

The Lost Ministry of the Church | book two

REFLECTIONS ON THE MINISTRY OF MOBILIZATION

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Living Springs International

Written originally as weekly blog posts, these series of reflections have been compiled into the first of several booklets. The aim of the blogpost and these booklets is to assist in promoting the idea of the 'ministry of all believers.' Encouraging all followers of Jesus to participate meaningfully in the world Christian movement and church leaders to equip God's people for works of service!

You can follow Max's weekly blog posts on Simply Mobilizing at www.simplymobilizing.blogspot.com

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Index of Abbreviations	NIV	New International Version
	NIRV	New International Revised Version
	NLT	New Living Translation
	ESV	English Standard Version
	KJV	King James Version

Living Springs International

Living Springs International is an international organization that assists in the mobilization of all God's people for involvement in the world Christian movement.

Living Springs International is the developer of the Kairos course and other courses and programs focused on further promoting its vision and purpose.

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FOREWORD

Mobilization is a ministry that existed in the Old Testament as well as the New Testament. In the Old Testament they were called prophets! God sent these prophets time and again to call His people to a place of devotion, consecration and service. Living for the reason as to why they were called to be God's chosen people seemed to be the greatest challenge the nation of Israel repeatedly faced! Time and again the prophets would remind Israel that **their story** was intrinsically connected with **God's story** – as is ours today! God is on a mission and He calls us to labor together with Him in mission.

The New Testament sees Jesus continuing to honor the ministry of the prophet – every generation needs 'voices' that calls God's people to mission and to bring in the harvest reserved and made ready for their generation!

Never before in the history of the Church has completing the task of the Great Commission been as doable as it is today. The Church now exists on every continent and in every country, as do the world's remaining least-reached peoples. The mobilization of the Church into completing the task has to be, therefore, the most strategic and critical need of our time.

This booklet of reflections is on the ministry of mobilizing. This ministry, I am convinced, is an expression of the prophetic ministry and is a ministry Jesus is restoring to His Church today in a very significant and prominent way!

Please feel free to email me your thoughts and response to these reflections at mchismon@gmail.com.

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1

Mobilizing – A Valid Biblical Ministry

Have you ever felt a little embarrassed when asked what your ministry is? You lower your voice and mutter out of the side of your mouth, “mobilizer”!

I think this embarrassment is widespread among mobilizers! Mainly because a scan through a concordance doesn't pick it up! Is our ministry truly Biblical or are we 'para-church' with no real Biblical moorings?

Personally, I believe our ministry is VERY Biblical and one of the most needed ministries in the Body of Christ today! In fact, I would go as far as to say, that the generally slow progress being made in reaching the world's remaining least-reached peoples is directly related to both the lack of formal recognition of this ministry and the struggle mobilizers have with the legitimacy issue.

Mobilizers Exercise a Prophetic Ministry

Jesus, when He ascended to heaven, gave ministry gifts to His Church (Eph 4:11-13). These ministries were for the purpose of building up the Church, enabling it to do all that Jesus had instructed. This related to both 'being' (unity and maturity) and 'doing' (works of service). One of the five ministries given was the ministry of the prophet! I would like to suggest that mobilizers fit into the prophetic category of ministry gifts and calling!

The Old Testament provides us with the clearest understanding of a prophet's ministry. Contrary to popular belief, the main ministry of the prophet, was not in predicting future events, it was to 'bring God's people back to God' - back to a place of devotion, consecration, obedience and service. God's people had a propensity towards waywardness, fueled by a fascination to be like the nations roundabout them. The prophets were sent by God to bring His chosen people back to Himself and back to fulfilling their unique calling of being separated **from** the nations, **for** the nations. "Return to me," was an all too common cry coming from the lips of the prophets (Isa 44:22; Jer 3:1; Ne 1:9; Joel 2:12; Zec 3:1; Mal 3:7).

Listen to God speaking through His prophet Ezekiel, "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: It is not for your sake,

house of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. **Then the nations will know that I am the LORD**, declares the Sovereign LORD, **when I am proved holy through you before their eyes** (Eze 36:22-23).

In the New Testament God's chosen people, the Church (1Pe 2:9), exists to fulfill the same mandate - we have been saved to serve, not saved just to be saved, contrary to popular belief! Paul makes this very clear when addressing the Corinthian believers. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: **Be reconciled to God** (2Co 5:17-20).

The ministry of the mobilizer, like that of a prophet, is focused on reconciling God's people to God's purpose, as Paul was doing in the above passage!

The most challenging of all tasks that mobilizers face, but one that we must succeed in, is helping to establish in the lives of God's people, a truly Biblical

worldview, where believers see and accept the fact that indeed we have all been saved to serve and blessed to be a blessing. God is on mission and He has called, mandated in fact, all believers to join Him on mission. This message we passionately proclaim!

In addition, we explain the idea of 'world' in the context of biblically defined nations! We 'distill' this message further by distinguishing between reached and unreached peoples. We encourage participation in both - continuing to extend Christ's Kingdom among the reached and taking the gospel to the unreached. We do research to help identify where the world's remaining unreached are located. We conduct awareness seminars, produce teaching resources, conduct training programs, etc. etc. – the list goes on!

We are mobilizers - prophets entreating, imploring, pleading, even begging God's people to be reconciled to God, to true worship expressed in full obedience to His clearly revealed purpose. Like the men of Issachar of old, who, "understood the times and knew what Israel should do" (1Ch 12:32), we are profoundly aware of God's unchanging purpose of world mission, and through research, we communicate the 'task remaining' to each and every generation, until the Lord returns!

Are you a mobilizer? Then you are a prophet – or at the very least your God-given ministry fits snugly into

the category of the ministry of the prophet! The next time someone asks what your ministry is, hold your head up high, chest out and look them squarely in the eye and say, I am a MOBILIZER!

2

Apostles and Prophets

The best book I have read on apostles was written by Dr. Larry Caldwell entitled 'Sent Out.' In his book, Dr. Caldwell, in a scholarly fashion, connects the ministry of apostles with those who advance the gospel into frontier regions where Christ is not yet named! Missionaries who plant churches among unreached peoples have the most legitimate claim to the title Apostle, more than any other ministry expression that lays claim to it!

Like Abraham of old, apostles venture out under the stars on a cloudless night, peer up into the heavens and dream of the multitude of individuals, in the unreached people group in which they are laboring, being included as Abraham's children.

Prophets, on the other hand, venture outside on cloudless nights, peer up into the heavens and imagine all Abraham's children gainfully employed and actively engaged in the growth and extension of Christ's kingdom throughout the earth!

Little wonder then that the risen Christ established apostles and prophets as foundational ministries of the Church (Eph 2:20) and to provide leadership for the Church (1Co 12:28), not only for the early Church but for the Church in all and every generation until Christ returns!

Ezekiel 37 tells the story of the valley full of dry bones. "Can these bones live?" God asked the prophet. Ezekiel's faith was stretched so he tossed the question back to God by saying, "you alone know." God told him to prophecy to the bones. As he did, something quite spectacular and unmistakably miraculous began to happen. The bones began to come together. As the prophetic ministry continued so did the spectacle of the transformation of a valley of dry lifeless bones into a vast, mighty and living army.

The mobilizing ministry expressed through different mediums such as seminars, courses and programs are prophetic ministries. Through the medium I am most familiar with, the Kairos Course, I have seen this happen over and over again - life from God being breathed into God's people and transformation taking place. They begin to understand God's global purpose, catch His vision both for the world and for the Church. They begin to understand their significance as laborers together with God. They catch the importance of working together with other

expressions of the Body of Christ and make a decision to work for the advance of the world Christian movement to all peoples and all people!

Today's apostles, to a large degree, have been recognized, validated and are respected for what they do for God's global purpose. Call them apostles, church planters or missionaries, their role and function, at least, in planting viable, reproducing churches among unreached people groups, has been firmly established. Not so the role and function of the prophet/mobilizer!

I am not saying that the mobilizing function is the only function of the New Testament prophet but I am suggesting it is the most significant!

Completing the 'unfinished task' would be greatly accelerated, in my view, if the mobilizing expression of the prophetic ministry was recognized, encouraged and those gifted with this ministry affirmed!

3

The Foundation Upon Which the Church is Built

Paul is very clear - Jesus Christ is the foundation upon which the Church is built (1Co 3:11). He elaborates further, however, when writing to the Ephesian believers and explains that Jesus is the chief cornerstone and apostles and prophets are included in forming that all important foundation upon which the Church is built (Eph 2:20).

This is not just a New Testament idea. When interacting with the religious leaders of His day Jesus said that God had (in Old Testament times) sent them both prophets and apostles (Lk 11:49). In fact the Old Testament Hebrew word 'schalach' has been translated in the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Old Testament) as apostle and appears some seven hundred times. Prophets, of course, were very prominent throughout the Old Testament. The work of God and the purpose of God, it seems, demands throughout all ages, the participation of these two

foundational ministries. We minimize their worth, discredit their value and ignore their importance at our peril!

Apostles or 'sent ones' will always lead the charge. They spearhead the advance of God's agenda. Old Testament apostles we could identify would be people such as Abraham, who fathered the chosen nation; Moses, who led God's people out of Egypt and established Israel as a nation and a theocracy under God; Joshua, who led the people of God into occupying the promised land; David, who established Israel as a kingdom and a significant military power and Solomon, who led Israel to its finest hour and we could identify many, many more! Prophets, as we have been discussing quite extensively, were raised up to keep God's people close to God and committed to living for the reason why they were chosen as God's special people - to represent Him and His kingdom among all nations.

Apostles in the New Testament, such as the twelve (Mt 12:2-4) and Paul and Barnabas (Ac 14:14), spearheaded the advance of the world Christian movement beyond Jerusalem into other regions of the world. Other apostles, such as James, the Lord's brother (Gal 1:19), oversaw significant works ensuring that established communities of believers grew and flourished. Prophets came to Antioch from Jerusalem (Ac 11:27), such as Judas and Silas, and ministered in

this amazing Gentile church. Little wonder that the leadership had no hesitation in releasing Barnabas and Paul for missionary (apostolic) work as a result of their prophetic ministry in which they said "much to encourage and strengthen the brothers" (Ac 15:32).

The ministry of apostles and prophets are foundational ministries! They were in the Old Testament and they were in the early Church. Scripture ranks them first and second respectively in order of importance of all ministries in the Church (1Co 12:28).

Jesus, in continuing to give the Church these same ministries **following His ascension** (Eph 4:11), sends a clear message that each and every generation of the Church is to build upon this very same, unaltered foundation – Christ the cornerstone, together with the ministry of apostles and prophets!

The psalmist says, that unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain (Ps 127:1). More than seventeen times God told and reminded Moses to build the tabernacle according to the pattern God had showed him while on the mountain (Ex 25:14). As laborers together with God (1Co 3:9) we must build God's way.

Jesus said that He would build His church and that the gates of hell would not prevail (Mt 16:18). The

'pattern' has been set and those called to labor together with Him, prove their 'master builder' credentials by building according to His pattern. If it seems that the gates of hell are prevailing; that the progress in reaching unreached peoples and evangelizing the unsaved is painfully slow; if the Church as a whole seems indifferent to going into all the world with the gospel; if sacrifice and service has lost its appeal; then we need to examine the very foundations upon which the work of God is being built in our day!

4

Mobilizers – Preparing a People for the Lord

How do we equate 'success' in mission mobilization? Well, I think for most of us, it is what we have managed to get people to do for mission that would determine success.

I would like to suggest that this is far below what a true mobilizer/prophet is 'called' to do!

The best example of a mobilizer in the Bible is John the Baptist. Jesus referred to him as the greatest of prophets Mt 11:11!

As a prophet, John did not major on predicting future events, but in keeping with the true calling of a prophet, he drew people back to God – to a place of repentance, obedience and worship. He prepared God's people for God!

Listen to how the angel described John's calling and ministry, "Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous – **to make ready a people prepared for the Lord**" (Lk 1:16-17)

Our highest calling, as a mobilizer, as a prophet, is not to get God's people doing noble things - as noble as this might be! Our highest calling is to 'make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' It is a worldview issue; a Lordship issue; an obedience issue!

A prepared people for the Lord, are those who understand that their life is no longer their own but is now "hidden with Christ in God," (Col 3:3); who realize that they have been saved by grace for works prepared in advance for them to do (Eph 2:10); who understand what the will of the Lord is (Eph 5:17; Ac 1:8); who willingly take up their cross and daily lay down their lives for Jesus' sake and for the sake of the gospel (Mk 8:34-35). Prepared people understand that being a Christian is not about securing a ticket to heaven but being redeemed (bought back) so they can now begin to live for the reason why God made them in His likeness and image in the first place!

A prepared people, above all else, become 'followers of Jesus.' They know their master's voice and they follow Him (Mt 4:19; Jn 10:27). Such 'following' will always lead to meaningful participation in the world Christian movement.

Jesus is the head of the Church – He is the Lord of the harvest (Col 1:18; Lk 10:2). We are to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into His harvest field (Lk 10:2). What is needed is 'prepared people'. This is the true ministry of mobilizing – making ready a people prepared for the Lord – so the Lord of the harvest can thrust out workers into the harvest fields of the world!

5

Mobilizers – Preparing a People for Eternity

This 'age' is as much about the perfecting of the Church as it is about making disciples of all nations - an idea, we mobilizers, often neglect at our peril!

These two great themes run like parallel tracks throughout scripture! God taking out of the world a people for His name (Ac 15:13-18) and God perfecting that people for eternal ages (Eph 2:21; 1Pe 2:5; Rev 5:10, 22:3).

Interestingly, what is often overlooked is that one fulfills the other, and conversely, one cannot happen without the other!

The Church is perfected - the Body of Christ is built up by engaging in the Great Commission, and as a result the Great Commission is fulfilled!

We can say that the Great Commission is a 'double edged sword.' It cuts two ways – the nations are

discipled when the Church engages in the Great Commission and the Great Commission, in turn, perfects His Church!

What other pathway, has God provided, for our perfection? There is nothing as powerful as the Great Commission that provides us with the means to mature! It is as we embrace the Great Commission as a 'commission to be obeyed' and not a 'suggestion to be considered,' that the wheels of our transformation begin to turn!

From a self-centered, 'what's in it for me' person, to a selfless, bondservant of Christ! Our journey into Christlikeness and the true joy of being a follower of Jesus begins in earnest!

When Jesus taught on purpose, life, and what it means to be His true follower, He frequently would include direct references to the Great Commission. For example, in Mark 8:34-35, it says, 'Then he called his disciples and the crowds to come over and listen, "If any of you wants to be my follower," he told them, "you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross, and follow me. If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake **and for the sake of the Good News**, you will find true life"'(NLT).

Note that Jesus was addressing the 'crowds' not just His chosen apostles! He said, "*if any of you wants to be my follower...*". This message was for **every believer!**

The ministry of the prophet/mobilizer takes on huge significance, when we consider our role in being a 'laborer together with God' (1Co 3:9), not only in making disciples of all nations but also in preparing God's people for eternal ages and God's eternal joy.

6

Mobilizers – Preparing a People for Works

We all know that works can't save us – only grace can do that (Eph 2:8). Works, however, is what we are saved **for**. In fact, precious works have been prepared in advance for us to do (Eph 2:2-10)!

These 'works' relate directly or indirectly to the completion of the Great Commission – this commission must be our highest priority (2Co 5:18).

Each and every believer has been given a work to do (Mk 13:34), in the context of the Great Commission and gifts/talents/resources to accomplish that work (Mt 25:15; 1Pe 4:10).

How we steward those gifts; how we undertake our work; our diligence; fruitfulness; the attitudes of the heart expressed in the actions of our lives; will shape our eternity.

The evangelical Church has long had this fascination with salvation theology – a ‘ticket to heaven’ theology! This has often been at the expense of not fully comprehending the reason why we were saved – not to bring us to heaven, but to bring us to God - to be connected to His lordship and begin to live for the reason why we were made in His likeness and image in the first place.

We do God’s people a HUGE disservice, and we have a lot to answer for, by not teaching and mobilizing for WORKS!

Works are glorious - they are wonderful! We have degraded, belittled, debased, disparaged, glorious works! Works glorify God! We have focused so much on believers not ‘falling’ and have forgotten entirely about assuring they get a rich welcome into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2Pe 1:10-11).

There is, in the eternal Kingdom of God, rewards and degrees of rewards:

Jesus taught that faithfulness with what He has entrusted to us will be rewarded – and a lack of faithfulness will be punished (Lk 19:12-27).

The scriptures affirm that Jesus, when He returns, will “repay each person according to what he has done” (Mt 16:27 ESV).

Paul was convinced he would receive both joy and glory in eternal ages, due to the fruitfulness of his labors (1Th 2:19-20). He also issued a severe warning to those who treated, with contempt, the work of the Lord (1Co 3:10-15).

The lost, forgotten, hidden, misunderstood ministry of the prophet - the mobilizer, in my view, is the reason why not all God’s people are gainfully employed in the growth and expansion of the world Christian movement!

God is changing this! The prophetic ministry is about to emerge, big time! A ministry that will encourage God’s people back to God – to devotion, sacrifice and service. A ministry that helps to prepare ‘a people for the Lord,’ that gives believers their best chance of glorifying God in their lifetime and ensuring they get a rich welcome into Christ’s eternal Kingdom!

7

Mobilization – As a Journey

Mobilization is a journey, not an event. Seminars, courses and other mobilization programs are the events. The journey into active and fruitful participation in the world Christian movement is a journey that demands many 'events' and a lot of personal processing of what these events provide, in the form of new information and challenges.

Such a journey is often long and arduous, fraught with obstacles that could at any time derail the believer from the journey! Because of this, the starting point and foundation for every believer and upon which the mobilize must build, is the foundation of a biblical worldview!

This is level one mobilization! To move to the advanced levels of specialization, ministry training and placement, without level one firmly in place, is a sure recipe for 'mobilization frustration'.

Unfortunately, the mobilizer seldom, if ever, has the luxury of writing a biblical worldview on a 'blank slate'! By the time a believer is sitting in a course facilitated by a mobilizer, his or her heart and mind is already well written on, often with anything but a truly biblical worldview.

As most people come to Christ because of a need and Jesus graciously meets that need, it is not surprising that most new believers develop a perception that this new life in Christ is very much about Christ meeting their needs! Unfortunately, the very place where this perception is supposed to get shaped into sacrificial service in Christ's Kingdom, in appreciation for all that Jesus has done, seldom does. Some local churches even fuel the growth of this very self-centered perception! The result is frequently an obsession with one's 'own story' and seldom with 'God's Story'.

Events, such as the Kairos Course and Perspectives, are courses proven to challenge and reshape worldview! God's instruction to Jeremiah is very pertinent here. "See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant" (Jer 1:10). These courses, mentioned above, when conducted well by prayerful facilitators and coordinators 'erase the slate' and write a new and a biblical worldview on the hearts and minds of God's people. It is here that

facilitators and coordinators function as prophets and should in no way be apologetic with the challenges to one's life these courses present! Unless a biblical worldview is formed, the best agency presentations and the most powerful motivational speakers will find only short lived responses to their efforts!

It is my hope that courses such as the Kairos Course and Perspectives will find their way into churches and become part of a local church's discipleship program. In the Philippines we have some 77,000 local churches scattered throughout this Archipelago representing some 10 million believers. We have a hope and we are working towards seeing all 77,000 churches embrace Kairos as a standard course in their discipleship program.

A well-known Chinese proverb says, 'the longest journey begins with a single step'. In the 'cold war' days when China was economically depressed under Mao's dictatorship, Singapore was experiencing remarkable economic growth and development. The Chinese of Singapore, commenting on the contrasting state of the two countries added an additional twist to that proverb, 'you have to make sure that the first step you take is in the right direction.' Mobilization is exactly the same – it is a journey, for sure, but heading out in the right direction, having first lain that all important foundation, will determine the success, or otherwise, of the journey.

Level two mobilization of **specialization**, agency involvement and specific trainings, will follow without much difficulty, if the foundation is first laid. It is my dream that all these amazing agencies we have in the Philippines will have people queuing up outside their doors eager to participate and become involved and with the intention of continuing the journey into level three mobilization - **field ministry**.

When I think of the growth of the ministry of mobilization, it is this 'level one' mobilization with which I am most concerned. It is the most neglected when we consider the scope of what needs to be done to mobilize the Body of Christ globally, in all countries and all languages where Christ followers exist. It is the key to unlocking the potential of this generation to selfless service in the world Christian movement – the most important movement of each and every generation and will be so until the Lord returns!

God calls, Jesus appoints, the Holy Spirit anoints - but we equip! This responsibility has been given to us – it is the Church that has been given the responsibility to prepare God's people for works of service. Mobilizers - "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it" (Col 4:17).

8

Mobilizers –

The Lost Tribe of the Church

In the 8th Century BC the ten northern tribes of Israel were conquered by the Assyrians and taken into exile. Two hundred years later a similar fate befell the southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin, this time at the hands of the Babylonians.

Seventy years later, King Cyrus provided the opportunity for the southern tribes to return – although possibly around six times as many decided to remain in the land of their exile!

There is no record of the return of any of the northern tribes. There is speculation that a number would probably have allied themselves with Judah and shared in their restoration under Cyrus. But for the most part they are LOST! The lost tribes of Israel has been a subject of much discussion and speculation ever since!

It is interesting to note, however, that God promised to restore the tribes of Israel (Eze 20:34), a promise repeated on numerous occasions throughout the Old Testament (Zep 3:20). And James addresses his epistle to the “twelve tribes scattered among the nations” (Jas 1:1). These tribes may be lost to us, but not to God, and God is able to restore them just as He has promised!

I see a beautiful parallel here with what I consider to be ‘the lost ministry tribe of the Church’. There are five ‘standout’ ministry tribes in the Church. They are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. I call these ‘standout tribes’ because these ministries were specifically given by Jesus to equip God’s people for works of service so that the Body of Christ could be built up and attain the whole measure of the fullness of Christ (Eph 4:11-13).

On a Ministerial Fellowship database there are often select categories such as for pastors, evangelists, teachers, missionaries (apostles) but seldom, if ever, prophets! Again, the reason is mostly due to a faulty understanding of the ministry of a prophet. A correct understanding would be those ministries that are calling the Church back to God – to a place of devotion, obedience and service in fulfilling the Great Commission. This database category would be labeled, ‘mobilizers’!

I do believe that, at this time, God is gathering, from the four corners of the Church, His lost tribe of prophets/mobilizers! It's amazing how many are beginning to realize their primary calling in ministry is to 'mobilize'. This tribe may have been lost to man but never to God!

Many, like the ten tribes, have discovered some level of restoration by being part of another tribe – the tribe of pastors, teachers, missionaries etc. However, we are beginning to experience the 'Kairos' of the restoration of the tribe of prophets in their full right, anointing and function in the Body of Christ!

If you are reading these reflections – then perhaps YOU are one of them!

9

Mobilization – Involves All the Ministries

Mobilization could be broadly defined as “providing all that is needed for God’s people to become meaningfully involved in the world Christian movement”.

With this broad definition we acknowledge the need for the involvement of all the fivefold ministries listed in Ephesians 4:11. Paul is very specific here. He says, these ministries, gifted to the Church by the risen Lord, are for the equipping of God’s people for works of service (13). The works of service, as we have already discussed, relates to the world Christian movement. We could say that these fivefold ministries serve IN the church to equip God’s people to do the work OF the church.

The ministries listed in Ephesians 4, in context, don’t only do the work their titles suggest, they also equip others to do the work of the ministry. In general

terms, apostles focus on reaching unreached peoples and they equip others to do the same; prophets articulate a clear understanding of God's purpose, inspire and challenge for involvement and equip others to do the same; evangelists evangelize unsaved people and they equip others to do the same; pastors nurture God's people and equip others to do the same; teachers teach and explain the word of God, they also equip others to do the same!

In actual fact there is a threefold responsibility here. For example, teachers firstly teach, secondly they equip others to teach and thirdly they **identify others who are called to be teachers and assist in their development as teachers**. Everyone can be trained to teach but not all are teachers (1Co 12:29). Only teachers can identify and equip other teachers – this is the law of reproduction – we produce after our own kind (Ge 1:12)

Alfred Barnes in his Commentary on Genesis 1:12 states the following:

After its kind. - This phrase intimates that like produces like, and therefore that the "kinds" or species are fixed, and do not run into one another. In this little phrase the theory of one species being developed from another is denied.

Well, I suppose we can take that above quote only so far but the point is that it is incumbent on the

ministries gifted by Jesus to the Church, to equip others God has called with a similar ministry.

This is why the need to see the development of the 'tribe of mobilizers' is so urgent. Not only would mobilizers equip others to communicate God's global purpose but they would also identify those who are 'called' to be mobilizers and assist in their development – the result being, the Tribe grows!

If mobilization could indeed be defined as "providing all that is needed for God's people to be meaningfully involved in the world Christian movement" then, for sure, the entire fivefold ministries are needed. The greatest tragedy, however, is the absence of the prophet (the lost tribe). The prophet identifies the purpose and explains the journey. The prophet articulates **God's Story** - without this understanding God's people get caught up with '**their own story**'! Hosea the prophet identified the essence of Israel's downfall, "Israel was a spreading vine; he brought forth fruit for himself" Hos 10:1.

The fivefold ministries form a divine unity - when incomplete that unity is incomplete and the blessing of that unity and the divine life flowing through the unity is affected. Every member of the Body and every ministry expression should be crying out to God to hasten the restoration of the Tribe of Mobilizers – the effect would be profound and so far reaching!

10

Do We Need Schools for Mobilizers?

As 'laborers together with God' (1Co 3:9), the tension is always, 'what does God do and what do we do?' To place everything in God's corner is as unbiblical as placing everything in our corner!

There are things God does and there are things we do. For example, God sends laborers into His harvest field (Mt 9:38) but requires the Church to equip them for effective labor in His field (Eph 4:11-13). God gives gifts to His people and the 'equipping' enables those gifts to become ministry skills.

Many ministries have advanced to the point where equipping has become an art, a science, a discipline. For example, over the generations, great strides have been made in the equipping of pastors. Church planters have seen the same, especially in recent years, as the task of reaching the world's remaining unreached peoples has demanded new and better training/equipping programs.

What about mobilizers? Of the five-fold ministry gifts of Ephesians 4:11 the mobilizer/prophet is perhaps the least catered for in terms of equipping!

In the Old Testament there existed the Schools for the Prophets. The Easton Bible Dictionary makes the following observations of prophets in the Old Testament:

"But while the prophetic gift was thus exercised from the beginning, the prophetic order as such began with Samuel. Colleges, "schools of the prophets", were instituted for the training of prophets, who were constituted, a distinct order (1Sa 19:18-24; 2Ki 2:3,15; 4:38), which continued to the close of the Old Testament.... The "sons" or "disciples" of the prophets were young men (2Ki 5:22; 9:1,4) who lived together at these different "schools" (2Ki 4:38-41). These young men were.... brought up to exercise the office of prophet,.."

Do the schools of the prophets/mobilizers we see in Bible times need to be reinstated for our day? Do we need to see schools for mobilizers established in every country and in every reached people group? If we are going to see a people prepared for the Lord, the Church becoming a witness within reached nations and the world's remaining unreached reached then perhaps we do – especially if the 'call' to such a

vision is communicated to the Church by the prophets/mobilizers!

If there is an agreement in establishing such 'schools', then what would a school of mobilizers look like? What would these schools teach? How would the skills of mobilization be perfected? Who would do the teaching? Would they be physical centers or virtual centers? Would they be relationally connected and share resources? There will be many questions to be answered and many issues to be addressed but the big question to be discussed and answered at this point is, do we begin this journey?

What do you think?

11

Should Mobilizers be 'Full Time'?

The rediscovery of a vital expression of the ministry of the prophet, as a mobilizer, will undoubtedly prove to be a catalyst for a significant upsurge in the participation by the Body of Christ in the world Christian movement. Once, that is, the mobilizers are identified, equipped, released into ministry and become a coherent ministry expression (Tribe)!

The 'world Christian movement' demands that Christians interact with people and with 'peoples' through their work and through social and community activities. This involves the ministry OF the Church or being 'salt' and 'light' (Mt 5:13-14).

The prophet/mobilizer, along with the other fivefold ministries are best understood as ministries IN the Church. This is the ministry of equipping God's people for works of service so God's people can effectively do the ministry OF the Church!

Most of the fivefold ministries of the New Testament (Eph 4:11), including that of the prophet/mobilizer, would, I believe, be most effective when engaged in 'fulltime' - without the distraction of having to seek other employment for financial needs! There will always be some exceptions to this, and I know of some personally, but in general, I believe we need to see mobilizers released full time to this critical ministry in this critical time!

There already are many of the fivefold ministries that, in general, follow a pattern of fulltime employment in their ministry to the Body of Christ and are supported by the community of God's people. I would like to suggest that the ministry of the prophet/mobilizer be included among them!

Jesus' Example

The fact that Jesus went 'full time' and demanded that His followers - those He called apostles - do the same (Mt 19:16-22), suggests that Jesus not only did this for His immediate ministry but as a model for the Church to follow!

The Early Church Followed Jesus' Example

The early apostles and the early Church, having learnt the 'full time' model well from Jesus, continued this same pattern for those whose ministry was primarily IN the Church (Gal 6:6; 1Ti 5:17-18; 1Co 9: 3-10; 3Jn 5-8).

In every generation, I believe, there are those whom God calls to 'leave their nets' to follow Him!

In fact, when those whom God calls to 'leave their nets' are prevented from doing so, due to income concerns, the work of God falls into decline (Ne 13:10-12).

Of significance to us, is the ministry of the prophet! Can you think of any of the Old Testament prophets, who exercised the most common of prophetic ministries, which was to bring God's people back to God and to obedience and to service - who were not full time?

Mobilizers are prophets – called to draw God's people back to God, to a place of devotion and obedience. There are people who mobilize and then there are mobilizers who mobilize - the latter minister most effectively, in general, when they are full time!

The Fallacy of Multitasking

I was somewhat taken aback recently when a particular news report came on a cable news channel I was watching at the time, dismissing the 'so called' benefits of multitasking – often attributed to people of exceptional ability. The report concluded that multitasking done by **whoever** is never as effective as a single focus on one task!

The benefits of 'full time' mobilizers, as I see it, would be:

- They would be able to devote both quality and quantity time to their ministry.
- It would help the Body of Christ become more aware of this ministry and its value to the Body.
- The mobilization 'tools' mobilizers could make available to the Body would be better and therefore more highly valued.
- The mobilizers 'TRIBE' would be more coherent, connected, united and identified as a significant ministry expression to the Body.

While we cannot be legalistic about this and some would point to benefits of not being full time, I do believe the urgency of the hour demands the emergence of 'fulltime' mobilizers, mobilizing mobilizers and setting up schools for mobilizers!

12

What Makes the Devil Really Mad?

The Devil is as 'mad as hell', excuse the expression, when people are snatched from His Kingdom and ushered into the Kingdom of Christ. He becomes 'madder than hell' when 'believers' catch the full reason for why they have been saved and begin living and serving appropriately!

Two major spiritual battles are prominent in scripture – getting people saved and getting the saved living for the reason why they have been saved. This captures the heart and soul of spiritual warfare in both the Old and New Testaments.

In the Old Testament it was far easier getting the Hebrews out of Egypt than it was getting Egypt out of the Hebrews and living as God's chosen people. Only one prophet (Moses) was needed to bring them out of Egypt, but scores of prophets were needed, to

bring God's people to a place of obedience and service!

In the New Testament, we see the Devil contesting the birth of the Messiah - Jesus was taken to Egypt and escaped the Devil's devious plan to take his life, (unfortunately hundreds, possibly thousands, of other young boys were not so fortunate, Mt 2:13-16). Having failed, the Devil 'cut his losses' and focused elsewhere until his fury was once again aroused, when at the age of thirty, Jesus quit His job as a carpenter and began His public ministry.

During the 'temptations in the wilderness', the Devil threw everything at Jesus, trying to nullify the potentially devastating effect Christ's ministry would have on His Kingdom. It is important to note here, that the Devil was not challenging Christ's '**sonship**' but His **service!** The Greek construction of this phrase reads, "Since you are the Son of God" (Mt 4: 3 Bible Believers Commentary) an allusion, by the Devil, to the Father's words to Jesus at His baptism, "this is my beloved son." (Mt 3:17)!

Due to the fact that God's 'modus operandi' of reconciling to Himself 'people' and 'peoples', is through those He has already reconciled (2Co 5:18-20), our '**service**' – our participation in the world Christian movement - will ALWAYS be hotly contested by the Devil!

In one sense the Devil can live with the idea of 'saved people' - but not with the idea of **saved people living for the reason for why they have been saved.**

Mobilizers/prophets, don't expect an 'easy ride' with your mobilization ministry! Don't expect the Body of Christ to welcome you with open arms! The Devil will hotly contest every inch and every forward step you take (Zec 3:1 KJV). Apathy to mobilization has all to do with spiritual warfare!

We don't wrestle against flesh and blood. It is not people (God's people) we are contending with, so don't take this struggle personally. Our fight is always with powerful (yet defeated) spiritual forces in heavenly places ((Eph 6:12). We must first secure our victories through intercession before we will see physical changes take place and God's people responding positively to the idea of participation in the world Christian movement.

For this reason alone we need Tribes of Mobilizers. We need the support of others who understand the purpose, the journey and the battles uniquely associated with the prophetic ministry of mobilization!

13

As Mobilizers We Need to Clarify our Message

As mobilizers we need to be clear on our message – and make adjustments where necessary!

We are mobilizing for the active participation of all believers in the world Christian movement.

The world Christian movement, in its simplest form, as I see it, is “the growth of Christ's kingdom throughout the world, through the presentation of the gospel, by all believers, to all peoples and to all people.”

This definition takes in both the need to reach unreached peoples and to further the growth of Christ's Kingdom within reached peoples. It includes both reaching the unreached and saving the unsaved and working towards seeing transformation in and through those who respond (gospel of the Kingdom, not just salvation).

I think it is unfortunate that in today's world mobilizers are associated almost entirely with an unreached peoples focus! We do the 'neglected plight of the unreached' no harm by being more inclusive and focusing on the need to continue the work of the gospel among the reached! In fact, I would suggest, we do a greater service to the unreached by adopting a more inclusive agenda!

By focusing exclusively on the unreached we 'damage' the unity of the Great Commission which includes 'all nations' (Mt 28:19-20) 'every person' (Mk 16:15) and the 'witness' of the gospel to all nations (transformation Mt 24:14). Paul also makes no distinction. Paul sees God as reconciling the world to Himself through the Church (2Co 5:18-20) - both reaching the unreached and furthering gospel work among the reached is implied here! Paul himself had a 'regions beyond' focus (2Co 10:16) but got excited, when, for example, the witness of the Church at Thessalonica was permeating the provinces of Macedonia and Achaia and even beyond (1Th 1:8).

We inadvertently create a 'department' with our more exclusive definition of mission! Actually, all outreach is mission! Local churches (where, I suppose, between 80% to 90% of all believers have an association), know missions as a departmentalized activity – assigned to a select few and by inference, exempting all others. We need to rethink our approach – our

protectionist approach of the past may now be working against us!

In today's context of the world Christian movement, where globalization is playing a huge part, we see the Church everywhere and we see the unreached and the unsaved everywhere. Our mobilization message needs to embrace this new context.

If we did, I believe, we would be sounding a clearer trumpet call and would get a much better response. Rather than continuing to face this 'uphill battle' in mobilization we could begin seeing 'the rough places being made smooth'.

The problem lies not with the churches nor with church leaders but with mobilizers. We have muddied the water and have been sounding a trumpet call that has not been as clear as it should be (1Co 12: 8).

I think it is time we had some serious discussion on this issue!

14

Mobilizers and the 'Go' in the Great Commission

Peter Wagner points out that the main verb in the Great Commission is 'make disciples' (Mt 28:18-20). However the first verb to appear in the Great Commission is 'GO'. Making disciples, of all nations, for sure, is not possible without the 'going'.

For apostles, charged with taking the gospel to regions beyond, this is never in question. It is expected that such missionaries would 'go', uproot themselves and their families and relocate to where their ministries would be most effectively employed!

Little thought, however, is given to others who should also give careful thought to the location of their ministries and be prepared to relocate to strategic places!

We perhaps need to be reminded that the Great Commission did not begin in Matthew 28, but in Genesis 12, where God called Abraham, the father of

all believers and not just of frontier missionaries, to leave his father's house and journey to a distant land for God's missionary purpose!

We are all children of Abraham and heirs of this promise (Gal 3:29). We are all part of this 'cause' of blessing nations - the only difference is we play different roles!

Mobilizers, next to apostles (church planters among unreached peoples), play a critical role in blessing the nations. We inspire, educate and challenge the Body of Christ towards involvement in the Great Commission. In this day, near-neighbor (E2) ministry is without question the most effective means of reaching the world's remaining least-reached peoples. The Church, closest to the least-reached, needs to be awakened, the apostles need to be called forth. This is the job of the mobilizer/prophet!

The 'GO', therefore, applies equally to mobilizers as it does to apostles. Too many 'mobilizers' haven't yet caught this vision. They somehow feel exempt from the 'Go' as if a special dispensation has been granted them!

One of the greatest needs today is for 'mobilizers' to catch the vision of starting 'movements' of churches mobilized for cross-cultural missions. Tomorrow's apostles are today in local churches and await their

calling! In the Philippines, in the 1990s, we saw such a movement launched with hundreds of churches being mobilized and scores of 'apostles' responding to the plight of the unreached. The result, all unreached peoples in southern Philippines gained access to the gospel. This movement was started by the ministry of mobilization and sustained by the ministry of mobilization.

Mobilizers need to 'toughen up', take their calling seriously, and begin to see their ministry as essential and not an appendix in the Body of Christ. If we don't prophecy to the Church regarding the plight of the unreached and especially the unreached on the doorstep of the Church, who will? Too many mobilizers blame pastors for not mobilizing their congregations but it's not their job - it's ours! Neither is it the job of the evangelists, teachers and apostles - it's the job of the prophets!

The Joshua Project has recently raised its number of least-reached peoples from 6,700 to more than 7000, with the discovery of more least-reached peoples. Do we need more apostles? We sure do. Do we need more churches involved? We sure do. But this is not likely to happen until mobilizers get mobilized and start mobilizing!

15

An Idea to Accelerate Missions Today

The world Christian movement is my term of choice to describe God's agenda for this age and therefore the Church's all consuming occupation on planet earth!

World means it is a global, **Christian** means it is all to do with Christ's Kingdom and **Movement** refers to the spread and advance of Christ's Kingdom in ever-widening circles to all peoples and to all people.

For forty days following His resurrection and prior to His ascension Jesus spoke with His disciples about the Kingdom of God (Ac1:3). One would assume that Jesus, in preparing His disciples for global expansion, would have included some instruction on strategy to ensure that advance happened. Expansion necessitated advancing the Gospel into distant regions, among new peoples with different languages and different cultures - no easy feat!

Overlooked by so many is the fact that Jesus did address this strategy issue! In his own ministry, Jesus adopted a model used by other global movements of His day, such as the Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes and also John the Baptist. Known in Hebrew as 'Khevra' (company or association), these groups of people were structured for mobility, enabling them to propagate their 'cause' to regions beyond. Jesus acknowledged the mobility that the Pharisees had when He said, "You travel over land and sea to win a single convert" (Mt 23:15).

In adopting this approach Jesus was not only facilitating His own ministry in the best way possible but also providing a model for His disciples to replicate.

Jesus started forming His 'Khevra' very early on in His ministry - it became a priority! In Luke 5 we see Jesus interacting with Peter, John and James, and presumably Andrew, while they were still fishermen and then later with Levi (Matthew), while he was still a tax collector. Similar, perhaps, to what a football coach might do with players prior to making his team selection. In the following chapter of Luke we find Jesus making His selection and choosing a team of twelve that He would mentor for leadership in the world Christian movement!

Jesus' 'Khevera' gave Him and His team mobility. It enabled Him to travel throughout the towns and villages of Palestine (Mt 9:35), interacting with a wide range of peoples including Greeks, Romans, Samaritans, Phoenicians as well as, of course, Jews.

Since the world Christian movement was launched on the day of Pentecost until today, Khevera structures have propelled Christ's Kingdom to every continent and to every country of the world. They have taken on many and varied forms, depending on the need and the understanding of the time.

They have deployed missionaries to the coastlands and inland regions of the unevangelized countries and continents of the world. They have focused on a critical area of need such as Bible Translation and Community Development and championed strategies deemed effective in communicating the gospel such as radio, literature and multi-media, to name a few.

Since the 1970s, when the late Dr Ralph Winter first brought to the attention of the Church the need to understand world evangelization in the context of people groups, waves of Kheveras have emerged, focusing on reaching unreached people groups.

Although significant gains in reaching people groups have been made, the statistics reveal an increase in the number of unreached people groups not a

decrease. The fact is we are not keeping pace with the discovery of new people groups without a gospel witness (www.joshuaproject.net).

The most strategic response to this, I believe, is to encourage the emergence of 'Khevrans' specifically for the purpose of mobilizing the Church for involvement in the world Christian movement.

Call them 'Mobilizer Khevrans', if you like! Think about this - it makes sense does it not? If God's 'modus operandi' for reconciling the world to Himself is through those who have been reconciled (2Co 5:17-20) and if this is God's plan A and there is no plan B, then the mobilization of the Church into active engagement in world mission has to be the most effective strategy on the planet!

If this be true, then the raising up of the 'Tribe of Mobilizers' and the forming of 'Mobilizer Khevrans' becomes more than just a good idea – it just might be the most innovative, Spirit inspired idea of our time!

16

Mobilizers and Missions Today

Never before in mission history has the world existed as it does today - never before have the opportunities for harvest been so favorable and never before has the need for mobilization been so urgent!

Through the amazing efforts of the missionaries laboring in the first and second eras of the modern missionary movement (1792 – 1980), the Church in the non-West has grown from 1% of the global Evangelical population, to around 70% today.

For the Church in those first two eras, the challenges were great, but the task was very clear - there were missionary sending countries and missionary receiving countries. Missions was from the 'West' to the 'Rest'. E3 (distant peoples) missions was the only option and missions was the task of full time missionary professionals.

Fast forward to our generation and we find the world today a very different place. There is a harvest to be brought in – it's the 'task remaining' of some 7000 unreached people groups (UPGs), which represent the most 'gospel resistant' of all the people groups on the planet. However, today, thanks to the efforts of those pioneer missionaries the Church now exists on every continent and in every country of the world. And thanks to globalization the Church and the unreached now exist side by side, in close proximity to each other (close geographically and often culturally).

For the first time in mission history, reaching unreached peoples and seeing breakthrough harvests, can best be achieved through E2 (near-neighbor) missions as opposed to E3 (distant peoples).

Let me provide a few examples on how near-neighbor mission could result in break-through harvests! Today **Kenya** is home to more than 20 million Evangelicals (more than in the whole of Europe). It also hosts some 30 unreached peoples and borders Somalia. In fact there are more than two and a half million Somalis living across the border in Kenya. Mobilizing the Kenyan Church to reach the unreached in its own country (E2) as well as the Somalis (E2) makes good, strategic sense.

Indonesia is home to some thirteen million Evangelicals (the second largest Evangelical

population in South East Asia). It also hosts the largest Muslim population in the world (229 UPGs). As with the Philippines, the mobilization of the Indonesian Church to reach the least-reached in their own country (E2) must be the best strategy for evangelizing Indonesia.

India is home to some twenty-six million Evangelicals and hosts over 2300 UPGs. India already is just behind the USA in missionary sending with the vast majority going cross-culturally within their own country (E2).

Germany is home to more than one and a half million Evangelicals and has a rich history in cross-cultural missions. It also hosts some twenty-one UPGs including two million Muslim Turks and half a million Muslim Kurds. German believers have an unprecedented opportunity to engage in cross-cultural missions within their own country where their level of influence with unreached peoples is greater there than anywhere else in the world where they might serve!

USA is home to over ninety million Evangelicals and host to some 69 UPGs including some five million Muslims, over two million Buddhists and more than one million Hindus. Never in its history, has the Church in the USA had such significant opportunities for cutting edge, cross-cultural mission that is able to be carried out in their own back yard!

UK is home to more than five million Evangelicals. It also hosts some thirty UPGs including nearly two million Muslims and half a million Hindus.

The list just keeps growing - country after country after country now has significant numbers of Evangelicals and hosts unreached peoples.

Near-neighbor missions should be prioritized as the strategy of our day!

Traditional (E3) missions will continue, and indeed, needs to. There will be some situations where E3 is the only option possible, however, this will increasingly be the exception. The rule will be near-neighbor (E2) missions!

For this near-neighbor potential to be fully realized, mobilization is the single most critical component. It is needed to help all believers catch and internalize a truly Biblical worldview that God has reconciled us to Himself and has given us the ministry of reconciliation – God is making His appeal through us (2 Co 5:18-20). It is needed to help change the perception that missions is always the result of air travel to a distant country and for churches to realize that cross-cultural training needs to be a standard part of every church's discipleship program.

For this level of mobilization to be realized in all countries from Germany to Indonesia, from Kenya to the UK and from India to the USA - we need the formation, in every country, of the 'Tribe of Mobilizers' and 'Mobilizer Khevrans'.

It is no coincidence that God is emphasizing the emergence and formation of this 'lost tribe' of the Church, at the same time as global conditions favor an entirely different approach to world mission.

17

The Time is Now!

One of the many things mobilizers have in common, with each other, is the unshakeable belief, that the time for God's people to be actively engaged in the world Christian movement is NOW!

Jesus was emphatic in His declaration that the time is NOW, "Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest" Jn 4:35.

Excuses, as to why the time is NOT now, have never been in short supply and often cloaked in robes of spirituality. Excuses, put forward by God's people, have delayed world evangelization, far more so than any direct spiritual attack coming from the enemy.

In Jesus' time the popular excuse seemed to be the one He addressed in the scripture quoted above, "There is a special season for mission and we must wait for it." When it comes to world Christian mission – the season is always NOW!

Each generation of the Church is presented with a portion of the global harvest to bring in - unreached people groups and unsaved people. The work of harvesting must begin NOW!

William Carey, in his generation, confronted the dominant 'excuse' of his day, that God would save the heathen through some sovereign act without the Church's involvement. When he made a passionate plea to church leaders to engage in world mission, he was chided by a senior pastor with the words, "Sit down young man, when God decides to save the heathen he will do it without your help or ours."

Undaunted Carey continued to trumpet his call to missions with persuasive argument through preaching, writing and dialogue. The result, Carey became a catalyst for the first era of the modern missionary movement, resulting in scores of mission agencies being established that facilitated the sending of thousands of missionaries to the unevangelized regions of the world. Carey has been most notably described as an apostle/missionary but first, and perhaps foremost, Carey was a prophet/mobilizer!

Haggai, the prophet/mobilizer, faced the same debilitating and paralyzing 'excuses' in his day that had resulted in the work of God coming to a standstill. The people had concluded that the time was NOT now – the conditions were not right! (Hag

1:2). "These people say, 'The time has not yet come for the LORD's house to be built.'"

In response, God stepped in with His 'not so secret weapon', the prophet/mobilizer. Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: "Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house (God's House) remains a ruin?" (Hag 1:3-4)

The prophet/mobilizer continued his message, (Hag 1:7-8) "This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored," says the LORD.

The people responded positively, (Hag 1:12) "Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the LORD their God." Work began once again on the 'House of God' and was completed (Ezra 6:14).

In this generation we are confronted with over six thousand people groups without a viable, indigenous Church (www.joshuaproject.net) and millions of unsaved people in reached people groups. We also have a Church of over 600 million followers of Jesus on every continent, in every country and in close

proximity to the world's remaining unreached and unsaved! What's needed is mobilization because the time is NOW!

Of all the ministries gifted to the Church by the ascended Christ (Eph 4:11), it is only the prophet/mobilizer that is struggling to gain credible acceptance and full expression!

Until this happens the chances are God's people, in general, will continue focusing on their 'paneled houses' and God's House which is a House of Prayer for all Nations (Isa 56:7; Mk 11:17) will continue to await the arrival of this 'special season' or until other 'current excuses' are challenged.

Mobilizers, ARISE because the time is NOW!

18

The Ministry of Mobilization – A Summary

Following is a summary of my reflections on the ministry of mobilization. A quick review of this summary will help cement the big picture and the main ideas of this vital ministry.

- **Mobilizers - an Expression of the Ministry of the Prophet**

In the Old Testament predicting future events was the minor ministry of prophets - mobilizing was the major – bringing God's people to a place of devotion, consecration and service. Mobilizers need to understand and appreciate the Biblical roots of their ministry and the full significance to the Church of their 'calling'.

- **Mobilizers - a Foundational Ministry of the Church**

God's work in both Old and New Testaments is built on the two foundational ministries of apostles and

prophets. Mobilizers are key ministries to see the Church become all that Jesus intended it to become and to do all He intended it to do and in each and every generation.

- **Mobilizers Help Prepare a People for the Lord and for Eternity**

The mobilizer's best model is John the Baptist. He labored to 'make ready a people prepared for the Lord'. A prepared people for the Lord is like the army in Ezekiel's vision (Eze 37) able to fulfill the Lord's 'all nations commission'. One cannot overemphasize the eternal significance of serving God's purposes as we sojourn on earth. Mobilizers are helping believers receive a rich welcome into God's Kingdom in eternal ages.

- **Mobilization is a Journey**

There are many mobilization 'events' that enable a believer to journey successfully into participating in the world Christian movement. Mobilizers must appreciate the need to build levels two and three mobilization events on the foundation of a biblical worldview for a journey to be successful.

- **Mobilizers - the Lost Tribe of the Church**

The full complement of 'ministry tribes' is necessary to prepare God's people for service in the world Christian movement. All of the 'fivefold tribes' are in place except for the tribe of prophets (mobilizers).

God today is gathering this tribe together – the restoration of the ministry of mobilizing is underway!

- **Schools for Mobilizers**

The prophet Samuel established the 'schools of the prophets' that saw a flourishing of the prophetic ministry and its continuation well after he passed from the scene. So too, 'schools for mobilizers' might be the best move and investment that will see a flourishing of quality mobilizers, many serving full time, scattered in all countries throughout the world to serve the church in this generation and beyond!

- **Mobilization – Clarifying our Message**

God is on mission and He has called us to join with Him on mission. He has apportioned us a segment of His mission to be involved in – under His guidance, of course. We need to understand the larger purpose of our involvement. Reaching unreached peoples is definitely one area of critical involvement - continuing the work of extending Christ's Kingdom within reached peoples is another. We do the unreached people focus no harm by being more inclusive – in fact, I would argue we advance the unreached peoples' cause significantly!

- **Mobilizer Khebra Planting Movements**

We have heard about the amazing work done by church planting movements among unreached

peoples. It's time we saw Mobilizer Khevrach planting movements, where mobilizing teams embrace the 'go' of the Great Commission and position themselves where they could best influence large segments of God's people and mobilize for strategic participation in mission. The global growth of the Church means there are no longer missionary sending and receiving countries. The Church is everywhere and so are the unreached and the unsaved. Mobilization needs also to be everywhere, targeting particular segments of the Church that are inactive and uninvolved!

- **The Time for Mission is NOW - Therefore the Time for Mobilization is NOW**

Don't say, "its not time!" The world Christian movement - the Kairos of God's jubilee to all peoples and all people is NOW! Any believer who says, "the time is not now", is a victim of spiritual warfare – defeated, imprisoned and now possibly working for the enemy! As mobilizers, we are not ignorant of the 'enemy's devices'. Be resolute. Know your calling and your position in the Body of Christ. Connect with this growing tribe and let's journey together and see the greatest ingathering of peoples and people into Christ's Kingdom ever seen!