

## God's Story

### I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 Baby Dedication 2nd Only: Michael & Kaitlin Loeschmig. Scarlet Hadassah.
  1. Airman 1st Class USAF. Hadassah (Hb, *myrtle*) Esther (Persian, *Star*).
- B. Slide3-6 Larry: Tonight Prayer. Women's. Men's. C@R.
- C. Slide7 Larry: Flyer Overview. Ch Vision Statement.
- D. Slide8-11 Andrew L: Our God is a Missionary God.

### II. Slide12,13 Intro: God's Story

- A. **4 Weeks:** *God's Story* (big picture). *Our Story* (CM looking back/forward). *Our Handles* (job for everyone). *The Future Story* (start w/the ending).
- B. Not all are called to be *sent*, **but** all are called to be *apart* of *the discipling of the nations*.
- C. *God has a world-sized role for every Christian in His global purpose.* Perspectives
- D. *We are a community of dreamers and doers who long to see Jesus worshiped in the Earth's darkest corners.* (Frontier Ventures, web site)
- E. Suppose there were **2 luxury liners** at sea, and **both began to sink at the same time**, with a large numbers of people on board who did not know how to swim. **Suppose you** were in charge of a team of **10 rescuers in 2 large boats**. You arrive on the scene of the first sinking ship and find yourself surrounded by hundreds of screaming people, some going down before your eyes, some fighting over scraps of debris, others ready to jump into the water from the sinking ship. **Several hundred yards farther away** the very same thing is happening to the people on the other ship. Your heart breaks for the dying people. **You long to save as many as you can**, so you cry out to your **2 crews** to give every ounce of energy to **pull as many as possible from the water**. Spare no pain! Spare no effort! There are **5 rescuers** in both boats and they are working with all their might. They are saving many. Then someone cries out from the other ship, **"Come help us!"**
  1. What would love do? I cannot think of any reason that love would leave its labor and go, if, in fact, it is fully engaged saving people right where it is. **Love** puts no higher value on **distant souls** than on **nearer souls**. **In fact, love**

might **well reason** that in the time it would take to row across the several hundred yards, a net loss of total souls saved would result. It might also reason that the **energy** of the rescuers would be depleted; which would possibly result in a smaller number of individuals being saved. Not only that, it may be that from experience you know that the people on that other boat were probably all drunk at this time in the evening and would be less likely to respond to your saving efforts. So **love**, by itself, may very well **refuse to leave** its present rescue operation. It may **stay** at its present work in order to **save as many individuals as possible**.

- a) The point of the illustration is simply to suggest that *love alone may not conceive the missionary task the way God does*.
- b) **God** may have in mind that the goal of *the rescue operation* should be a gathering of saved sinners from **every people** in the world (from both luxury liners), **even if** some of the *successful rescuers* must leave *a fruitful reached people* (or semi-reached people) **in order to labor in a** (possibly less fruitful) **unreached people**.

### III. Slide14 THE GREAT COMMISSION

A. He **did not** share with us *the Great Consideration*, **nor** *the Great Contemplation*. He gave us *The Great Commandment & The Great Commission*.

1. God gives direction assuming **participation, action, & obedience**.

#### B. Slide15a-d Definitions:

1. **Missio Dei** (*mission of God*) is about all that **God** does in the world.
2. **Mission** is about all that **God has called the church to do** in the world. *Think Mission statement [Love God Completely. Love People Authentically. Make Disciples Globally]*
3. **MissionAL** is about what the **church/churches** do to reach out **beyond themselves**. [*Outreach* is what the church does locally & domestically to share the gospel]
4. **MissionS** is about **crossing boundaries** (cultural, religious, ethnic, & geographical barriers) with the Gospel, to minister to those with limited/least access to it.

C. Slide16a In his book, *Commissioned: What Jesus Wants You to Know As You Go*, Marvin Newell gives *5 statements*, that were *5 commissions*, on *5 different occasions*, in *5 different places...each with its own emphasis*.

1. **John's** takes place rt after res, with the events taking place in **Mark**. **Matthew & Luke** come next. *Finally*, **Acts 1:8** takes place *40 days after res*, immediately before Ascension.

D. Slide16b **The 5 Statements:**

1. The Model: Jn.20:21 *as the Father sent Me*
2. The Magnitude: Mk 16:15 *go into all the world...to the whole creation.*
3. The Methodology: Mt.28:18-20 *make disciples of all the nations*
4. The Message: Lk.24:44-49 *repentance & forgiveness of sins*
5. The Means: Acts 1:8 *you will receive power...Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria.*

E. Let's go to Matthew's account.

#### IV. Slide17 **PANTA TA ETHNE**

A. Matthew 28:18-20 *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 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, 20 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.*

B. **Make disciples of *all the nations*** - we've *domesticated* the gospel to **make disciples**.

1. We've missed...*panta ta ethne* / πάντα τὰ ἔθνη / *of all the nations*.
2. **Nations** - don't think of our 194 or so *countries*, *geo-political countries* or *nation-states*...like China, Syria, Iraq, or Myanmar.
  - a) Think of *ethnic linguistic groupings*: Language groups, people groups, ethnic clusters. [eg. Kurdish people group: 30-45 million, w/no sov nation]
  - b) They have a distinct language & culture, *that makes the gospel difficult to spread naturally* from one to the other.

- C. Ok, so what is our commission/mandate? to make disciples of *all the nations, panta ta ethne*. It's not just about reaching **more people**, but **more peoples** (tribes, tongues, & nations).
- D. Slide18 Watch Video, *The State of The World*
- E. So, the Great Commission started in the NT? Well, for **the church** yes, but not *The Commission* itself...Let's go back to the beginning.
- F. Slide19a-e Gen.12:1-3 Now the Lord had said to Abram: Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. 2 I will (note: 4 *I will*, meaning God will do this) **make you a great nation** (or an *ethno* in LXX = a large distinct ethnic group); I will **bless you** And **make your name great** (& it is great/famous in *Islam, Judaism, Christianity*); And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will **bless those who bless you**, And I will **curse him who curses you**; And in you all the families (*panta ta ethane* in LXX) **of the earth shall be blessed**. [new concept: God not indiv seeking, but now seeks thru Ab]
1. 24 yrs later (in 17:5) he gets his name change from **Abram** (exalted father) to **Abraham** (father of a multitude).
  2. Keep in mind that this is the only thing that is **repeated 5 x's in Scripture**. I'm thinking it might be important. [12:1-3 Abram, 18:18 Abraham, 22:17,18 Abraham; 26:4 Isaac, 28:14 Jacob]
- G. Slide20a Right before Jesus gave *the Great Commission* He said, *All authority has been given unto Me in heaven & on earth*.
1. Ultimately, **WHY** do we at CM then seek to fulfill *the Great Commission*?
    - a) Well, *partially* because people have needs, *tremendous needs*...but that is **not why** we go. We go fundamentally because there is **no One, absolutely no One, as great as Jesus**. He is the **One, True, Almighty, & loving God**. Slide20b Who is worth **declaring**, worth **proclaiming**, worth **obeying**...we go because **Christ is Great!**