

SERMON NOTES: WHICH GENERATION WILL RISE UP AND BECOME THE “GREAT COMMISSION GENERATION”?
By Bob Young

I had the privilege of speaking at World Mission Workshop, 2019, Austin, Texas.

I remember attending the World Mission Workshop, 1968, Lubbock, Texas, when I was a college student.

I remember the calculation. With annual doubling, we could take the gospel to the entire world in 13 years!

I wonder how many times a similar calculation has taken place during the last 50+ years!

And still the world waits, for the generation that will rise up and become the Great Commission Generation.

Jesus makes it clear in his final words, immediately before his Ascension. “As you go, make disciples...”

Two verbs explain the how: (1) evangelizing (conversion), and (2) maturing-equipping-teaching (discipling)

In my ministry and mission, I have always focused on these two responsibilities.

In 2021, more workers are needed; Jesus told us to pray for harvest workers.

Let me be clear. What is needed is not more missionaries, not more people sent to do benevolence, not more missionary efforts. What is needed is more harvest workers.

Where are those workers? Who are those workers? Every Christian is eligible and in place. Every Christian has been called to be light and salt, ambassadors of reconciliation with the ministry and message of reconciliation.

I am trying to be part of the Great Commission generation.

I encourage YOU to be part of a Great Commission generation in the US

I train and encourage LATIN AMERICAN Christians to be part of a Great Commission generation in their countries

May God’s people everywhere to rise up and be the first generation, doubling and multiplying the outreach of the Good News of Jesus.

We who are alive today can be the hinge generation. We have been placed here to be part of a hinge generation, going where we have not gone before.

Can you see the dream?

When disciples are matured and commit to evangelize, new churches are planted

When disciples are matured, spiritual leaders are established and healthy churches function on their own

Evangelism and discipleship are internalized, becoming part of DNA of the local church

External support is not needed to evangelize, plant churches, and function biblically as church

Such churches in turn teach others and plant more churches around them.

Making Disciples, Equipping Disciples

As the new millennium approached and turned 20-25 years ago and I traveled in Latin America, I saw a need.

One of the most visible indicators of the need was a lack of national leadership in the churches

About 12 years ago, developing liaisons and networking with others, we together identified needs for evangelism, church growth, development, maturity, health, spiritual Christians, spiritual leadership, and missionary churches

Now in 2020, we have worked toward those goals for over a decade. Numerous churches have national leaders; churches have been activated for evangelism and national church planting efforts.

It is happening, little by little, like yeast. A Great Commission generation is developing and training the next generation. Here is my prayer, here is some of what I see.

Increasing number of autonomous, self-sustaining congregations

Many with no minister, or an evangelist with US support who serves in multiple churches.

More national leaders, more elders and deacons

More church planting efforts undertaken primarily by local missionary churches

Increased evangelism focus, more discipleship focus, less program-orientation

More involvement by all members of the churches

I continually identify additional congregations where the approach and methods are implemented.

The goal is always the same: transformed congregations, healthy churches, capable churches

To implement evangelism efforts to create new opportunities, new churches, healthy churches, active churches.

To transform the world one person at a time, one congregation at a time.

To provide leadership training, collaborate with other ministries and institutions, to open doors in communities without congregations or where congregations are very small and struggling.

Each year, we are experiencing 1000s of baptisms in this network of churches.

Planting self-led, self-sustaining, self-replicating churches is at the core of the challenge.

I am praying that this will be the Great Commission Generation... but there is a great need.

The need I speak of is not for more money and financial support.

The need, beginning in the US, is for God’s people everywhere, individually, to recommit to the Great Commission, to becoming a Great Commission generation.

I see generations, stretching forth into the future, doubling and doubling and doubling the outreach and impact of the gospel, changing our world, 2 Tim. 2:2.