

MISSION MODELS IN CONTEXT



THE GREAT UNLEARNING

CULTURAL MAPS

- Our Christian (Churched) culture works like a giant street map.
 - It gives us the boundaries
 - What is Christian?
 - What isn't Christian?
- It identifies our values
 - Monuments
 - Memorials
 - Symbols of who we are
- It tells us how to navigate. How to get from point A to point B.

CULTURAL MAPS

- When the map closely matches our reality it provides psychological reinforcement. That gives us the security we need to take the next step, or drive the next mile.

CULTURAL MAPS

- We are trying to navigate in a non-churched culture with a churched map.
 - Like trying to drive in San Francisco with a map of Chicago.
 - Most of the time we are frustrated because the reality we experience does not line up with the expectation created by the map.
 - The problem is, every once in while it does match up and so we convince ourselves that we actually have the correct map.

CULTURAL MAPS

- Missionaries will tell you that much of their first year on the field is frustrating. Why?
- Because they are trying to drive in the new language and culture with the map of their old language and culture.
- Eventually they learn that they need to remap, that is, draw a cultural map that matches the world in which they live.
- As they start remapping, they learn that God has given them the capacity to remap.
- But they need help from the locals.
- They also learn that the most difficult aspect of learning the new language and culture is unlearning the old.
- They also learn that they will never unlearn it completely

CULTURAL MAPS

- Our vision, strategies, and implementation of Christ's mission are built on a churched society map. Lot's of churches are frustrated because that map doesn't get them where they want to go in Christ's mission.
- To be effective missionaries in our present context:
 - We are in for a time of great remapping.
 - We are also in for a time of great unlearning

CULTURAL MAPS

- What roles can the MACs play in our regions to assist our pastors, leaders, and churches to map the unchurched world in which they live?

THE RETURN OF THE
MISSIONARY PRIESTHOOD

PRIESTS FOR THE NATIONS

- At Mt. Sinai God ordained every man, woman, and child who left Egypt with Moses to be His Royal Priests, priests for the nations.
 - Now therefore, if you will obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my own possession among all peoples; for all the earth is mine, 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel." (Exodus 19)
- They were sealed as God's priests with the sprinkling of the blood of a sacrificed animal.
 - The ordination of the priests (Exodus 29) Then you shall take part of the blood that is on the altar, and of the anointing oil, and **sprinkle** it upon Aaron and his garments, and upon his sons and his sons' garments with him; and he and his garments shall be holy, and his sons and his sons' garments with him.

PRIESTS FOR THE NATIONS

- St . Peter picks this up in his letter to the Christians living in a Pre-Churched world
 - Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit for obedience to Jesus Christ and for **sprinkling** with his **blood**: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

PRIESTS FOR THE NATIONS

- What is the role of a priest?
 - To _____
 - To _____
- To connect with God for people who cannot connect with Him themselves.
- To connect with people for God who cannot connect with Him themselves.

PRIESTS FOR THE NATIONS

- Prayer
 - Sunday morning
 - Personal prayer
- Porous places
 - The relationships with which you have credibility with those who have credibility with the unchurched.
 - Triads

PRIESTS FOR THE NATIONS

- How do we (MAC) resource the retooling of the church for mission outreach a post-church context?
- How do we encourage and resource those people/churches that get it?
- How much resource do we dedicate to launching a new (different, para-church) approach for post-church mission?