

The New Renewal Missionary Movement

I. Introduction

The Characteristics of the New Renewal Missionary Movement

1. Every Evangelical Missionary work comes out of Renewal Movements as a New activity of the Holy Spirit.
2. The importance of the Theological Breakthroughs
3. New Key Leaders in Missions
4. The New Missions Structures
5. The New Historical Context

Mathew 20:1-16

“For the Kingdom of heaven is like a man that is a Householder, who went out early in the morning to hire laborers into his vineyard.

And when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent into his vineyard.

And he went out the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the market place,

And he said to them, Go ye also into the vineyard and whatever is right, I will give you. And they went their way.

Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did the same.

And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle?

They said unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatever is right, that shall ye receive.

So when evening was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the laborers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first.

And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a denarius.

But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a denarius.

And when they had received it, they murmured against the householder,

Saying, these last have worked but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, who have borne the burden and heat of the day.

But he answered one of them and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong. Didst not thou agree with me for a denarius?

Take what is thine, and go thy way; I will give unto this last, even as unto thee.

Is it not lawful for me to do what I will mine with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?

So the last shall be first, and the first last; for many are called but few chosen.”

God wants more workers for His fields. There is no part in the Bible where we find that the Lord doesn't want any more workers, that He already has enough. You will always find that the Lord wants more workers today.

So, what kind of workers does He need today?

There are two types of workers:

1. All those who are ready and willing to obey the command of the Great Commission.
2. Those who love and are willing to risk all for missionary cause.

This passage speaks to us about the 2000 years of missionary work. It says that this master hires workers. The great question is: why does God want workers? The only way to understand this is that God needs people who will dedicate themselves exclusively to His work. God only wants to hire missionaries. This is the whole message. He doesn't want doctors, who are only doctors or engineers who are only engineers or title lawyers, who are only title lawyers. No! God wants to hire missionary doctors, missionary engineers and missionary title lawyers.

As the famous Oswald Smith said, “I am an evangelist, but first I am a missionary. I am a pastor, but first I am a missionary. I am a teacher, but first I am a missionary.” God hires missionaries, He keeps hiring missionaries, and He will continue to hire them until His work finished.

We are going to look at several time periods of Renewal Missionary Movements but there are three things we should understand before we look at them:

1. As far as the Lord is concerned everyone is idle or unemployed if they are not working for Him. When the Lord went to contract missionaries, what were they doing? They were unemployed. But many times we say, I am not unemployed. I am a doctor; I have plenty of work. But as far as God is concerned you are unemployed. As the word says, “He who has ears to hear let him hear.” No one on earth is going to argue with God, saying that he is too busy. God is going to tell you if you are a missionary, you are not unemployed, because you are fulfilling the plans of the Creator of all things.

We should understand that all are unemployed if we are not living out God's plan for us. It doesn't matter if you are a doctor, a senator or the president, you will always be idle as far as He is concerned if you don't have a part in missions. The president of the Republic is just as idle as far as the Lord is concerned, if he is not doing anything to advance the missionary cause. What is his investiture worth if he is still a sinner and his destiny is hell?

2. The Lord has agreed to pay His workers a worthy salary. He says in his Word: “I will pay you a denarius.” What was a denarius? It was equivalent to the minimum wage that was given to a Roman soldier, and a Roman soldier was well paid in the time of Jesus. God is not unjust; He gives us a good salary. So, we see that God pays for missionary work, and He pays well. I would not have any authority to tell you this if I had not experienced it. But, yes, it is true that He pays well. And what He pays us serves.

3. The last will be first and the first will be last many times, and we can even bless others. There are cultures that have problems in this area; they always want to be first. Many denominations fight with others, trying to show that they are first. Today we have to lay aside this attitude. “The one who believes himself to be first will be last,” is what our God wants to communicate in this parable; competition doesn't exist in missionary work. Today there are ministries that have been at work for 50 or 100 years, but this doesn't mean that they are the first. God can raise up another ministry to do

the same work in less time. This is what the Lord of the Harvest wants to communicate.

With these three points in mind, let's look at the following time periods of Renewal Missionary Movements.

II. Period 1: The Messianic Missionary Movement

The Word of God says the master of the vineyard went out very early. According to Greek culture, the hour was 6:00am. The first group hired was the Jewish Christians. Jesus Himself hired the first missionaries. When Jesus was walking by the edge of the river, he saw Peter and Andrew, completely involved in the task at hand, fishing. But in Jesus' eyes they are idle, so He contracted them without losing any time. He changed their profession; He made them fishers of men, the profession of Jesus.

Then, He found Matthew, a tax collector. Matthew considered himself busy, but Jesus considered him idle, and He hired him, too. And one-by-one God Himself chose individuals from the Jewish culture to take responsibility for the early missionary work. Of course, all of us know of the great missionary work that this culture achieved: a fantastic spread of the Gospel in all the Middle East that inundated all of the old World. "And those who are turning the world upside down have arrived here." All this missionary euphoria lasted until the year 313 with the Edict of Milan.

For this great work that was done by the Jewish Christians, God paid a just salary for this culture. Even today it is difficult to find a poor Jew. The Jewish Christians worked for three centuries and the salary that God gave them has lasted until the 21st century.

III. Period 2: The Western Missionary Movement

Again, the owner of the missionary work went out at the third hour, 9 o'clock in the morning, to hire more workers. After the Jewish Christians, the Gospel was passed to the Europeans. This became the second group chosen. We all know that the Gospel arrived in Europe through a woman named Lydia (Acts 8:16). If it is true that Europe was chosen, the question is: What were the Europeans doing before there were completely idle: the Barbarians, the Vikings, and the Pirates were idle people without direction. But the Christian missionary work redeemed them and with their successes and in spite of their failures they carried the Gospel to different continents of the world. For example, they invaded Africa, Asia and Latin America through the conquerors and colonization. And as they went they carried Christianity. No European can deny that his culture was permeated with the Sacred Scriptures, in other words the European culture owes a debt to the Bible. There is no way to explain the evolution of the European culture apart from Holy Scriptures.

Of course, we see again that God paid a good salary to the Europeans, who are blessed until today. Now we understand that the Macedonian that Paul saw was a white European.

Regarding who are the first or the last, this causes a great conflict to the Europeans, compared to those who don't care if they are first or last.

IV. Period 3: The British Missionary Movement

Since the Lord of the harvest was not satisfied with the progress of the missionary work, He went out again at the sixth hour, 12 o'clock noon, to look for more workers. And this time He finds the English culture. The English are the third group chosen by God. For 250 years they were responsible for

spreading the Gospel throughout the entire world. We have Hudson Taylor, William Carey and John Wesley, who were responsible for spreading the Gospel through denominations. The Methodists, Anglicans, Baptists, Congregationalists, Mennonites and Presbyterians are the fruit of all these 250 years of missionary work. In short, the great contribution of this period is the founding of the denominations. Now the great question is: “What were the English going before they were hired?”

They were the worst. Children were dying in the streets of hunger. Pestilence and illnesses were their daily bread. Unemployment and exploitation of children were terrible in England. It is there that the Lord of the mission contracts this ethnic group. And for the great missionary work that they accomplished during these 250 years, God blessed the nation and gave them a just salary. In other words, the English culture also owes a great debt to the missionary cause, and this includes the Queen and her dynasty.

In the area of being first or last, here we find a great conflict. To the English it is difficult to accept the last position; they always want to be first.

V. Period 4: The North American Missionary Movement

One more time the Lord of the vineyard went out at the ninth hour, 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and this time He chose the North Americans. This new group did one of the greatest missionary works of the last ten decades of the 20th century.

It is here that the Pentecostals and Assemblies of God are born, among others (Post-denominationalism or Neo-denominationalism), and then the independent Charismatic churches appeared. Again, we ask: “What were the North Americans doing before they were hired? They were gravely idle with no future, but for the cause of the Gospel they were blessed.

And everyone knows they owe what they have to the missionary work they did. Our God paid them very well. That is why they use the expression “God bless America,” even though they would fail to say, “because of the missionary work.”

But unfortunately, since the 60's the fervent missionary spirit and enthusiasm for the Gospel has declined due to secularism and liberalism. Much of the money given previously to missionary work is being distributed today to Buddhists, Muslims and religions of India. Something is dying in the heart of the North Americans.

As with the English, it seems that this group likes to be the first. But now it appears that God is giving the missionary torch to another cultural group: the missionaries of the New Renewal Missionary Movement.

VI. Period 5: The New Renewal Missionary Movement

And about the eleventh hour He went out, and found others standing idle, and said to them, “Why stand ye here all the day idle?” They said unto Him, “Because no man has hired us.” He said unto them, “Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatever is right that shall ye receive.”

The eleventh hour, 5 o'clock in the afternoon, is when the day is ending, the night is coming and there will not be any more time to work. At this time He goes out to look for more workers and He sees the Third World, and He chooses them and He passes the missionary torch to them. According to the verses mentioned above, at five in the afternoon God finds another quantity of idle persons. Where are the majority of idle people in the world? (Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America) and God Himself is contracting them.

Missionaries have traditionally gone out from the North, the East and the West but never have there been missionaries going out from the Southern Hemisphere. And, what a coincidence, that is where we find the countries of the Third World. What a privilege for me to represent the Third World Mission Association (TWMA) the new army that the Lord of the Harvest is raising up! Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East are working together for the first time, ready to finish the task of world evangelism. The New Missionary Movement was raised up in the 70's by our Asian brothers and then in the 80's the Africans joined in, and in the 90's the Latin-Americans and in the year 2000, our brothers from Middle Eastern countries, making up today an army of 500,000 missionaries, working full time in more than 1000 different languages, represented by 2450 missionary societies.

We are now in the eleventh hour, where no one is concerned who is first or last and we are sure the Lord of the Harvest will pay all of us the same way. I believe that this is the acceptable time for all missions, churches and pastors to join hands, so that together we can respond to the Lord of the harvest and to the challenge of the eleventh hour, that, is, to the challenge of fulfilling the Great Commission. We invite all of you to work with us, so that God will find us working when Christ returns.

VIII. Challenges of the New Renewal Missionary Movement

- Institutionalization vs Renewal
- New Digital Global World Evangelization
- New Models of Evangelization
- New Schools of Missionary Training
- New Models of Finances in Missions
- New Partnership in Missions North, South, East and West