



MISSION *to* AMERICA

The extraordinary long lines at the British Airways check-in counters in Cape Town alerted me to a serious problem. Soon it was announced that British Airways was suffering a complete computer failure shut-down as they had rolled out their new improved software! My experience at check-in at Cape Town was minor compared to the chaos at London's Heathrow Airport. There I was informed that my flight to the States had been cancelled and there was now an extremely tight connection that gave me barely twenty minutes, after clearing customs and immigration in the US, to run for the next flight, at another terminal. I was not surprised when my luggage failed to arrive at the final destination.

Church Planting

However, it was good to meet up with Al Baker and begin the tremendous times of worship and ministry which he had lined up for me in Alabama and Georgia. The next morning my first meeting was with the **Alabama Church Planting Network**, a dedicated group of Evangelists who regularly meet together to strategise and pray for their various church planting initiatives. I was asked to deal with World Missions and successful examples of church planning in Angola, Mozambique, Zambia, Sudan and Eastern Europe. That time of discussion and prayer went for over four hours.

The Power of Prayer to Change History

We were then off to Huntsville, Montgomery to meet with a dedicated pastor and then conduct a home meeting. There I was able to deal with *Bringing Down of the Iron Curtain* in the 1980's through the *Seven Year Jericho Prayer Focus*, *Revival Prayer* and *Changing World History Through Prayer*. At another

home fellowship I dealt with *Jesus Christ is Building His Church and the Gates of Hell Shall Not Prevail Against It*.

Radio Interviews and Services

During the days I had a number of radio interviews focusing on the persecution of Christians in North Africa and the Middle East by Islamic *Jihad* and how Christians can intelligently pray and practically help our beleaguered brethren under fire. Al Baker arranged for a number of interviews with other missionary-minded pastors and Evangelists who share our vision. On Sunday I was ministering at two separate congregations in Birmingham and Huntsville, dealing with *The Church Under Fire* and *The Greatness of the Great Commission*.

To Covenant College

Then we drove across scenic Alabama into Georgia to Covenant College on Lookout Mountain. There the Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship (PEF) Family Conference was welcoming

their guests from as far afield as Great Britain, India, Brazil and Mexico.

Paintball Battles

Some of the youth were wanting to know if I would be willing to join them for their paintball battles. I immediately told them that they could count me in and accumulated an impressive array of bruises during these war games in the forest. I was more than double the age of the other participants, but perhaps had the unfair advantage of having combat experience in the field. It is quite nice when the worst that can happen to you, as a result of one's recklessness, is a few cuts and bruises!

Mobilising Missionaries

Each day of the conference began at 6:30am with Revival Prayer. I gave presentations on *Making Disciples of All Nations*, *The St. James Massacre*, *The Challenge of Dr. David Livingstone Today* and *Spiritual Stamina*. To the youth, I gave presentations on *Biblical Principles*, *Scenarios and Drills for Self-Defense* and *Evangelism Explosion*.

Plans Can Change

Tuesday afternoon was an interesting example of how one needs to be ready for anything. The PEF Conference delegates were informed that each afternoon was set aside for open-air preaching and Evangelism in downtown Chattanooga. I was looking forward to that when I received a request to give a presentation to the Youth at the same time. No problem, I could re-orientate. Next thing Al Baker informed me that I had a meeting at 2pm. I confirmed that I knew about it. When later he told me who my driver would be, I realised that there was



some misunderstanding and asked why I would need a driver to reach another part of the Covenant College campus? He told me that I was meeting with a pastor at the First Presbyterian Church in downtown Chattanooga. Alright, I just needed to re-schedule the Youth meeting. When I walked into the Presbyterian Church in downtown Chattanooga and saw a whole group of people assembled before a lectern, with advertisements of the Missionary speaker from Africa in front of them, I realised that I was expected to give a presentation!

Ready for Anything

As Francis Grim of Hospital Christian Fellowship, under whom I was mentored, often told me: a Missionary must be BA and RFA: *Born Again and Ready For Anything*. Evidently, Al Baker liked to keep me on my toes. I gave a presentation on how I was converted and called and some of what I had witnessed of the persecuted Church in the field, what we can learn from them and how we can best serve the suffering. The question time was dynamic and fast-moving. Before I knew it two hours had passed of productive ministry at this unexpected event.

Mobilise to Evangelise

Covenant College was an inspiring venue for this tremendous conference. The times of fellowship with colourful characters from all over the world and learning of their intriguing testimonies and vibrant ministries was most uplifting. The Commissioning Service on the final night was very moving and one could only praise God for the Theological depth and wide Missionary vision of the PEF. We concluded with the Hymn: *So Send I You*.

Battle Site in Tennessee

No sooner had the PEF Conference concluded then Trey and Lindsay Schultz, who I had last seen at our Great Commission Course in Cape Town, arrived and informed me that they were my transport to Tennessee. As we sought to catch up on some of what had happened in the preceding six months, they thoughtfully stopped off at the battle



site and museum overlooking Chattanooga. My father-in-law, the Chairman of the Board of Frontline Fellowship, **Rev. Bill Bathman**, was brought up in Chattanooga, Tennessee. This was once a strategic battleground during the War Between the States.

Summit

In Tennessee, **Geoffrey Botkin** organised and hosted a Summit throughout Friday and Saturday, with participants driving in and flying in from far and wide. At the Summit I was asked to give presentations on *Revival in the Bible and in History*, *How Civilisations Commit Suicide*, *Steps to Reformation Today*, *God and Government*, *The Threat of Global Islam* and *To Change the World*. For the Sunday sermon I expounded on Jeremiah 3: *Just How Did we get into this Situation?* Each day was full, with discussion times lasting from 8 in the morning until midnight and frequently to 1am or 2am.

Transforming Culture

The five culture carrying institutions of civilisation are: **education, entertainment, news media, religious institutions and political institutions**. Of these education is by far the most influential. The philosophy of education in this generation will be the philosophy of government in the next generation.

The Greatest Threat

The single greatest threat to Christian civilisation has proved to be secular humanist, state-controlled, education. What is often called education today is more accurately indoctrination. Instead of teaching children **how** to think -

critically - all too many schools today are teaching children **what** to think. Politically correct brain-washing in state schools is at the root of much of the wickedness prevalent throughout our societies today. People vote as they do because of how they have been educated, entertained and informed (or misinformed) by the news media.

Our Priority

Therefore, our greatest focus needs to be on making disciples of all nations, teaching obedience to all things that the Lord has commanded, comprehensively fulfilling the Great Commission in education, the entertainment industry and through the news media.

Strategic Focus

Home Education is the single most strategic step any family can take. Just protecting our family from the vile Hollywood poison by throwing out the TV and keeping our children from being indoctrinated by secular humanist state schools is already a tremendous step forward. Providing Bible-based, Christ-centred school textbooks for home educators is most strategic. Supporting and producing alternative God-honouring films, music, books and magazines is vital. Providing alternative sources of information through Desk Top Publishing, the Internet, social media and community Christian radio stations is critical.

Iron Sharpens Iron

During the Summit, we were engaged in ongoing, in-depth discussions from breakfast through supper, late into the night and into the early hours of each morning. Some days lasted sixteen hours of intense discussion on these vital matters. All in all I gave over thirty presentations at twelve venues and three radio programmes in two weeks during this Mission to America.

Thank you for all your prayers, encouragement and support.

Dr. Peter Hammond
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