



HIS
Story
CONTINUES

Virtual Missions Conference Workbook

2021



HIS
story
CONTINUES

Schedule: Eastern Standard Time

Friday, February 19

- 7:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. – Missionary Meetup
- 8:00 p.m.–9:30 p.m. – Opening Session: Lloyd Kim

Saturday, February 20

- 9:30 a.m.–9:55 a.m. – Morning Tea & Prayer
- 10:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m. – Stories of Missions 1
- 10:30 a.m.–11:00 a.m. – Stories of Missions 2
- 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. – Main Session:
Victor Nakah & Cartee Bales
- 12:05 p.m.–2:00 p.m. – Missionary Meetup
- 12:30 p.m.–1:30 p.m. – Breakouts 1
- 2:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m. – Breakouts 2
- 2:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m. – Breakouts 3
- 3:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m. – Closing Session:
David Stoddard

It Really Is Good News

Tina Shim, Cambodia

In the weeks leading up to our first Easter in Cambodia, I was blessed and humbled by opportunities we had to share the good news. My husband, Albert, had a non-Christian Cambodian tutor. They met twice a week, and he had very recently started coming with us to one of our Cambodian church plants. What started out as Albert and his tutor practicing the Khmer language turned into Albert sharing the gospel using broken Khmer and lots of picture drawings and hand gestures. During bath time the following week, our daughters Allison and Natalie started asking questions about Easter, and our nightly routine turned into me sharing the gospel with them again, complete with bath toys helping to demonstrate key points.

After being a part of both gospel accounts, it hit me again: It really is good news, the best kind of news, shout it from the mountain-top news, move to Cambodia news, talk to your friends news, and drop to your knees in humble thanksgiving kind of news!

This led me to repent for the many times I've taken my salvation for granted. For the times it has felt like old news to me, just another given, merely one part of the background of my life. And for the times that I assumed (maybe even hoped?) that someone more competent, more educated, or more gifted in evangelism would share the good news with people in my life. It is good because it isn't just news; it is new life that is breathed into our dead selves!

Seeing my kids' eyes go wide with shock at the idea that we could never be with God if we remained in sin, with sadness at the

fact that Jesus had to die even though He had no sin, and then with joy at the truth that through Christ we could be with God ... well, it touched me deeply. And I can still hear Albert sharing with his tutor about the distance between us and a holy God—both he and his tutor kept repeating “aht ban” (you can't) and “aht mee-un plow” (there is no way [to bridge the gap]). The gravity of our “before” situation only makes the joy of the “after” so much greater!

This good news holds the promise of such powerful, healing joy. I hold on to this hope and continue to pray for boldness daily, as we live among people who are 98% Buddhist and without much hope of their own. I pray that this kind of healing and joy would be evident in my life and in the lives of those we came to serve.

Take a moment to reflect.

List three occasions in your life when the reality of the good news about Jesus hit you in a fresh way.

Are there people in your life who you want to tell about Jesus but don't have the courage? List at least three names, pray for their salvation and for an opportunity to share about the hope you have in Jesus.

There are billions of people, much like the Khmer in Cambodia, with little or no access to the gospel. What are three things you can do in 2021 to help ensure they get to hear this wonderful news? Be specific.

Here are some ideas: Pray. Send. Go. Mobilize. Give. And mentor.

NOTES

A large grid of small dots for taking notes, consisting of 20 columns and 30 rows.

Cultures Declare the Glory of God

Kris Lundgaard, Slovakia

Have you ever wondered why there are so many different cultures in the world (or even just in the U.S.)? So many languages, so many styles of architecture, so many cuisines, so many different ways to do the same everyday tasks of life? I imagine the diversity of cultures is another instance of the dizzying variety in creation. It's as if creation, being limited, in order to reflect the glory of its Creator, must be incalculably manifold. That is, a single culture, or a single species or a single mountain or a single galaxy, no matter how complex or beautiful in itself, could never say enough about God.

Each created thing has its voice (Psalm 19:1–6), but a vast choir is needed to sing and shout the variegated glory of God (Revelation 4–5). With this perspective, I like to puzzle out what cultures have to say about God. In Slovakia, time-worn traditions always reenact fresh facets of the gospel to each new generation.

Consider a rich picture from our first Slovak wedding. The wedding and its feast are like a dance: a choreographed representation of many things about married life. They include symbols and rituals that remind each generation of the heritage being passed to them. They are filled with food and drink to embody the delight of the marriage. Weddings and their feasts and customs always say something about the ultimate wedding feast of the Lamb and His Bride. A traditional Slovak wedding also includes some

drama: The bride is kidnapped by friends of the groom and carried off. When they have her hidden away (usually in a nearby pub), someone informs the groom that she's missing, and he must find and ransom her. Behind this bit of fun lies the story of our truly heroic Bridegroom, the one who “came to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10).

I admit that few of the revelers that night were thinking about Jesus' rescue mission. Still, cultures cannot help but retell the gospel in various ways—it's embedded in creation, and culture is part of creation. Listen to your own culture.

What is it telling you about God?

Take a moment to reflect.

How does your culture point to our amazing Creator?

How can these aspects of your culture become a bridge to telling others about Jesus?

We know every culture will hear the gospel and every culture will have representatives in heaven who are part of God's family (Rev. 7:9).

What does this say about our God? Write a prayer of thanksgiving to Him for this good news.

NOTES

A large grid of dotted lines for taking notes, consisting of 20 columns and 30 rows of dots.

Reflection Questions

This past year has been a difficult time for the world. What have you learned from this conference about how God is bringing redemption in the midst of very real challenges and suffering?

Has this conference made you more mindful of God's love for the whole world? List some nations and people that you know more about at the conclusion of this conference. Will you commit to pray for these people and places?

Are you being stirred to serve as a missionary?
To support a missionary through prayer or giving?

Are there any takeaways that could impact your life beyond today?



HIS
story
CONTINUES

REFLECTIONS

A large grid of dots for writing reflections, consisting of 20 columns and 30 rows of small, evenly spaced dots.

NOTES

A grid of 20 columns and 30 rows of small dots, intended for taking notes.



HIS
Story
CONTINUES

mtw[®]
Mission to the World
mtw.org