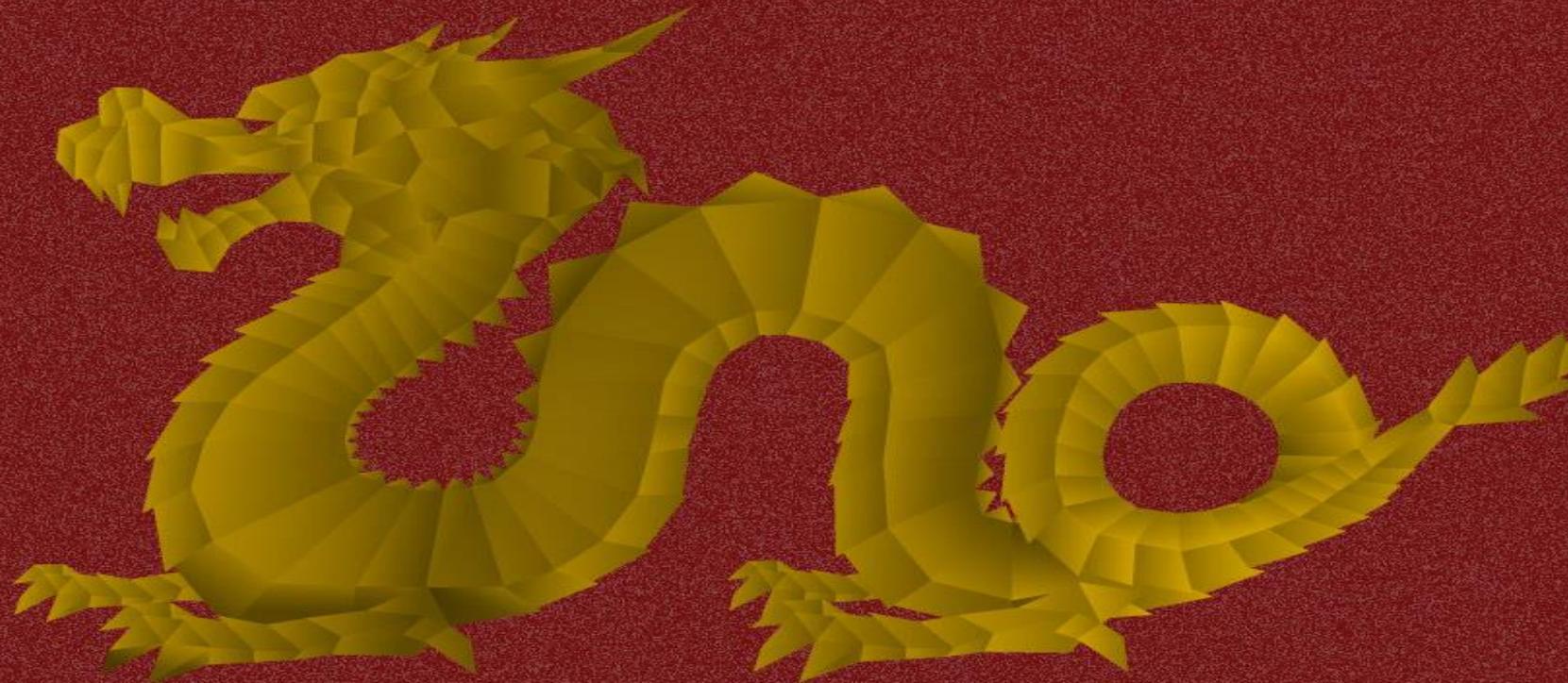




Medium- and Long-Term Missions



Week 7 Preview

The Gospel in Cultural Context

- Week 4: Communicate via stories
 - What is God's story? (may use [C2C](#) or [answersingenesis](#))
 - What is your story? (personal testimony)
- Week 5: Cross-Cultural Communication
(Building relationships)
- Week 6: - Communicating the Gospel
- Short-term missions
- Week 7: Longer-term missions

Purpose?
Discover
your role
in missions

- Mobilize
- Pray
- Send
- Welcome
- Go



Week 7 Discussion Questions

Get in groups of 2-3 discuss the following (Define short-term: 1 week – 1 month; medium term: 5 weeks – 2 years; long-term >2 years)

1. What difference in attitude/mindset would a missionary have for
 - a. Short-term versus medium-term?
 - b. Medium-term versus long-term?
2. What are valid reason for going on Short-term, Medium-term, Long-term missions?
3. What are bad/invalid reasons?
4. Any other reason a person should **not** go on Short, Medium or Long-term missions?



Medium-Term Missions

- Who should consider going? (HS? College? Older? Retired?)
- Examples of medium-term missions
 - Take year/semester off “gap” in/before/after college
(in addition to the missions focus may be related to major/interests such as language, sports, teaching, tutoring, etc.)
 - Junior year/semester abroad, internship,...
 - Take rotation in medical or other program (especially Christian programs)
 - Transfer for job for limited period or if you can work remotely
 - Teaching English for 6-8 weeks in Summer (e.g. in China)
- Full-time or part-time?



Medium-Term Missions

- Advantages of medium-term missions
 - Build long-term relationships with locals (and missionaries)
 - Learn the language and culture better than short-term
 - Provide more value to locals/long-term missionaries (and less disruptive for long-term missionaries)
 - May have less funding concerns than for long-term missions
 - Missions board requirements may be easier to meet
 - Other?



Long-Term/Career Missions

- Who should consider going?
- Who should **not** go?
- “Platforms” for long-term missions
 - Full-time Christian worker* – i.e. church pastor, worship leader, admin
 - Seminary professor*
 - Humanitarian worker – doctor/dentist/nurse, other medical, aid distribution,...
 - Teacher at any level (K-12, college, evenings, tutor)
 - English, children, subject matter expert
 - Student (of language or other subject)
 - Business professional or entrepreneur
 - Consultant / Trainer
 - Transfer to overseas office

* Not allowed in some countries (e.g. China, India, Muslim countries ...)



Long-Term/Career Missions

- Advantages of long-term missions
 - Build deep and long-term relationships with locals
 - Demonstrate a true caring attitude and commitment to the people there
 - Learn intricacies of working the “system”
 - Learn the language and culture
 - Can sponsor short and medium-term missionaries
 - Some missions objectives require a long-term commitment (e.g. translating the Bible in the local language)
 - Other?



Long-Term/Career Missions

- Other considerations
 - Family
 - Spouse and children
 - Education for children (e.g. learning difficulties? Special programs? Home-school?)
 - Parents, others (long-term separation)
 - Health (own and family's)
 - Returning to U.S.
 - Not as easy as you may think
 - Especially hard for children raised in other culture (where do they belong? Fit in? Reverse culture shock may be too much.)



Missions Agencies

- Benefits of partnering with missions agency
(Similar for Medium-term/Long-term)
 - Godly advice and council
 - Screening and placement
 - Orientation and training (initial and ongoing)
 - Field support for missions and platform (local team?, remote support,...)
- Make sure it's a good fit
 - Theology – like-minded
 - Philosophy of missions
 - Resources – health insurance, materials, logistics support

Go to Missions Fest Seattle in October!



Funding Medium and Long-Term Missions

- Self-funded
- Supporters
 - Individuals
 - Churches
- Missions Agency (beyond your supporters)
- Working overseas
- Combination of above
- Consider health insurance and retirement (for long-term/career)



Week 7 Panel Discussion

Five who have been on medium or long-term missionaries (Doug and Margi Nichols, Jerry and Elsie Lee, Gail Longbotham)

- First, introduce yourself along with – where/when you were a missionary.
- What platform(s) did you use while a missionary?
- What support did you receive from your missions agency and other support?
- What unexpected difficulties did you experience?
- Were you serving as part of a team? If so, tell us about the team experience?
- If not, how did you maintain your spiritual vitality?
- If you raised children while on the missions field, what were some of the joys and difficulties of that?
- How was maintaining a home difficult/different?
- Who would you recommend consider med or long-term service?



Week 7 Panel Discussion

Five who have been on medium or long-term missionaries (Doug and Margi Nichols, Jerry and Elsie Lee, Gail Longbotham)

Further questions:

- Describe (and compare) how the missions agencies you were with worked
- What advice would you give to someone (considering) going on the missions field for the first time?
- Would you do anything different regarding raising a family on the missions field?
- What problems did you observe for short- medium- or long-term missionaries and how could those be avoided?

