

WORKERS OF THE ELEVENTH HOUR – Part III

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The social condition will make difference in respond to the message

Luke 14: 16-24

Land of prosperity: An alarming number of churches in America are either shrinking or stagnant. Every week, scores of congregations close their doors

- 95% of the American churches have less than 100 people in the weekly services.
- 80% stop growing or are in decline
- 3.500 a 4.000 churches close down each year
- 1.500 pastors leave ministry.
- 80% percent of the North American Christians do not tithe

An alarming explosion of churches in South America, Africa and Asia. Every week, hundreds of new congregations are establishing in every city.

- ❖ Korea: 4402 missionaries serving in 138 countries around the world
- ❖ Philippines: 600 units serve outside the country and 2000 cross-cultural
- ❖ Singapore: 400 workers serving as career missionaries.
- ❖ Latin America: More than 4000 working through 284 mission agencies in 86 nations
- ❖ Brazil: Explosion of evangelical population. On average of 4000 new churches every year.
- ❖ Argentina and Colombia are experiencing a tremendous spiritual revival in Christian churches as ever seen before
- ❖ Africans responding in millions in evangelical crusades – Supernatural healing and deliverance

JESUS IS COMING

Our Lord's return will be on hold unless the message is proclaimed

“And this gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world as testimony for all nations, and the end will come.” Matt. 24: 14

Technology will be the main factor for it.

- Computers, Internet, Printers, transportation, Satellite, TV,

THE BIBLE: The most printed book in the world

2005 – 4 billions (since the Bible were printed) 550 years (Vulgate, Gutenberg) end of 1950 2 billions.

2285 language – Whole and part available.

Wycliffe Bible Translators (570 new testament – working 1200 new languages)
Scripture distribution in 2004: 3,307,136

Between 1990 and 1999, the Bible or part of the Bible was published in 246 languages for the first time.

LITERATURE – (SGM, The Bible League, The Gideon's, Pocket Testament League, etc) –

- Every home for Christ has systematically distributed 2 billions multi-page gospel messages globally, each with a decision card, in language spoken by 95% of the world's population.
- Illiterate people are reached with audio message and the blind are provided message prepared in Braille.

JESUS MOVIE

- 300 languages, spoken by more than 1 billion people would have access to it

AUDIO MINISTRIES

- Global Recordings Network More – 1997 GRN succeeded in preparing a gospel message in their 5000th language.

RADIO

- Justin Long (Global Evangelization Movement) “Around 3 million people come to faith in Christ as a result of radio and TV broadcasting.
- Over 99.5% of the world’s population would have the potential to hear the gospel in a language they could understand.

SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS

- More than 40 million people are hearing the gospel in India through a satellite TV.
- Poverty is no longer necessarily a major factor in accessing high technology communications.

CHINA:

- ❖ Every village in China, will have access to Internet.
- ❖ 9 million bibles in the country in the past 2 years. The government is printing Bible in China. Never after the communist regime in China has such freedom for Christians.

URBAN POPULATION – TRAINING FOR ETERNITY

God loves people / Jonah and the Ninivites

While Jonah was expecting their doom, God was expecting salvation for the city

“” But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?” “It is,” he said. “And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.” ¹⁰ But the LORD said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹ And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?” Jonah 4: 9-11

God started with a family in the garden and will end with a city in the new earth He had made

**“Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.”
Revelation 19: 7**

a) Who is the Bride?

- *Rev. 21: 9 – One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.”*

The Bride is a city:

- *Rev. 21: 10 – And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God*

A city expected by the Old Testament saints:

- *(Hebrews 11: 8-10-13-16 “By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹ By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.... All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. ¹⁴ People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.”*

The city of God and his people

- *Hebrews 12: 22-23 “But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect.”*

b) The purpose of the city

- *Rev. 21: 2-4 “I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now*

among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death'^[b] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Note: The Church and Christ are compared in Scriptures as a marriage relationship

- *"I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him II Co. 11: 2*
- *"Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing^[b] her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. Ephesians 5: 24-27*

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