

Foreign to whose **Field**

May 8, 2002
David C. Mills
www.Born2Serve.org

“Here in Lithuania, I would say that the greatest obstacle we have is the perception of the people based on the government. The government has defined the Baptist religion as a non-traditional religion. Essentially only the Catholic, Jewish, and Russian Orthodox religions are considered traditional. By being labeled non-traditional, most people see the Baptist religion as simply another cult. We are lumped together with all other non-traditional religions (such as Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, etc.) This means that we not only have to overcome ignorance about what our true beliefs are, but we also have to overcome prejudices (and this can be very difficult).” - Missionary to Lithuania¹

I am sure that this statement could be generally used on many a mission field, even here at home. I like the point that Rev. Richard A. Ciarrocca of Pilgrim Fundamental Baptist Press made when he said, “No matter where it is, it’s the Lord’s entire harvest field and it’s all foreign missions.²” We are and will be addressing more and more many of the same situations that our overseas (foreign) brethren have been facing for years, here in our own back yard.

Specifically, I believe that two of the major religions that we will be driven to contend with, as they gain greater approval from society is Islam and our old adversary, the Catholic Church. As we see Mormon’s trying harder and harder to be noticed as mainstream Christianity, we also see the Catholic Church on the same heading. We now have Catholic groups who have labeled themselves bible believing Catholics, charismatic

¹ Bro. Byran Malik, Missionary to Lithuania

² World Missions - Home vs. Foreign, Richard A. Ciarrocca © 2001

Catholics (Many of whom have an emphases on Universalism³), Pentecostal Catholics, Zen Catholics⁴ and yes, even fundamental Catholics.

As a matter a fact, one person has stated that “Some Evangelicals are now saying that Roman Catholics are no longer considered to be a mission field since they are 'Christians'.” This comes from a non-fundamental source, however they have even recognized the problem.

As a matter a fact, the catholic community has evangelized to Christians many times without them even knowing it. Take the ecumenical group Promise Keepers for instance, who's founder, Bill McCartney, accepts Catholics as Christians and sees no reason to evangelize them.⁵ We are talking about a religion that is one of “willful disobedience”. This has and continues to play a large role in their acceptance. Where else can you knowingly sin week after week, and each week be given some (false) security of forgiveness simply by partaking of the Eucharist. What an obstacle that this may seem to be as we witness to the catholic community and prayerfully attempt to show the majority of them that they are lost and headed for hell.

Getting people to pray a prayer is not the problem, getting them to believe on Jesus (in their head) is not the problem, getting the to “accept” Jesus is not the problem. The

³ <http://www.dokimos.org/challenge/CatholicCharismatics.html>

⁴ Friday Church News Notes, April 5, 2002, Fundamental Baptist Information Service

⁵ <http://www.wayoflife.org/special/spec0015.htm>

Copyright © 2002, David C. Mills All rights reserved.

problem is getting them to recognize the realization that they are lost and coming to the point of repentance, so that the Holy Spirit can do the work of regeneration. Not through the sprinkling of water upon the head, but by faith (Acts 15:7-9, Titus 3:5, John 5:24). This is an obstacle with many religions and cults including the Church of Christ, Episcopalians, Seventh Day Adventist, Mormons as well as many Lutherans.

However, those birthed Roman Catholic may not be our largest mission field much longer. In an article written by Abdullah Al Araby⁶, entitled "If Islam Ruled America" he made the statement that, "It is a matter of time before Islam will become the religion of the majority. America, then will be labeled an "Islamic country ...". How far off will that be you ask? As reported by Christianity.com, "Some public schools in California are promoting the Islamic religion" today. However, these same schools are treating Christians as "simply another cult", sound familiar?

The course on Islam is one of the 11 units of a state-approved course on "World History and Geography." The young, impressionable students are required to wear Muslim robes, read the Koran, study the lives of Islamic prophets, learn the Islamic "Five Pillars of Faith," choose a Muslim name, write Islamic phrases in Arabic, chant "Praise to Allah, Lord of Creation," pray "in the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful," conduct a jihad or "holy war" via a game, and organize a make-believe journey to Mecca. Handouts include a description of Mohammed as an extremely moral man, even though history debunks this. The textbook, which is titled "Across the Centuries," presents Islam in an entirely positive manner, while at the same time depicting Christianity in an entirely negative light. Protests by parents have so far been ignored by school officials. Wise Christians do not send their children to the public school system to be trained in pagan philosophy and to be immersed in the vile youth culture that

⁶ <http://www.islamreview.com/articles/ifislam.htm>
Copyright © 2002, David C. Mills All rights reserved.

exists on the campuses of American public schools today. "Be not deceived; evil communications corrupt good manners" (1 Cor. 15:33).⁷

This is only half the battle here on the home front. It is only coupled by the increasing influence of the occult in our society and even more so among our children. There is a host of television programming that is very effectively dulling the spiritual senses of our young people. To mention a few, there is "Honey I Shrunk the Kids (The Series), whereby the dead are brought back to life, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Sabrina the Teenage Witch, Charmed, and yes once again in the headlines, Harry Potter.

There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. - Deuteronomy 18:10-11

Television programming such as this, coupled with the anti-Christian sentiment in the public school system and the blending and watering down of churches today is rearing up young people who at best put our Lord Jesus Christ in the same category as Santa Claus, the Tooth Fairy and the Easter bunny. This is becoming more evident each year in the vacation bible school program when we have to begin with the basics of whom Jesus is and why He is different, and why He is real.

⁷ Friday Church News Notes, January 18, 2002, Fundamental Baptist Information Service
Copyright © 2002, David C. Mills All rights reserved.

Then we have television channels just for the women such as the Oxygen™ channel who have such programming as the “Dream Doctor” and who openly promote Pantanjali's Yoga Sutras (the Eightfold Path). This practice is being widely studied and practiced today here in the United States.

“The Sutras form the basis of much of the modern yoga movement. Yoga's numerous health benefits, its potential for personal and spiritual transformation, and its accessibility make it a practical choice for anyone seeking physical, psychological and spiritual integration.”⁸

However it would not be complete without their call for tolerance, as they stated “that we should call other people on their insensitive statements”. How insensitive would they perceive it, if we confronted them with the Gospel that labeled them as sinners bound for hell? (Romans 3:23, Revelations 20:15)

Need Advice? The Oxygen™ channel will offer the services of “The Princess”: She's loud, she's opinionated, she's smart and she's pretty sure she knows you better than you know yourself. No, she's not your mother or your inner child: She's Princess, and she's ready to tackle all your sex and relationship woes.”⁹ Who needs a Saviour when they have “The Princess” who know them better than themselves and is ready to feed the flesh. By the way, I don't recommend that you visit any of these sites for yourself.

⁸ <http://www.oxygen.com/self/spirit/yoga/index.html>

⁹ <http://www.oxygen.com/experts/princess/bio/>
Copyright © 2002, David C. Mills All rights reserved.

What we are seeing here in the United States is only a glimpse of what missionaries have been working with around the globe for years. I have been told of first hand accounts of the acts of the witch doctors in the jungles of Venezuela, and indeed that seems so grim. However, I believe that “the day is at hand”, and that we will begin seeing more of this in our own back yard. The day that Fundamental Biblical Christianity becomes seen by most people as “simply another cult” will so be upon us. Whether we want to believe it or not, we are labeled by many already as a non-traditional religion. It is only a matter of time before the government steps in and backs this position.

Are we living in an age different than any other? Once again, a simple study of the Word of God, will make it very clear as to the past, present and future of this type of activity. Have we not seen in scripture the past errors of many others that fell into this same snare? Should we expect anything different in the yielding to the truth since “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked”? Jer 17:9 And with that deceitfulness and wickedness, every man will do that which is right in his own eyes. Have we not been warned that “evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.” (2 Tim 3:13) And that “as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” (Matt 24:37)

"We are living in a humanistic empire dedicated to one world socialism and polytheistic ecumenism."

Many preachers and people in general are still trying to label the United States as a Christian country. The meaning of Christian is Christ like, to be faithfully striving in the power of God to be more like our Saviour Jesus Christ. Maybe I am blind to this in our country, but I personally do not see this as a ground swelling movement, even in and among many of our Independent Baptist Churches.

Based upon the First Amendment (Religion and Expression) of the Constitution of the United States, we are afforded the freedom of religion in this country. That is, we are not forced to worship any specific god. However, I have to wonder how much our failure to be faithful in proclaiming the Gospel as attributed to the numbers of people that in there search for the truth, are not led to Jesus Christ but to the many false and hopeless religions, cults and occults.

*“Don’t give me your excuses!
Everybody has a hard area,
everybody has a fruitful area.”¹⁰*

As any prospective missionary seeks to gain a greater knowledge of the spiritual challenges on the mission field today, we must always remember that we are “in” the mission field at all times. I like the sign that I saw recently as I left the parking lot of a church, which read, “You are now entering the mission field”. I would also add that in these days, even when we are sitting in the pew at church, we are indeed “in” the mission

¹⁰ Pastor Charles Viens, 2002 Fundamentals of the Faith Conference, Maranatha Baptist Church - Elkton
Copyright © 2002, David C. Mills All rights reserved.

field. We must also remember that as times wax worse, we are simply the proclaimers of the Gospel message. The Holy Spirit is the one that does the work.

”behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.” (John 4:35)