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Sharing the Message to Third World Countries

Sharing information with people in remote areas of third world countries is difficult. Getting them information about God is often even more difficult. Missionaries travel to these remote areas to share their beliefs to people that may not have any contact with religions outside their own villages. Missionaries give these countries so many things; they give love, faith, hope and protection. A missionary is a person whom is sent to another place to make a difference in others’ lives and their home. Some people share God’s word by physically going to that specific country and doing his work. Missionaries leave the safety of their home to sometimes go to dangerous places to help spread the gospel to other people in the world, “...the primary job of a missionary is to draw people closer to Jesus” (“Who are Christian Missionaries…”). It is oftentimes difficult for third world countries to know about Christianity. The best way to share the message of God with remote areas of third world countries is by meeting them where they are at.

Third World Countries are less developed nations and have a rampant growing poverty rate. Third world countries are determined by capitalist and communist countries, as very rich and very poor countries. Countries listed in the third world look at many different concepts, “First, Second, and Third World”, an article from the One World Nations, says, “...third world serves to identify countries that suffer from high infant mortality, low economic development, high levels of poverty, low utilization of natural resources, and heavy dependence on industrialized nations” (“First, Second, and Third World”). These countries include: countries of Africa, Asia, Oceania, and Latin America. The poverty rate is determined by how poor the countries people are and is a tremendous factor in how much exposure to outside ideas and beliefs these peoples are influenced by. For example, South Africa is the southernmost country in Africa and is a third world country with significantly low poverty rates and rural isolated areas of people groups or tribes. This is one of the highlighted areas of interest for Missionaries due to this isolation and extreme poverty.

Most of the continent of South Africa consider themselves to be Christians. Traditional religions in Africa are based on the oral traditions and vary greatly from one village to the next. Oral traditions are the basic way Africans do things based on the traditions of generations before. “Religions in South Africa” says that the government of the country has been encouraging the religion of Christianity for that century. It tells us that, “80 percent of all South Africans consider themselves Christian” (“Religions in South Africa...”). Christianity has been on the rise in South Africa. The Media Club South Africa says, “In terms of population groups, Christianity is most common among white and coloured South Africans, being the faith of 86.8% of the people in both groups” (Young). There is also a wide spread of other religions, such as; Hinduism, Islam and Buddhism.

South Africa is in need of many things. The third world country has high unemployment concerns, “... South African labor laws are drastically below international standards” (Roberts and Walsh). It is in need of a better economic stability and freedom. When individuals lack hope for their future, this eliminated the drive to move forward personally and within a community. Missionaries offer not just the hope that comes through Jesus Christ, they teach life skills that help the individuals make a better community. Safe housing is a big necessity in the southern country. Many missionary groups start their interactions with a village by helping build a community building or school house.

Through meeting the needs of the village, they show God’s love and the need to work as a community towards a common goal for the community. It is estimated that sixty-six percent of the population has no access to electricity. There are many people in South America who need to live in safer environments. Lindela Figlan, a housing campaigner, talks about her way of living in South Africa, “...millions like me live in informal settlements without toilets, water or electricity – never mind decent shelter” (Figlan). There is still a need for homes in the country. There are still so many people and families who still do not have a home with running water, “About 7,5-million people in South Africa still have to be provided with adequate housing…,” (Streek). South Africa, along with many other countries, are needing many things and missionaries could help with that.

Many missionaries go to third world countries, such as South Africa, to help the people there. They can help by teaching them ways to make their life easier. Missionaries help build churches, houses, and even sometimes teach the people about agriculture and grow their own things, “...some go on short trips to build houses and teach children…,” (“Who are Christian Missionaries…”). It is always important to help others and going to third world countries is a great opportunity to not only help them physically, but also help them with their faith. Even traditional study of phycology admits that the basic needs of an individual have to be met first before other needs such as social and spiritual. The saying that goes, “give a man a fish, feed him for the day. Teach a man to fish, feed him for a lifetime”, really does echo the ideas behind missionary work in more than just spiritual terms.

Missionaries bring many important elements to third world countries when they visit. They bring hope, love, safety, and most importantly, they bring their faith. They are very brave and courageous, because missionaries are many times at risk for being injured or even killed for trying to spread God’s word, “...they strive to not fear those who can kill their own body when the souls of others are at risk” (“Who are Christian Missionaries…”). They risk their lives everyday to help the world to be a better and healthier place.

Even in places that are not third world countries, missionaries fight to stay alive and teach the Word of God every day. Missionaries have been jailed, tortured, beheaded, and even their bodies placed in public view as a warning to others that dare teach about spiritual ideas outside the sanctioned belief system of that country. Every time the news is on, another report about Christian persecution can be found in a headline. Most of the focus now is in the Middle East, but places like China and other parts of Asia have been putting Christians to death for centuries. Missionaries see their mission as one from God and thus the fear is replaced with faith every time they walk through a town or village with the Word of God in their hands.

Many people do not see the point in physically going to the country to do God’s work. They often wonder why missionaries cannot just send the money to the country and then leave them be. However, they are wrong, Gary Dose, a leader for missionaries for twenty-five years, says, “Those that believe God’s money would be better used by sending it to the field are missing a huge part of what God’s instructions to us are” (Dose). Matthew 28: 19-20 talks about God’s great commission, “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, and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (The Holy Bible...). God tells us that the way to teach people about Him is to go there. Missionaries are very important and third world countries are in need of help, which they can provide.

The hope that comes through God drives missionaries to spread this Good News to every part of the world. It is not a human idea, but a commision given to the Church of God to do and with that commision, love, hope, peace, faith, and perseverance are all part of the package. It seems hard for people to understand why an individual would put their life on the line for a belief, however, this is exactly what missionaries, like Gary Dose, do. He states, “How do teens learn to serve, teach, encourage, lead, and show mercy if not by practicing in the field alongside others that may disciple them” (Dose). Gary knows that leading by example teaches more than any other method and that is why he takes groups of teens all over the world. He believes that missionary work is the best way to reach people for Christ. South Africa is the perfect example of third world countries that are in need of help and are in need of missionaries to show them that the world does care about them. We did not just forget about their country. They help make the world better and healthier.

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