining a group from another state.

2. Adults may consider going 10 days or two weeks on a MAPS trip. This may be for construction or other ministry opportunities. Churches within your district may be sponsoring a trip this year. If not, contact AGWM’s Builders International.

3. Experiencing such a trip may clarify whether what you feel is a burden or a call.

4. If you feel as Paul did when he wrote, *Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel (1 Corinthians 9:16)*, then you probably have a call!

C. Going isn’t just for young people.
A widow near 60 years old contacted the Personnel and Family Life at AG World Missions to express her interest in becoming a missionary. She was told that she would need more schooling. She enrolled in Bible college and graduated. Once again, she contacted the PFL and was told nothing was available at the moment, so she decided to go to seminary.

After completing a degree in Greek at Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, she contacted World Missions again. She was told that a Greek teacher was urgently needed at Evangel Theological Seminary in Kiev,
Ukraine. At 67 years of age, she departed for the field to fulfill the call that God had placed on her heart. She learned the Russian language and then taught Greek in Russian!

II. How can I become a sender?

A. You can pray.
   1. In your private daily devotions
   2. With others who share the same burden

B. Ask to become a member of the local missions team.

C. You can give.
   1. Every time a missionary visits our church.
   2. Decide to give a pre-determined amount each month to the church for missions. God will lead you in knowing how much to give.
   3. Calvary demands our best, not our leftovers!

CONCLUSION
Goers and Senders will all receive the same reward.

Jesus said, “Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man’s reward” (Matthew 10:41).

We do no injustice to the Scriptures if we insert the word “missionary,” thus saying, “Anyone who receives a missionary because he is a missionary will receive a missionary’s reward.” This means that if you are as committed in your sending as the missionaries are in their going, even though you don’t leave your own county, you will receive the same reward. Now that is something to shout about!

Without missionaries, we cannot fulfill the Great Commission. So the next time a missionary speaker is announced, rejoice. Say, “Praise God! Now I don’t have to sell everything I own, go overseas, and learn another language and culture. I can stay here, be a faithful witness and receive a missionary’s reward by being a faithful sender.”

*AGWM missionary Paul Brannan is the Missions Awareness Team editor.*
ALL GENERATIONS  
Howard Cummings

TEXT

*I will sing of the Lord’s great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations (Psalm 89:1).*

INTRODUCTION

The study of generational characteristics is fascinating. Researchers have labeled the generations: Baby-boomers, Generation X, Millennials, the Greatest Generation. Characteristics are readily attached to each label.

Some scholars inform us that a generation is 35-40 years in duration. Therefore, the world has seen approximately 50 generations since Christ. Others point out that generations overlap. Since most churches are multi-generational, the average congregation may have three or four generations interacting and trying to understand each other.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is both cross-cultural and trans-generational. Even as the Psalmist declared his intention to make known God’s faithfulness through all generations (Psalm 89:1), Christians face the challenge to make sure their generation is synchronized with God’s plan and shares the gospel with their age group, and all generations to which they have access.

The somber analysis of Judges 2:10 should motivate each generation to action: *After that the whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done …”*

As a Christian, I can’t do anything about those generations that have passed, but I can reach out to my generation and lay the groundwork for the successful evangelization of those who follow.

In Deuteronomy 6:7, God told the Israelites to impart spiritual principles to those of the next generation.

If my generation is to be generationally sensitive and reach each one within the parameters of our influence, it must be ...

I. A generation that is aware
   
   A. Aware of the orders. The Great Commission of our Lord is not optional (Matthew 28:19-20).
   
   B. Aware of the opportunities
1. This generation has more open doors than any other.

2. An open door is an obligation.
   Former AGWM Executive Director J. Philip Hogan said, “The door of missions is a revolving door. We must enter when it is open.”

C. Aware of the opposition

1. It is optimum naiveté to assume that Satan will surrender without protest.

2. The enemy continues to foment trouble worldwide to divert and distract world missions.

3. When difficulties arise, the unaware lose heart.
   “If you have raced with men of foot and they have worn you out, how can you compete with horses? If you stumble in safe country, how will you manage in the thickets by the Jordan?” (Jeremiah 12:5)
   
   Contrast this with what Jesus said: “Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

II. A generation that cares

A. We must resolve the insensitivity of the age.

1. A 19-year-old girl gave a shocking interview on a Denver radio station. When asked about street gangs, she said, “My generation has absolutely no conscience.”

2. Missiologist Robert McQuilken said, “There are five reasons Christians fail to get into missions.
   a. We don’t care that much.
   b. We don’t see very well.
   c. We think there must be some other way.
   d. Our prayer is peripheral.
   e. Someone isn’t listening.

B. Do we care as the Master cares?
   When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd (Matthew 9:36).

C. Do we care enough to obey?
   Are we willing to rearrange our priorities?

III. A generation that shares

A. We must face the materialism and greed of a secular generation.
How deeply has the unbelieving world’s values impacted us?
“Be careful,” Jesus said to them, “Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees” (Matthew 16:6).

B. The solution: Learn and practice faith giving
Faith giving trusts God for a financial miracle … not to indulge ourselves, but to invest in souls.

C. A generation that implements three-dimensional stewardship

1. Start with the tithe. The tithe is the Lord’s.
2. Continue by giving above the tithe to your church.
3. Make a faith promise to support the missions budget of the church.

The mature Christian steward will give to missions from known sources as well as the yet unrealized resources.

CONCLUSION

A faith promise is a faith pact between the believer and the Lord in which the believer looks to God in prayer and commits to give weekly/monthly/annually to support the church’s global outreach, as the Lord provides the miracles.

A faith promise provides a vehicle for God to stretch us into the miracle dimension.

A faith promise is trusting God for funds not yet realized, to reach people you’ve not met, in obedience to a Savior whose face you have yet to see.

All of these are in the realm of the realities of our faith and our future!

Howard Cummings is a Missions Awareness Team associate member.
JUNE 2011 MISSIONS SUNDAY SERMON OUTLINE

A PROPHETIC GENERATION WITH AN ETERNAL PURPOSE
Victor L. Hedman

TEXTS

Zechariah 4:1-14, Psalm 9:1, Mark 11:22-23, Revelation 1:20

INTRODUCTION

In every generation God has always had chosen, called, Spirit-filled anointed prophets to accomplish His eternal purpose.

The historical background of the Zechariah text is that the Jewish people had gone into the 70-year-long Babylonian captivity because of their terrible pagan idolatry. See Psalm 106:35-41, 2 Kings 16:3, 2 Kings 18:12.

Judah is invaded by Nebuchadnezzar three times: 606 B.C., 597 B.C. and 586 B.C. In the final fall, the temple is destroyed and many of the people are taken to Babylon. In the time of Zechariah’s text, the 70 years of prophesied captivity is complete. Israel has been cured of idolatry and is now ready to re-enter the land. The Medes and the Persians come to power. Isaiah, 150 years earlier, had prophesied that a man named Cyrus (Isaiah 45:13) would be used by God to fulfill a prophetic purpose for His people by proclaiming the return of the Jews to Israel.

I. A prophetic and anointed generation

A. A prophetic and anointed leadership is raised up in Zerubbabel, grandson of Joaquin, former king of Judah.

1. This prince is chosen and called to be the governor and leader to guide almost 50,000 people (Ezra 2:64-67) across 1,500 miles of difficult terrain to accomplish a prophetic and eternally significant task.

2. Spiritual leadership is established. Joshua (Zechariah 3:1) is the high priest and Zechariah, Haggai and Ezra are the main prophets.

B. When God wants something done, what does He do?

1. He looks for willing, strategic people who will obey and cooperate with His plans.

2. These people are always insufficient in themselves.

3. God’s promise to that generations of people: “By my Spirit …” (Zechariah 4:6)
C. Zerubbabel is a political and practical leader.

1. He is inexperienced and incapable for such a task.

2. Who is qualified to take 50,000 people on such a massive migration in mostly desert?

3. Here were represented all the ages of people of their generation willing to take up the challenge to return and rebuild a nation and do God’s will.

4. In Ezra chapter 2, we see the huge list of men, women, children, animals, utensils and equipment that journeyed back to Israel.

II. A chosen and strategic generation

A. At their arrival in Jerusalem, they behold an awful situation.

1. They see mostly ruined and broken walls and houses. Remnants of burned timber and fallen stones are strewn all around. Junk is lying everywhere.

2. The temple has been destroyed. Seventy years of sun, wind, rain and abandonment has taken a terrible toll. Destruction and desolation are everywhere.

3. Mountains of rubbish and bricks and remnants of buildings is the awful mess that has to be cleaned up and rebuilt.

4. These people were accustomed to the comforts of the great city of Babylon.

B. The future of the world literally depends on them.

1. The nation and the temple must be built.

2. Bethlehem has to be inhabited to fulfill the prophesy as the birthplace of the Messiah (Micah 5:2).

3. Jesus must be born (Isaiah 9:6,7). God’s redemption plan must take place (Isaiah 53).

C. God also says to us: “Not by might” (Zechariah 4:6).

D. That chosen and strategic generation did their part to minister to their generation and future generations (Ezra 6:14,15).

E. Will we follow their example?

F. Christ and the Apostolic Early Church were faithful to their generation.
1. This Nazarene taught a small group of Galileans from different ranks of society. They were common fishermen, small businessmen, a tax collector, workers and zealots.

2. They were called to confront the Roman Greco world and culture with little natural preparation.

3. They faced a developed, pagan, cruel, sophisticated society.

4. Their own nation rejected them.

5. They too confronted mountains as did the exiles who returned to Israel in Zerubbabel’s day.

G. Jesus said to them and to us, evangelize the world!


2. Jesus gave them power and they evangelized their world (Mark 16:15-20).

3. They went, preached, taught, evangelized, witnessed and planted churches. They did it by walking, riding on animals or traveling in boats as they went from city to city. To paraphrase Psalm 89:1: With their mouths they made His faithfulness known to all generations.

4. Within 50 years, there were millions of Christians! Justin Martyn (100-167 A.D.) said, “There is no race of man where prayers are not offered in the name of Christ.”

III. The eternal purpose to our generation

A. It’s our time in the power of the Spirit to do as they did in Zechariah’s day.

1. There is an inexhaustible supply of the Spirit from the Source (God) to the need (Zechariah 4:2-6).

2. The Spirit came upon them and they said: “What are you, O mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground” (Zechariah 4:7).

3. The work was completed by the power of the Spirit using that generation.

4. They challenged the obstacles. They overcame. They did what they were called to do.

B. Christ, by His Spirit, is here with us today in the Church (Revelation 1:20).
1. The resurrected Christ walks here today with us. He’s here in His power to supply our needs. He is with us to challenge and overcome the mountains we face.

2. Who are you, oh mountains of needs?

3. Who are you, great missions budget?

4. Who are you, these thousands of dollars we need to make the missions budget? Again, Zechariah 4:7 reads: You will become level ground. Or, the KJV reads: “Thou shalt become a plain.”

5. We will make the budget and more in the name of Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

CONCLUSION

Through faith in God, the mountains, obstacles and unbelief standing in our way can be thrown into the sea (Mark 11:22-23).

We will obey, we will use our faith, we will fulfill the Great Commission. We will fill out that faith promise card. We will let the Holy Spirit lead us. We will be that prophetic, anointed, chosen, strategic generation fulfilling the eternal purpose to our generation.

We declare with Peter: You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9).

With my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations (Psalm 89:1).

*AGWM missionary Victor Hedman is the Missions Awareness Team representative for the North Central Region.*
ALL GENERATIONS
Paul Brannan

TEXT

_I will sing of the Lord’s great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations_ (Psalm 89:1).

INTRODUCTION

Although the focus is on communicating the good news to “all generations,” preparation must be made before witnessing will become effective. There is a logical progression in this preparation.

_I will sing_
Attitude is critical. To be effective in witnessing, our hearts must be filled with the joy of the Lord. Nehemiah reminded the people: “The joy of the Lord is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:10). The joy of the Lord not only prepares our hearts for witnessing, but that same joy becomes an effective witness. Without the joy there will be little motivation to witness and any witness given will be unconvincing.

-With my mouth_
I will speak, sing, announce, share the goodness of God. It is not enough to privately experience God’s blessings and His faithfulness to us; we must share what we feel within. Jesus said, “For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks” (Matthew 12:34). Whatever is in your heart will determine what you say. The content of our hearts include not only what God has done for us, but also what we have seen Him do for others. After being warned by the Sanhedrin not to speak of these things, Peter and John declared, “For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:20). In other words, we are compelled to share with others!

_I will make your faithfulness known._
Both because of what God has done in the past (such as creation and maintaining the order of the universe) and what God did in David’s life, David determined that he could announce to others with certainty that God would continue to be just as faithful in the future as in the past. He would make a permanent spoken and written record for those generations that would follow.

_Through all generations_
A heritage, passed down from one generation to the next. Generation, as used in this Scripture verse, can refer to (1) a certain period of time, (2) the offspring of a particular family, or (3) to those of a particular age group.

All generations will include:
I. All family members

If we interpret generation to mean the offspring in a family line, David would be saying, I will make God’s faithfulness know to my children, my grandchildren and my great-grandchildren. As a believer, this is certainly a responsibility that each of us has. We should want to pass this spiritual heritage onto our children and our children’s children. We should start when they are in the nursery and, as their understanding grows, teach them of their responsibility to share Christ with others.

This permanent record that we are making of God’s faithfulness to us must be made available, not only to our family, but to all generations in the larger sense.

II. All age groups

When the disciples tried to keep the children from bothering Jesus, He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these” (Mark 10:14).

God made it clear when He spoke through Joel that His plan included every age group in this latter day revival. “And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions” (Joel 2:28).

Within our Fellowship, we are blessed to have at least one outreach ministry for every age group. Through these ministries we are able to touch the whole world. Look at these powerful mediums that are available to us that make it possible for us to speak into the lives of thousands.

A. Children: Boys and Girls Missionary Challenge (BGMC) provides many different items to assist the missionaries in reaching the lost. They also raise funds for digging wells in remote villages that provide both fresh water and a powerful witness for Christ. Boys and girls across the U.S. gave more than $6 million for missions in 2009.

B. Youth:

1. Speed the Light provides vehicles and audio-visual equipment for our missionaries.

2. Youth Alive is an outreach ministry to the students in our schools here in the U.S.

3. Chi Alpha Campus Ministries is a Christian campus ministry to college and university students. Their goals are to lead students to Christ and then disciple them in their Christian walk. After finishing their education, many foreign students return to their own country and carry with them a strong witness.
C. Women: Women’s Ministries provide funds for indoor equipment and furnishings for national schools and Bible schools worldwide. They also help furnish the homes of our appointed missionaries. In the most recent year for which data is available, Women’s Ministries gave $12.8 million through their “Touch the World Fund.”

D. Men: Light for the Lost (LFTL) is a ministry that provides a variety of resources such as audio, visual and printed materials that provide resources directly related to evangelism.

III. All socio-economic classes

The gospel of Jesus Christ is for everyone, regardless of his or her background or bank account. God said as much when He guided Joel to write, “Also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit” (Joel 2:29, KJV).

IV. All races

This gospel is to be offered to all, regardless of color or country of origin. This was obvious on the Day of Pentecost when people from at least 16 different ethnicities or nationalities heard the gospel message that Peter preached. Luke recorded the incident in Acts 2:41 when he wrote, About three thousand were added to their number that day.

Several years later, after Peter had been led by a vision to the home of Cornelius, a Gentile, he declared to all those present: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right” (Acts 10:34-35).

V. All nations

The importance of the Great Commission is underscored by the fact that it appears, in one form or another, in each of the Gospels and the Book of Acts. The fact that Christ’s command appears five times underscores its urgency!

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matt 28:19).

He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation” (Mark 16:15).

He said to them, “You are witnesses of these things” (Luke 24:48).

Again Jesus said … “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you” (John 20:21).

Finally, just before ascending to heaven, Jesus declared to some 500 followers, “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” (Acts 1:8).

Jesus made two things clear in these verses: First, that every nation should receive the good news. Second, that every believer is commanded to become involved in reaching those nations.

CONCLUSION

David wanted to leave a record of God’s faithfulness to him and of his faithfulness to God. We, too, are leaving a record each day of our lives. This record will be passed on to future generations. Our lives will continue to speak to those who follow.

An 80-year-old widow who lived in Kentucky survived on a monthly pension of only $175. She wasn’t able to go, but she gave $5.15 when the missionary offering was received. She wanted to speak to the next generation.

An 8-year-old pastor’s son sat through the service intently watching the missionary. After the service ended, the pastor said to the missionary: “Would you come with me to our house for a few moments. My son wants to give you something.” Upon arriving at their house, the little boy jumped from the car and ran inside. Only seconds later he returned to the car. He placed two dimes, a nickel and 3 pennies in the missionary’s hand as he said: “Here. I was saving up to buy a BB gun but I decided instead to give it to you.” Even as a child, he was speaking to his generation and those that would follow.

We can speak in four ways:

1. Living out our personal testimony, by word and deed, to others within our culture
2. Going to another country or another culture as a missionary
3. Praying for the lost and for the missionaries
4. Sending others as missionaries through our faithful monthly faith promises

We can remain silent, in disobedience to Christ’s command that was given to every believer. Or, we can commit our lives to speak to others in this generation and generations that follow. Paul determined that he would speak clearly of God’s faithfulness to every generation. That determination is clearly seen in these words that he wrote: It is written: “I believed; therefore I have spoken.” With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence (2 Corinthians 4:13-14).

AGWM missionary Paul Brannan is the Missions Awareness Team editor.
DECLARING HIS GLORY TO THE FUTURE GENERATIONS AND REACHING THE NATIONS
Doris Loida Espinoza

TEXTS

I will sing of the Lord’s great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations (Psalm 89:1).

I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also (2 Timothy 1:5).

“... when your descendants ask ... tell them ... so that all of the peoples of the earth might know ...” (Joshua 4:21-24)

Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send laborers — including our children and grandchildren (Matthew 9:35-38).

INTRODUCTION

The challenge of taking a personal encounter with Jesus and reproducing it in the lives of another generation has been the unending task of true disciples of Jesus. In many families, mothers have the God-given blessing of having the children closer to them in their formative years in comparison to the fathers, but both parents are responsible. What are those spiritual and yet practical “values” of Christian faith and conduct that we want the next generation to uphold and even increase?

I. Passion — the want-to, heart-felt longing to be like Jesus in reaching the lost needs to be a lifelong desire for every boy, girl, man, woman and young person in Christ. If we are to fulfill the Great Commission we must be people of passion.

II. Depth — Believers must be enabled to take personal possession of faith and biblical understanding — to get deeper in a personal walk with Jesus. It is not until faith has taken root personally that disciples will be motivated to share the great news of hope to the point that they will invest their money, time, talents, giftings and energy.

III. Maturity — Every person (young and old) cannot be content even when our daily personal or spiritual goals have been met. Our highest earthly potential is still beyond what we now have and know. As for missions and soul-winning, we have not reached it all, but as mature Christians, let us see beyond what we have already experienced. The best is yet to come.

IV. Practice — From the altar to the everyday corner of our lives, we must be Christian, not only in knowledge but in lifestyle. The future generations are crying out, “Don’t tell me, show me!”
V. Process — Mentoring another believer is not a destination but a constant journey. Thank God, He is still working on us. Let’s not get discouraged when future generations don’t respond as we would like them to. Let’s keep planting faith, love, peace and passion. Those seeds will blossom and bring forth fruit.

VI. Interaction — We are all “living stones” (see 1 Peter 2:5) in His Church, and there is no merit to being a loner in God’s Kingdom. We need each other … for in Christ we become part of each other. Let us form teams. Together we can make a difference.

VII. Imitation (Christ-like) — The model for all followers of truth is Jesus — our only true point of comparison is Jesus.

DECLARING HIS GLORY TO ALL GENERATIONS

Lyrics and Music by Doris Loida Espinoza
Based on Joshua Chapter 4

(1)
We’re declaring His glory to all generations.
We’re building monuments of stones that will tell of God’s great power.
And when our children ask us,
“What’s the meaning of the stones here?”
We will answer, “They’re a memorial of the great deeds and miracles that our great, mighty God has wrought.”

Chorus
We’re declaring His glory to all generations.
So that our children will know of God’s great power.
And all the people of all the earth will know the hand of God is mighty.
And all God’s people will fear the Lord.
They will fear His name forever.

(2)
God dried the waters of the Jordan and His people crossed over.
And He’s still able to make a way where no path exists.
The Bible says that He did this so all peoples of all nations would know of His great power and
So His people would learn, would learn to fear Him forever.

Ending:
And all the nations will know.
Oh that the monuments we build will be perpetual reminders of the power of our great God.
And there will always be laborers
Who know of God’s power.
And there’ll be generations that will fear our great God.
Yes, there will always be generations declaring His glory,
Declaring His glory, and reaching peoples of all nations.
    For all — yes, for all — for all generations
        Declaring His glory to the nations.

A CD of this song is available with an English demo and soundtrack. A Spanish version of this song also is available: Doris Loida Espinoza (P.O. Box 388, Crystal City, TX 78839; Phone: 830-374-5452

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