

## **Biblical motives for sharing your faith in Christ with the nations/ internationals**

The person seeking to preach the Gospel should be motivated by:

**a- The teaching of the Word of God:** You need to make sure of your salvation through the atoning love of Christ. We need to experience the cross and the resurrection. We need to feed on Jesus and seek the Holy Spirit and have our own constant, private Quiet time<sup>@</sup> in fellowship with our Father through the Word of God by the Holy Spirit. Drawing near to God and having an intimate relationship with God is our first goal as Christians. Jesus did only what he saw the Father doing (John 5:19). Drawing near to our Father requires at least one hour a day.

**b- The power of the Holy Spirit:** Preaching without convincing is like cooking a meal that no one eats. Evangelism has to be accomplished with great sensitivity and in the power and strength of the Holy Spirit. In Luke

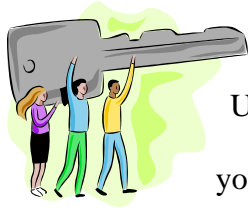


4:14-19 *Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the spirit...He went to Nazareth, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. He opened Isaiah and said: The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach the good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*<sup>@</sup>

The anointing in David's life allowed him to maintain his relationship with God and with others. In Acts 13:22 it says *God said, David, the son of Jesse, is the kind of person who pleases me most. He does everything I want him to do*<sup>@</sup>. David, in his ever-changing life, was a shepherd and a King. He was a poet and a soldier. He was a hero of the people as well as an outcast. He was loved by Jonathan and hated by Saul. One day an enemy of the Philistines, he was later a co-soldier fighting for them in the wars. Through all these phases, he faces his friends and his

enemies. He practiced his strong faith, he fought, and he was very patriotic. He was courageous, brave, just, and merciful. With all these changes, God was with him the whole time. What helped David to deal with these changes was his love for the Lord and the experience of the anointing of the Holy Spirit in his life. The Holy Spirit enriched his life.

**c- Support of partnerships:** Do not plan or attempt to reach out alone. Before I came to



America my leader told me, "You will face a great many things in the United States. Many things will surprise you in America, and some may shock you, but I know you have the ability to adapt. Remember when you eat fish

don't eat it all, Just eat the meat without the bones". We are not alone in this work but co-workers with the Lord and his people. It is best to work in teams; there is an increase in power and blessings when two or three are gathered in Jesus' name to do his work. Sometimes to work with a team makes us nervous. (John 12: 20) *Now there were some Greeks among them who went up to worship at the feast. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. Sir, they said we would like to see Jesus. Philip went to tell Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.*

We Christians recognize that we cannot reach the nations in the city by ourselves. As we move with hopes of reaching the nations, tribes and people for Christ, partnerships are essential, and we need to avoid the temptation of individualism. In John 13:34-35 *A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.* The body of Christ around the world needs to join minds and hearts and hands together to develop and deepen relationships with Christ. God is going to use the whole body, the universal church, to complete His mission for the nations. We

have to be motivated by what Jesus prayed in John 17:20-23. Jesus prayed for his followers that they may be one, in order that the world may believe and know that God the Father sent Jesus.

Tom Phillips said: *Imagine that you decided to build a house; depending on where you live, you might get your friends to help you build it, or you might hire builders. Either way, think what would happen if each builder didn't know what the others were doing or there was no architectural plan. What if the person planning the size and shape of the house never talked to the one ordering building materials? What if the one cutting materials didn't coordinate with the one putting the pieces in place? What if each worker didn't know when others were coming to build or how his work fit anyone else's? In some ways, that's what our mission efforts have been like.*@

The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. As Jesus did earlier with the twelve (Mark 6:7), Jesus sent the seventy out in pairs, a pattern later followed by Paul and Barnabas, Paul and Silas, Barnabas and Mark. Traveling in pairs is safer, provides more encouragement, and makes use of spiritual gifts.

Paul in 1 Corinthians 12 says that coordination between believers should be the same as the coordination of the parts of our body. Be submitted to the body of Christ and to your leader (1Peter 5:5-6). Many Christians in strategic positions cannot take orders from their leaders. I learned something in the army which helped me in my ministry: Obey, then object. If you don't like what the leader asks you to do, you should do it anyway and object later. If God put you in a certain position, trust that He is going to use you and even change the leader, if that's what needs to be done.

**d- Jesus= compassion and mercy:** Jesus is our example. Instead of condemnation, we need to have compassion and mercy and a passion to meet the needs of the nations around us.

Compassion means to have pity, a feeling of distress over the ills of others. We need to be moved with compassion and to yearn for the salvation of others. Scripture records Christ=s attitude toward the multitude and toward individuals sufferers. (*Mt. 9:36; 14:14; 15:32; 18:27; 20:34. Mark 1:41; 6:34; 8:2; 9:22*)

Jesus did not distinguish between Jews, Samaritans and Gentiles. He didn't say, "now let's put the priority on one group. Let's feed the Jew first".

In Matthew 9:35-38 *A Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."* After this Jesus had compassion for people (Luke 10:1-8). How do you view the harvest around you? Perhaps all we can see is the immorality and apostasy that might be represented by the woman at the well, but a word from Jesus can turn resistance to openness, unbelief to enthusiastic faith. The answer is in His Word and in His power. If we don't have the desire and passion for the nations, we cannot continue to serve the nations. We will fail and stop.

**e- Prayer and fear of God:** In reaching out to International students, one has to be a man of prayer for workers and for the salvation of souls. I know how important it is to have people pray especially for workers to minister to the nations. If you look at the average Christian congregation, how many of the members are actually involved in the church's harvesting

activities among the nations? It seems that many are involved in what meets their needs and their children's needs, but shy away from the mission to meet others' needs. We have an abundance of churches, but few workers and perhaps few actual disciples. Jesus immediately gives his answer to the problem of too few workers: Prayer and fear of God must be our prime recruitment technique, preceding any other invitation to the work.

**f- The love of God:** Base your ministry to Muslim students upon the love of God. The nature of love is described in *Song of Solomon 8:6-7*. In this book the following characteristics of love are listed: 1)-Love is as strong as death. 2)-Love cannot be destroyed. 3)-Love cannot be bought, and 4)-Love has its origin in the Lord. Of course Jesus is our example of how to love others. Love must be supreme in the life of the Christian worker: Love does not mean to have overflowing emotions towards anyone. Love unconditionally and impartially. Don't focus on differences, culture, color or religions. Don't focus on what you don't agree on but on what you agree on. Focus on common things between you and others around you. Focus on the good thing in God and God is love. Love that accepts others as they are, love to forgive, love to heal the misunderstanding and divisions, love to restore all the broken relationships: Love can bring victory over our enemies and love is never manifested by the flesh and prejudice.

*For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son” (John 3:16). In (Mark 6:34) A Jesus saw the large crowd that was like sheep without a shepherd. He felt sorry (pity) for the people and started teaching them many things.@ and in Matthew 9:35-38 AJesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness, when he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them.@*

God is love: His love is unconditional and impartial. 1 John 4:7-9 speaks of this love, *ADear friends let us love one another for loves comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God because God is love! This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.*

**Love toward your neighbors:** Luke 10:25-37 - Jesus told Peter if you love me, you can be a better minister. *John 21:15-20*

**Love your enemies:** Remember love never fails and it will remain forever. Matthew 5: 43-48



*also beseeches us to love others. AYou have heard that it was said, love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I tell you: Love your enemies...If you love those who love you, what reward will you get?...And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagan do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.@*

**g- Heaven=s rewards:** The reward is the crown that we will have in heaven. This is our hope, that we will be with Him and have a reward for our work: in 1Corinthians 15:58 *ATherefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain@* This promise is stated in

1Thess 2:19-20 *After all when the Lord Jesus appears, who else but you will give us hope and joy and be like a glorious crown for us? You alone our glory and joy!@.*

Switch from the worldly priorities and concerns to the heavenly calling and concern. Jesus has two callings for us. One is to enter the kingdom of God by faith, and the second is to follow and serve Him. To follow Jesus is a renunciation. It is an opportunity to die to ones self-centered self and to begin to look outwards, to not focus on yourself, your work, your family but instead to focus on Jesus. In 1John2:15-17-*Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him...The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.*

Paul experienced the cross and death. In Philippians 1:23-24 Paul said, *I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.* In Galatians 2:2 Paul writes, *All have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the son of God, who loved me and gave himself to me.@* If you are a follower you have to carry the cross after you believe in it, and start to work for Christ in His kingdom in the world.*Peter said to him, We have left every thing to follow you! = > I tell you the truth Jesus replied: no one who has left home or brother or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, parents, family, children, properties, fields, and with persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life...@*



**1- God=s vision for the harvest:** Have the eyes of God. We need God's vision for the nations around us. Open your eyes, The white field is ready.

Harvest is the season for gathering grain or fruit. On the 16th day of Abib (or April) a handful of ripe ears of corn was offered as a first-fruit before the Lord, and immediately after this the harvest commenced.

Matt 9: 11,37-38 says, *“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.”* To recruit is to pray for the harvest, *“Pray, Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”* In Luke 10:2-3 Jesus says, *“Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves”* and in John 4:35-38 *“I tell you open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvests. The crop for eternal life...”* It is hard to find committed workers. Too many people make excuses. Just prior to the sending out of the seventy, as Jesus is assembling his laborers, we read what He said to another man: *“Follow me.” But the man replied, “Lord first let me go and bury my father.” Jesus said to him “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”* (Luke 9:59-60).

The word vision is used figuratively Matthew 9:37; 13:30; Luke 10:2; John 4:35.

Without vision and without some sense of what God puts in our life, there can be no true connection. Jesus had the vision of His Father. He saw the Father's heart toward human beings. He was willing to pay any price in order to accomplish his Father's vision. What is the church community's vision today? Is it to reflect God's love to others around her? Proverb 29:18 *“where there is no vision (revelation), the people cast off restraint.”* The good visionary sees God's picture and starts to live according to it, and inspire others to what he sees and not go with his own program. A good visionary must always be flexible for changes. Mission is all about the activity of sending workers into the harvest fields of the world. And where is your mission field today? Look around! It doesn't matter if your mission is here in the United States

or in the Middle East. God gifted you that might use those gifts in His work where you are at. We can intercede here among the nations without going to these countries.

### **Testimonies from Internationals**

§ One of the hard issues that I understood later as "a cultural difference" was: When I run into someone I have met earlier and probably had invited us over for dinner a couple of days ago, would pretend that he did not see me and go on his way without even saying hi. To me that was rude, but to him this is a time to waste of time. He had something else to do and we did not plan for this meeting before.

§ Someone, whom I know very well, would call to speak to my husband. Without even saying Ahi@ to me he would just say: Is ..... there? In our culture it is rude not to greet the one who answers the phone, but in my friend's country it is not. I still have to cope with this.

§ It was hard for me to speak to a machine instead of a person. When I call a certain company with a problem or a question, answering machines would guide me and there is no personal interaction. Most of the time it was hard because I was not able to express my need or problem to the machine.

§ In our culture, visiting friends' homes several times a week is our way of life. We go without calling first, and people are prepared to receive guests any time of the day without prior notice. Whenever someone visit us, they don't wait for the word "come in" because they do not expect otherwise. A guest is always welcomed.

§ When I first came to live in the States, I stayed with some friends in their duplex. They let me use the upper apartment and they lived in the lower. I was coming down the stairs one evening to go shopping. I found their door open. They were having dinner in their kitchen. I stopped by to say hello. They were in shock. I did not knock because their

door was open, and I had learned in my culture that when the house door is open it means, guests are welcomed in. I stood there speechless because they were staring at me, not saying a word. I apologized for disturbing them, that in my culture it is rude to pass by the neighbor=s open door and not go in and greet them. Here you should not go in a house unless you are asked in.

§ It was my first week in the States and a friend invited me to eat lunch with him. After finishing the meal, my friend left the restaurant after he paid a cashier. As I was leaving behind him, the cashier called me and asked me to pay for my food. I was so embarrassed because I thought my friend had paid for both of us. I had no cash with me as of course had no credit cards at that time. I called my friend and he paid. I did not know that when someone invites you out, you had to pay for yourself. In my culture, if you invite someone you pay for him. Even if he offers to pay, you do not allow him to. Well, it was just a cultural misunderstanding and I had to learn it the embarrassing way.

§ I have been in America for more than 4 years, and these have been the most lonely years of my life.

§ I have been in America for more than 12 years. No one is interested in me. Even though they call themselves Christians, when they need me to attend their program, they think about me.

§ In my country, I had friends but no freedom. Here I have much freedom but no friends.

§ People are interested in me only for the first time.

§ When I walk down a hallway and an American says with a smile "Hi, How are you doing?", I stop and try to tell them how I am doing. Instead, they just keep on walking and don't really care about my answer.

## **Biblical references for Sharing your faith in Christ with Internationals**



### **Two ways for Missions**

**Genesis 12:1-3** – Through the spiritual seed of Abraham, the nations will be blessed as we follow God’s promise and plan.

**Deuteronomy 10:18-19 / 31:12** “...And he loves the alien, giving him food and clothing. And you are to love those who are aliens...”

He accomplished His blessing in two ways:

1. Going to the nations...
2. Ministering to individuals from the nations who come to us...

### **There are Two Basic Missions Strategy as We See in the Book of Acts...**

The two principles are to work in concert – in coordination, complementing each other.

1. God brings the world to where the church is (Acts 2:5-11, 45 / 4:32-36)
2. God sends the church to where the world is (Acts 13)

**Acts 2:5-11** “utterly amazed, they asked...one another, what does this mean?”

(16 language groups).

**Acts 8** The Ethiopian diplomat and Philip

**Acts 9** The foreign student, Saul of Tarsus in Jerusalem at Gamaliel’s seminary.

**Acts 10** The Roman captain, military man Cornelius.

**Acts 11** (1<sup>st</sup> principle in Missions strategy) “they took Christ back with them”

**Acts 13** (2<sup>nd</sup> principle in Missions strategy) “Paul and Barnabas take Christ to another country”

**Matthew 25:31-46** “I was a stranger and you invited me in...”

**John 3:16** “For God so loved the world”

**Romans 1:5** “to call people from all the nations to the obedience that comes from faith”.

**Revelation 7:9-10** These people are not only Jewish, but a great multitude from every nation, tribe, people and tongue will be standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb.