

**“Through you all peoples will be blessed”
(Genesis 12:3)**

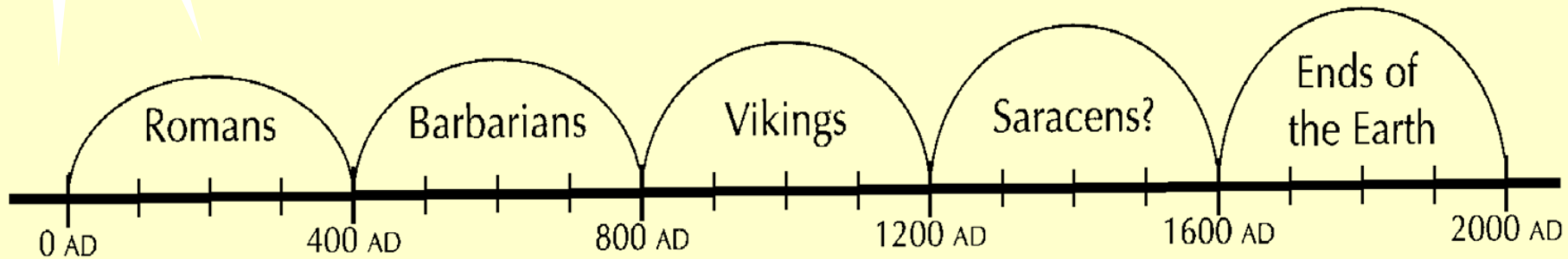
Nazarene missions history
in context:
The Kingdom Strikes Back!

A presentation by Howard Culbertson
Southern Nazarene University

Two key questions to understanding Nazarene missions:

- ⊗ What do we fit into the modern missionary movement?
- ⊗ Which cultural and historical dynamics shaped our missionary enterprise?

5 Epochs of Redemptive History

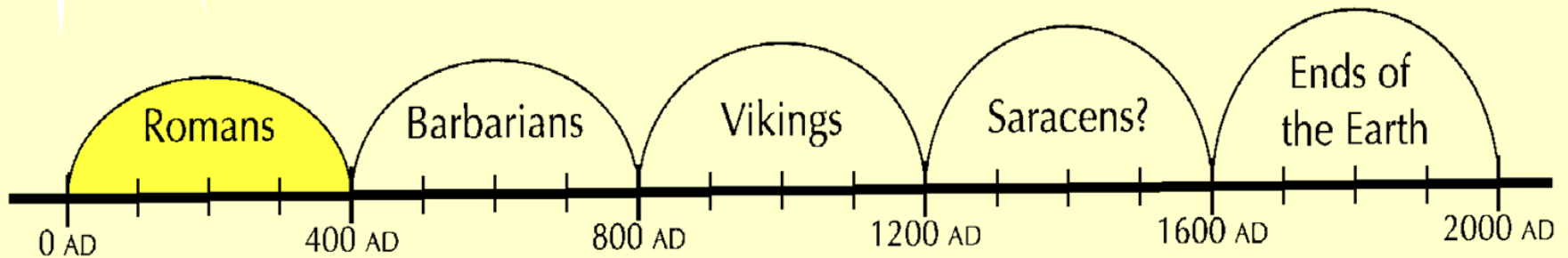


Concept developed by Ralph Winter

December
13, 2020

Fulfilling the Great
Commission

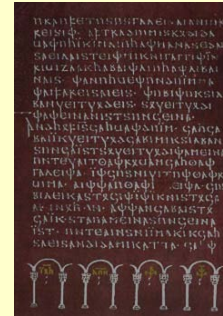
Winning the Romans AD 0-400



Winning the Romans AD 0-400



Early Roman Fresco of St. Paul

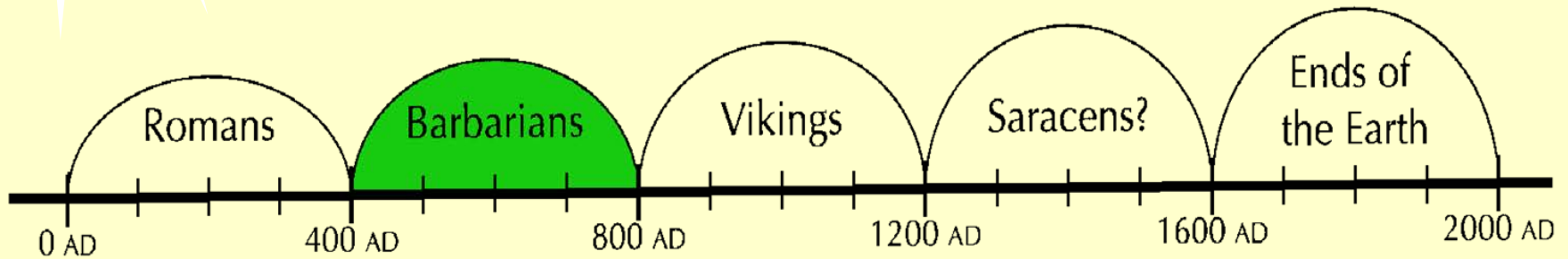


Bible in Gothic
translated by Ulfilas



Emperor Constantine's Vision

Winning the Barbarians AD 400-800



December
13, 2020

Fulfilling the Great
Commission

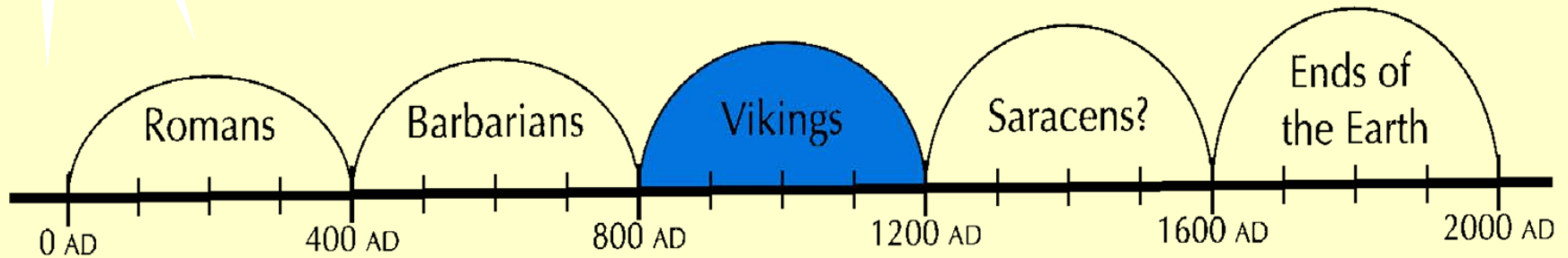
Winning the Barbarians AD 400-800



Boniface after chopping
down the sacred oak
of the thunder god

Origin of Christmas tree?

Winning the Vikings AD 800 - 1200



December
13, 2020

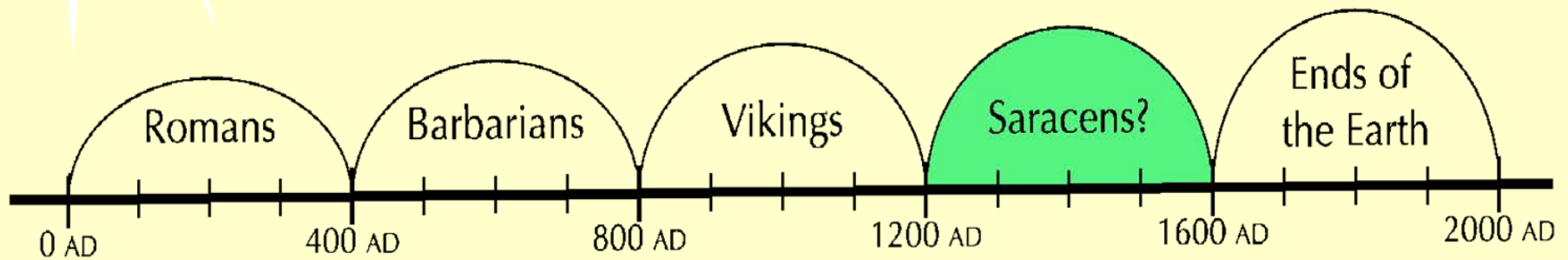
Fulfilling the Great
Commission

Winning the Vikings AD 800 - 1200



- ⊗ Vikings delighted in
 - killing people in the churches
 - burning churches
 - selling monks into slavery.
- ⊗ Anskar (801-854)
 - “Apostle of the North”
 - Sadly, no visible, lasting results
- ⊗ Though England and the Continent were devastated by the Vikings, it was not a victory for paganism

Winning the Saracens? AD 1200-1600



December
13, 2020

Fulfilling the Great
Commission

Winning the Saracens? AD 1200-1600



The stain of
the Crusades

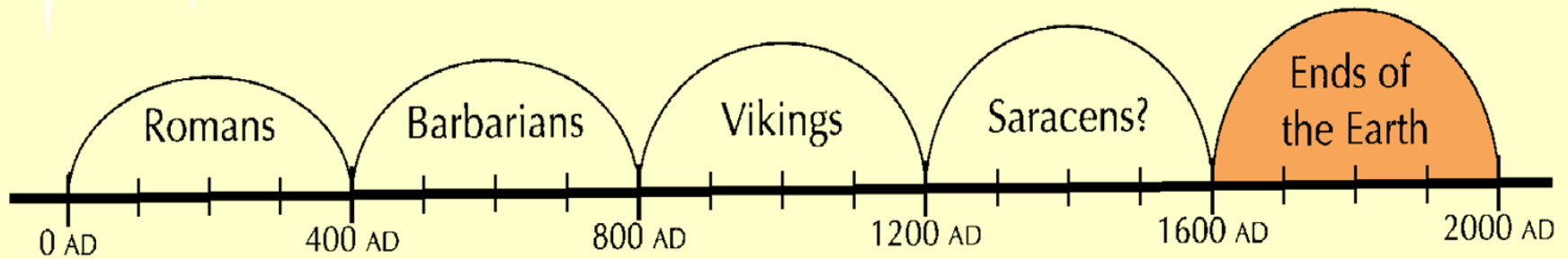
versus



St. Francis of Assisi and
the Sultan of Egypt

Raymond Lull's
martyrdom in
North Africa

To the Ends of the Earth AD 1600-2000



December
13, 2020

Fulfilling the Great
Commission

To the Ends of the Earth AD 1600-2000



December
13, 2020

Fulfilling the Great
Commission

1792-1914:

The Great Century

(in historian Latourette's words)

⊗ Opened:

- William Carey forms Baptist Missionary Society

⊗ Ended:

- World War I

“Imperfect as they were, those nineteenth-century missionaries turned what some thought to be a declining Caucasian religion into the largest and most dynamic religious faith in the world”

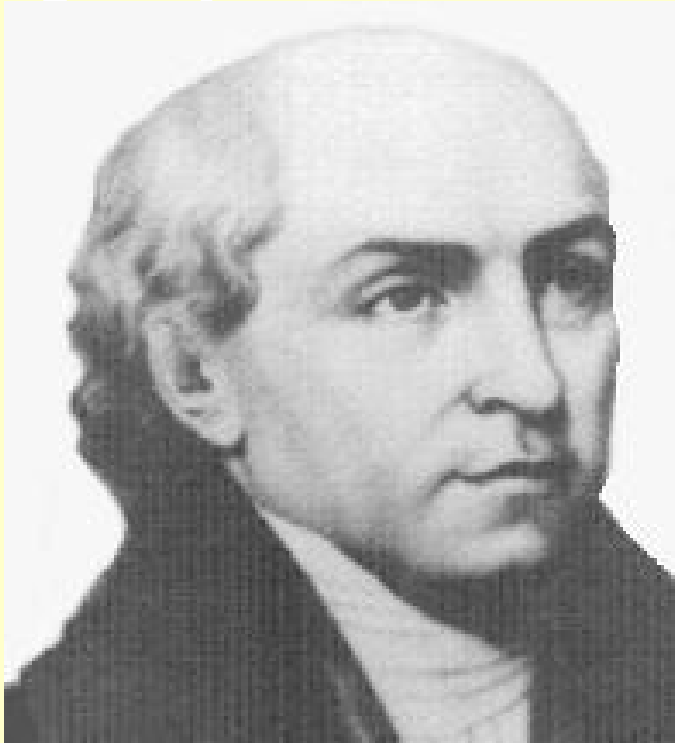
Ruth Tucker

Three eras; four men

- ⊗ To the coast lands (1792-1910)
 - William Carey
 - “Haystack” prayer meeting
 - European dominance
- ⊗ To the inland areas (1865-1980)
 - Hudson Taylor
 - “Faith” mission agencies
 - American dominance
- ⊗ Unreached groups (1934- ?)
 - William Cameron Townsend
 - Donald McGavran

William Carey

✿ Father of Modern Missions



The rebuke to Carey:
*“When God chooses to win
the heathen, He will do it
without your help or ours.”*

Hudson Taylor

✿ China Inland Mission

A Chinese convert:

“What! For hundreds of years you have had these glad tidings and only now have come to preach it to us? My father sought after the truth for more than twenty years, and died without finding it. Oh, why did you not come sooner?”



Unreached Peoples

An Indian's
question:
*“How come God
doesn't speak my
language?”*

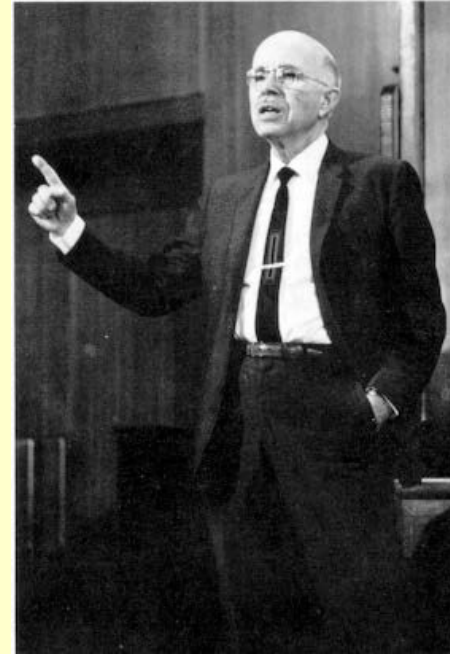


William “Uncle Cam” Townsend

Unreached Linguistic Groups

Unreached Peoples

*“God wants His
lost children
found!”*



Donald McGavran

Unreached Ethnic Groups

World Missionary Conference Edinburgh 1910

Focus: What will it take to finish the job
in *the unoccupied fields*?



Fulfilling the Great
Commission

December
13, 2020

Nazarene movement born at end of Great Century

How were Nazarenes
influenced by what
was “in the air” at
the time?


What we've always said:
**The Church of the Nazarene is
the product of mid-1800's
holiness revivals**

What we should now ask:
**How much of Nazarene missionary
ethos is due to the Great Century's
passion and zeal to reach the
unreached?**

“We are debtors to every man to give him the gospel in the same measure we have received it”

-- P.F. Bresee





What did Bresee mean by that?

December 13, 2020

Fulfilling the Great Commission

Prior to Pilot Point

- ⊗ Northeast: Association of Pentecostal Churches of America
 - 1897, India
 - 1901, Cape Verde Islands
- ⊗ West: Church of the Nazarene
 - 1904, Spanish mission in Los Angeles
 - 1906, India
- ⊗ South: Holiness Church of Christ
 - 1903, Mexico
 - 1907, Swaziland
- ⊗ South: Pentecostal Mission
 - 1902, Cuba
 - 1903, Guatemala
 - 1904, India

A missions flavor from the start

1908

- 6 countries
- 19 missionaries

Passion and vision from the northeast



H.F. Reynolds



Susan Fitkin

From the south, the African legacy



Harmon Schmelzenbach

December
13, 2020

Fulfilling the Great
Commission

Decisions with far-reaching consequences

- ⊗ General Superintendents given jurisdiction over all district assemblies world-wide
- ⊗ Only General Superintendents would lead ordination services

1923: Sweeping restructuring

- ⊗ Organization of a single General Board
- ⊗ Setting up of unified budget
- ⊗ Missions mobilizing and support raising left in hands of an auxiliary, the WFMS with Fitkin as president
- ⊗ First tentative step toward creation of “regions”
 - (This particular step abandoned in 1926)

Depression Years: Retrenchment, not Disaster

“Can’t you do just a little bit more?”

- J. G. Morrison, Foreign Missions executive secretary
1928-36



From Morrison's “just a little bit more” -- our holiday offerings

- ⊗ 1932 -- first Thanksgiving offering (\$11,749)
- ⊗ 1933 -- first Easter offering (\$29,433)
 - “Shower of Dimes” promoted by young people's society

War opens some doors

⊗ First “million for missions” year

⊗ Italy



⊗ Australia



– Direct result of contacts by U.S. military personnel

⊗ Germany



⊗ Papua New Guinea

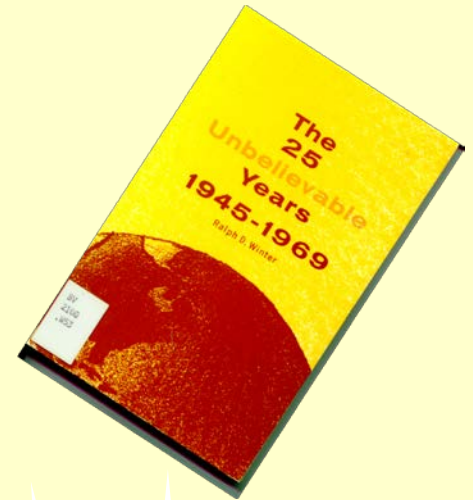
– Entered because of
burdened servicemen



1945-1969: The Twenty-Five Unbelievable years

(Ralph Winter's phrase)

- ✿ Returning veterans bring global consciousness
- ✿ Nationalism explodes
- ✿ Collapse of Western control (from 99% to less than 5%)
- ✿ Upsurge of Christianity in non-western world



1940's: Post-War advances

- ⊗ 1948 First “native” speaker at General Assembly
- ⊗ 1949 Funding crisis solved
 - Alabaster offering begun
 - 10% plan -- Leslie Gay’s 1905 idea is finally accepted



Italian takes 1948 General Assembly “by storm”



Alfredo Del Rosso

- ⊗ Did his General Assembly appearance, his vitality and ability subtly move forward the processes of indigenization and internationalization?

The 1970's:

Internationalization

under Jerald Johnson's leadership

Work and Witness

Internationalization

- ⊗ 1972 Steps put on paper
 - General Assembly approves multi-stage process for districts to become “regular”
- ⊗ 1974 First Regular World Mission District
 - Northeast Guatemala
 - Japan had applied in 1936, but we didn’t know what to do with request
- ⊗ 1976 Intercontinental zone reps on General Board
 - Three zones created
- ⊗ 1980 Six regions created

A federation of national bodies or a unified family?

- ⊗ Only the Roman Catholics are attempting to do what we are: create a global church
- ⊗ Regional assemblies or regional conferences?
- ⊗ Regional Directors now appointed by General Superintendents and report to them

Volunteerism

⊗ Did Work and Witness save us?



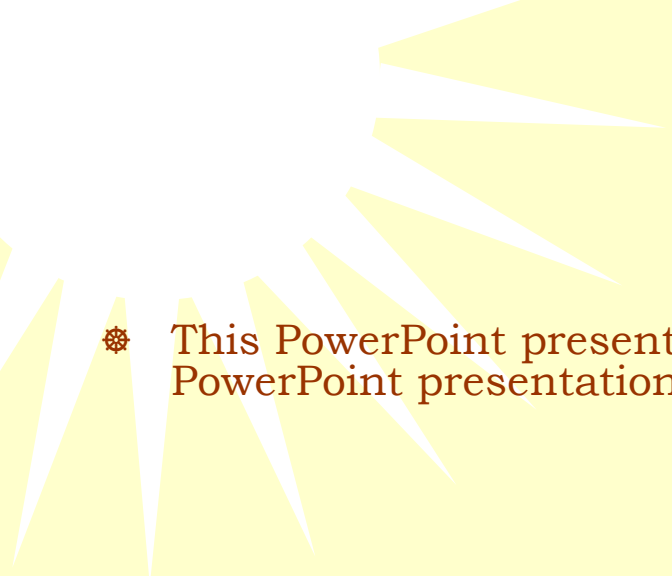
December
13, 2020

Fulfilling the Great
Commission

The 21st Century?

Issues and themes to deal with

- ⊗ Sending
- ⊗ Overseeing
- ⊗ Intermediacy
- ⊗ Support
- ⊗ Centralization
- ⊗ Colonialistic vestiges
 - “Missionaries can go anywhere”
 - “Missionaries can do anything”
 - “We are here to **build** things for God”
 - Using stewardship as excuse for a controlling posture”
- ⊗ Impact of Shrinking World
- ⊗ SOP, PDQ, ETC, FYEO
- ⊗ Tentmaker Witnesses
- ⊗ Multicultural Teams
- ⊗ Minimal Management



✿ This PowerPoint presentation is available along with related materials and other PowerPoint presentations at <http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/ppt.htm>

December
13, 2020

Fulfilling the Great
Commission

