

OUR HANDLES

I. Announce:

- A. **Slide1-3 Baptism** (choose 1 class to attend). **Harvest Festival** (pray about volunteering, sign ups next Sun). **Walk for Freedom** (raise awareness & funds for **A21**, see details).
- B. 1st week, **God's Story**. Last week, **Our Story** (CM's missions history). This week **Our Handles**

II. Slide4 Intro: OUR HANDLES

- A. **Handles** - see these Greek olive oil jars behind me. No 1 person could fulfill the task of picking up these jars. It took many...thus the # of handles.
1. Thus our **big idea** this morning. To reach these 2 UPG's we **1st** & foremost need **God** to do it. **2nd**, we recognize He desires to do it **through us**.
- B. **Slide5 Kint-sugi** is a Japanese technique for repairing broken pottery with **seams of gold**. The word means **golden joinery** in Japanese. This repair work was done using a **lacquer or resin** that was sprinkled with powdered gold.
1. Kint-sugi artist believe that when broken pieces of pottery are glued back together, often with pure gold, **the result can be even more beautiful and valuable than the original**.
 2. **Maybe that's God's view of our world also**. Not saying God desired man to fall **...but** what He is able to do with **individual lives & even people groups**, **fixing, repairing, healing** with His **seams of gold** in our lives to make eternity **even more beautiful and valuable than the original**.
 3. **Slide6 Maybe Jesus sees more beauty in broken pottery** arranged into a mosaic?
 - a) Mosaic = a combination of **diverse elements** forming a more or less coherent **whole**.
 - b) Imagine each of these **tiles behind me** representing then the **11,751 people groups**.
- C. **Slide7 HANI** *recognized to be amongst the poorest people in Southeast Asia*
1. **Hani** are one of **56** officially recognize ethnic groups in China. Most of the Hani live in the **Yunnan province**. (they also live in **Tibet, VN, Myanmar, & Laos**)

2. **Slide8** The Hani are polytheists (many gods) & worship nature (animist), as well as the spirits of their ancestors. They have a **zuima** who directs religious activities. A **beima** performs exorcisms and magical rituals. The **nima** makes predictions and administers herbal medicine.
3. There are a few hundred Christians among the Hani but they are spread out & **do not have unorganized church**. Joshua project calls them *one of the most gospel-neglected of China's minorities*. The Bible has not yet been translated into the Hani language.

D. **Slide9 ROHINGYA** considered 100% muslim. *Recognized as the world's most persecuted minority & the largest stateless population in the world.*

1. **Slide10 Myanmar/Burma** is an extremely diverse nation w/**135** distinct ethnic groups officially recognize by Burma's government. The group these into **8** major national ethnic races. **Note: Ro are not even acknowledged on this map.**
2. The Ro have been denied **citizenship**. They have been denied **basic human rights** including: *their right to study, work, marry, have more than 2 children, practice their religion, and access health care.*
3. **Slide11** The Rohingya have lived in a very desperate situation due to an oppressive government in Myanmar/Burma, in the *Rakhine State*. Since 2017 around 700,000 had to flee their country & now live in *Coxs Bazar* on the coast of Bangladesh, as refugees.
4. **Whereas** the country of Myanmar *as a whole*, **infant mortality rate** is **35** deaths per 1,000 live births. The Ro rate is **224** deaths per 1000 live births. **(US is 5)**
5. Their ultimate need is *the gospel*. We have been helping with the very basic things like, *shelter, food, education, & medical care through Partners R&D.*
 - a) Now we seek to make a **strategic & concerted effort** into reaching the Rohingya with the saving gospel of Jesus Christ.

E. **Larry**: 4 main categories of *your unique role* in the UPG's great commission.

- F. **God Does Big Things with Small Deeds** by Max Lucado *Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin.* Zech.4:10 NLT
- G. **Begin. Just begin!** What seems small to you might be huge to someone else. Just ask **Bohn Fawkes**. During World War II, he piloted a B-17.
1. On one mission he sustained flak from Nazi anti-aircraft guns. Even though his gas tanks were hit, the plane did not explode, and Fawkes was able to land the plane. On the morning following the raid, Fawkes asked his crew chief for the German shell. He wanted to keep a souvenir of his incredible good fortune. The crew chief explained that not just **1** but **11** shells had been found in the gas tanks, none of which had exploded. Technicians opened the missiles and found them **void** of explosive charge. They were clean and harmless and with one exception, empty. The exception contained a carefully rolled piece of paper. On it a message had been scrawled in the Czech language. Translated, the note read: *"This is all we can do for you now."*
 2. A courageous assembly-line worker was disarming bombs and scribbled the note. He couldn't **end the war**, but he could **save one plane**. He couldn't do everything, but he could do something. So he did it.
 3. God does big things with small deeds. In contrast with sophisticated priests and powerful Roman rulers, a cross-suspended carpenter seemed nothing but a waste of life. Few Jewish leaders mourned his death. Only a handful of friends buried his body. The people turned their attention back to the temple. Why not? What power does a buried rabbi have? We know the answer. *Mustard-seed and leaven-lump power*. Power to tear away **death rags** and push away **death rocks**. Power to **change history**.
 4. In the hands of God, **small seeds** grow into **sheltering trees**. Tiny leaven expands into nourishing loaves. Small deeds can change the world. Sow the mustard seed. Bury the leaven lump. Make the call. Write the check. Organize the committee.