

The Mission Field at a Campus Near You

Text: Acts 2:5-11

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Intro: The Day of Pentecost was an amazing day. People were gathered from “every nation under heaven,” Luke records. They all heard the message in their same language through the Spirit’s gift of tongues. They were all temporarily in one place. It was clearly a special Providential arrangement made by God to have the events take place: a common language, a common location and common circumstances all so the message of the gospel could be proclaimed to them.

“Lord Send the Old Time Power, that Pentecostal Power” I think we all long for the Pentecostal opportunity, where we see the clear and evident moving of God’s providence alongside of the mighty work of His Holy Spirit in the opportunities for proclaiming the gospel, in the boldness given to the messengers proclaiming the gospel and in the turning of numbers of people to Christ. Do you think this opportunity could be repeated today?

Though the initial sending of the Spirit to establish the NT church was a one-time occurrence, the type of opportunity that the first church of Jerusalem had there at Pentecost is repeating itself in cities across America. In the USA, there are gathered over 605,000 of the world’s best, brightest and most privileged students from over 188 countries within minutes of our local churches.

You have heard a lot about the 10/40 Window, that area from West Africa to East Asia between 10 degrees and 40 degrees latitude north of the equator. We have adopted people groups, set up business fronts, encouraged tentmaking where missionaries are not allowed, spent time teaching English and trying to establish relationships on the sly. Over 60% of the international students in the USA are from these least evangelized counties of the world (ISI). Never in the history of the Church has a generation of Christians had a greater opportunity to reach the world than we have today!

Such a universal gathering of people has seldom occurred in the history of the church. When it comes to missions, most of you, like my family growing up in Muncie, IN, enjoy missions conferences, we enjoy hosting missionary families, hearing of their work. We are enthusiastic about participating in the labors of our missionaries through the agonizing work of prayer. This is very good and necessary work. But, we see ourselves as the ‘uncalled’ you might say. The average Joe and Jane family who will work through prayer and who will give sacrificially.

I. The Statistics Scream “We’re Here!”

A. There is a great diversity of countries and continents represented

1. Top twenty countries with the most students studying in the US Source:
www.opendoors.iienetwork.org

1. India	83,800
2. China	67,700
3. S. Korea	62,400
4. Japan	35,300

5. Taiwan	29,000
6. Canada	28,200
7. Mexico	13,800
8. Turkey	11,500
9. Thailand	8,900
10. Germany	8,700
11. UK	8,400
12. Saudi Arabia	7,900 (over 100 % increase from the previous year)
13. Nepal	7,800
14. Hong Kong	7,700
15. Indonesia	7,300
16. Brazil	7,100
17. Colombia	6,800
18. France	6,700
19. Kenya	6,600
20. Vietnam	6,000

2. Continental Distribution

1. 15% from Europe
2. 11% from Latin America
3. 7 % from the Middle East
4. 6 % from North America or the Islands
5. 5% from Africa
6. 56% from Asia

B. The Students are spread throughout the United States

1. Top Ten States

1. California: 78,000
2. New York: 65,900
3. Texas: 49,100
4. Mass: 28,700
5. Florida: 26,900
6. Illinois: 25,600
7. Penn: 23,200
8. Michigan: 21,150
9. Ohio: 18,600
10. Indiana: 14,500

Michigan Schools:

- a. U of M: @5500 international students
- b. MSU: @4000
- c. Wayne State: @3500
- d. Eastern: @1000
- e. Oakland Community College: @600
- f. Walsh College, Troy: @150

Note: Not to mention that these internationals have pumped \$471 million from outside of the US into our Michigan economy!

C. There are extremely strategic opportunities represented

1. The representation from the 10/40 window

- The area of greatest population density, the most unreached people groups, the greatest pockets of poverty, and the least evangelized countries
- 706 Million Muslims, 717 Million Hindus, 153 Million Buddhists
 - *Nearly 2/3 of the international students in the US are from the 10/40 Window! This means, with 600,000 IS's in the US, We have nearly 400,000 students from the least evangelized areas!*

2. There is significant representation from certain unevangelized areas: Some segments of that China

- David Aikman, *Time* reporter said "There are some 40,000 students and scholars from China alone on US campuses, just one phone call away from an invitation to your church picnic, friendship, then the Gospel itself . . ." This figure was reported in Time magazine in 1992. [now 68,000]

Muslim Nations

- 100,000 Indian or Pakistani
- 30,000 Arabs, Turks, and Jews
- 25,000 Malaysian or Indonesian
- *The Gospel for Islam*, David Philip estimates there are 75,000 students from a Muslim background. In 2007, there were well over 100,000 students from a Muslim background

3. Many of the leaders from these places are getting their education in the United States

II. The Opportunities Scream "Just Be a Normal Person or Family" It doesn't take a secret agent!

Do you need a Pith helmet? A green beret? A PhD? No. You need a heart for the nations, a global vision, a commitment to the Great Commission, a quiet moment when you can hear the scream of the opportunity. You need God's equipment.

ILL: We have average people involved with some of the world leaders. One Cameroonian man in the asylum process has a PhD in Mathematics from the University of Paris, was the head of the Mathematics department at the University in their capital and had 300 faculty members under him.

A. God's Equipment

1. A Commission

2. A Heart for the Nations

3. A Global Vision

4. Awareness of the Problems: Fear and Busyness

- a. Language Barriers
- b. Fear 2 Tim 1:7
- c. Beware the Barrenness of a Busy Life

5. Equipment for the task

B. Practical Opportunities (Courtesy of Ben Edwards, director of Urban Ministry and Campus Bible Fellowship at Wayne State University).

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