**NEIGHBORS AND NATIONS- PART 4**

The days of being a passive Christian need to come to an end.

* We are called to be active agents of the Kingdom living out our assignment.

**There is a lot happening on the World’s Stage**.

Leaders of nations who have consistently **opposed Christianity** and **hated Israel** are aligning themselves in a position for world dominance.

The Last Days are Upon Us, and we must **Awaken to Our Assignment**.

Romans 13:11-12 NET And do this because we **know the time**, that it is **already the hour** for us to **awake from sleep**, for our **salvation is now nearer** than when we became believers. 12 The night has advanced toward dawn; the day is near. So then we must lay aside the works of darkness, and put on the **weapons of light**. **WEAPONS OF LIGHT!**

* In Scripture the “***night”*** is a metaphor for the time of darkness or sin and the “***day”*** is “the day of the Lord,” symbolizingjudgment for the enemies of God and vindication for the saints.

* “***Light***” in scripture almost always represents **truth**. To share the light is to bring the truth into **dark places**.

Christians are soldiers in a conflict who need to be alert and equipped for battle because God has called us to go into dark places… not to succumb to the darkness but to win the battle for souls, by fighting FOR them with **the weapons of light!**

* This message to us is one of URGENCY! **THE HOUR IS HERE!**

* The end of the age is fast approaching when good will triumph over evil once and for all.

* God’s people must wake up and begin to live accordingly.

* There is only one way to prepare for that day.

1 Corinthians 15:58 NIV Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. **Always** **give yourselves** **fully to the work of the Lord**…  because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

* Stand firm.
* Let nothing move you.
* Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord.

**The Signs of His Coming and the End of the Age:**the nations will rage against one another. And Christ followers will be hated by many of them because of his name.

Matthew 24:3-14 NET “… And what will be the **sign of your coming** and of **the end of the age**?” **4**Jesus answered them, “Watch out that no one misleads you. **5**For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will mislead many. **6**You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. **Make sure that you are not alarmed**, for this must happen, but the end is still to come. **7**For **nation** will rise up in arms **against nation**, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. **8**All these things are the beginning of birth pains. (60,000+ people died in Turkey) **9**“Then they will hand you over to be persecuted and will kill you. You will be hated by all the **nations** because of my name. **10**Then many will be led into sin, and they will betray one another and hate one another. **11**And many false prophets will appear and deceive many, **12**and **because lawlessness will increase so much**, the **love of many will grow cold**. **13**But the person who endures to the end will be saved, **14**And this gospel of the kingdom **will be preached** throughout the whole **inhabited** earth as a testimony to **all the nations**, and then the end will come.

Jesus loves the nations! Even the nations that hate his disciples!

Why does Jesus love the nations?

* Because the nations are inhabited with people. **Lost people** who are **loved by God**. **Lost people** who have **NO IDEA** that a loving God exist and that they are **LOVED by HIM!**

* Our last days assignment is to bring the **LIGHT** of this good news to **DARK** places of the Nations.

**IN Luke 24,** the disciples have discovered the empty tomb. Jesus has appeared to 2 of his followers on the Road to Emmaus and they went straight to the 11 disciples who were in hiding and told them all about it.

**Luke 24:36-48** NLT And just as they were telling about it, **Jesus himself was suddenly standing there among them**! “Peace be with you,” he said. **37**the whole group was startled and frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost!

 vv. 38-42 He shows them his hands and feet, and even eats a piece of broiled fish. **Freaked out but filled with joy!**

**44**Then he said, “When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled.” **45**Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. **46**And he said, “Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. **47 It was also written that this message would be proclaimed** in **the authority of his name** to **all the nations**, beginning in Jerusalem: ‘There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.’ **48 You are witnesses** of all these things…

This is **Luke’s version** of the Great Commission!

**Matthews Version**: Mt. 28:19,20 NIV Go therefore and make disciples of **all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20**teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, **I am with you always, to the end of the age**.”

Note: it is obvious that Jesus was **not just giving the 11 disciples** this assignment because **he speaks about being with us to the end of the age**. They would not be going until the end of the age, but many **go-ers** would be **go-ing** to the nations all the way until the end of the age!

*This is why I say the Great Commission is Our Mission*

The Great Commission is a Shared Mission --- *it is our Co-Mission.  This is the work of the Lord.*

Jesus clearly understood **His Mission** on the earth.

* **At age 12** when his parents lost him for 3 days… when they found him in the temple courts, “*do you realize what you have don’t to us?!”*

* The 12 year old Jesus answered, why are you worried, *didn’t you realize I must be at my Father’s business!*

* **21 years later**, before he breathes his last breath Jesus says, ***IT IS FINISHED!***

* These two statements serve like bookends to a **completed mission**.

His mission has now become your mission.

* Look at John’s version of Luke 24: John 20:19-20 NLT That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” he said. **20**As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! **21**Again he said, “Peace be with you. **As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you**.”

* The English word “*Mission”*comes from the Latin word for *“Sent”*.

* We have been called to a **Co-Mission**.  **WE MUST BE ABOUT OUR FATHER’S BUSINESS!** We are his sent ones!

Your mission is not a burden it is a privilege.

* 2 Corinthians 5:17,18 LIV When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun! All these new things are from God who brought us back to himself through what Christ Jesus did. And God has given us the **privilege** of urging everyone to come into his favor and **be reconciled to him**.

Your mission is what gives your life the greatest meaning.

* If we fail at fulfilling our God-given mission on earth, we will have wasted the life God gave us.

* Acts 20:24 MSG But **my life is worth nothing** to me **unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me** by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.

God’s timetable for the conclusion of this age is connected to the completion of our co-mission.

* Just before His ascension the disciples asked Jesus again, about the end of the world and the new age.

Acts 1:6-9 NLT So when the apostles were with Jesus, **they kept asking him**, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?” **7**He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and **they are not for you to know**. **8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in **Jerusalem**, throughout **Judea**, in **Samaria**, and to the **ends of the earth**.” **9**After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him.

* When the apostles kept asking him about prophecy and Jesus changed the subject to the mission!

* We have so many end time experts trying to figure it out the signs… while our mission gets ignored!

**CL Last Days Vision** – Unreached People Groups.

Global Summary: The Joshua Project

* 17,435 People Groups in the World.
* 7,424 Unreached.
* 42.6 % of the people groups in the world are unreached.

Current Population: 7.93 billion people

Population of unreached: 3.37 billion

% of unreached 42.5%

Progress Map

The Greatest Concentration of Unreached People Groups live in the 10/40 Window

* For over 25 years we have been working with **Rick Zachary** in India, Nepal, Shri Lanka and Pakistan.

* **Lisa Green** is running a counseling center for missionary families out of southern Turkey.

Recently we have been led by the Spirit into a co-mission with Younoussa Djao and New Generations to concentrate on the unreached people groups in West Africa. Younoussa is a converted Muslim and most of our work with him is among Muslims in West Africa.

* There missions strategy is based on Luke 10. Jesus sent out his disciples and told them to enter a village and find a person of peace. Stay with them and share the gospel to that family.

* When they find a person of peace they begin with Discovery Bible Studies. They share the good new through the bible stories and begin discipling the converts.

Younoussa and the wonderful team of New Generation is raising up nationals among the people groups who are ready to go from village to village making disciples.

We are positioned ourselves to be Co-missionaries helping partnering with them in our Co-mission.

Romans 10:13-15 NIV “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” **14**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? **15**And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

We have invested 100,000 dollars the Wolof of Casamance, Senegal – Get me the map that shows Senegal, Casamance, and the Gambia.

Now I want to introduce a New Unreached People Group called the: Melinke Jula

Who are they? The name jula means "itinerant trader," and the Jula (AKA, Dyula) people are still well respected for their trading abilities. The trading posts established by the Jula for hundreds of years eventually morphed into market villages and cities. They have left their mark on West African history and economy.

Today most live along the trade routes of West Africa. Jula clans have settled in Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, and Mali.

How many are there? 4.4 million

What about religion? 80% Sunni Muslim, 20% are Animalistic Idol worshipers.

What are their needs? The complete Bible has been translated into the Jula language. There is a need for more workers to take Bibles and bring the good news in culturally appropriate ways.

What can you do? What is your part in reaching the nations?

Some are Go-ers.

Prayers

* Pray for Workers -  Luke 10:2 NIV He 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.

* Pray for Open Doors - Colossians 4:3And pray for us, too, that God **may open a door for our message**, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. **4**Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

* For some of you, your mission is finance!

* Think of Access Ministries. (wells; agricultural resources; medical help)
* Accessing the villages with Bicycles and Motorcycles for the missionaries.
* Bibles in print and the creation of Audio Bibles for those who cannot read.

* We are committing 25,000 per year into the Co-mission with New Generations for the next 4 years. 100,000 dollars.

* Nations within nations or people groups with nations: Many ethnic people have settled here as refuges. Now with an open southern border there will be more and more opportunities to reach people groups. Last year we had an opportunity to help a Kurdish family who was going to abort… they saved her baby because we helped provide for the expenses.

* In this church there Columbians, Philippinos, Venezuelans, Costa Ricans, people from Puerto Rico and the Dominican. People from different parts Africa. These are your people groups…

* Add the people groups within your people group. These are people who have the same interest or speak the same language as you: military, truck drivers, medical people, athletes, musicians, computer techies, college students.