Lesson 8:
Pioneers of the
World Christian Movement
Howard Culbertson
Southern Nazarene University
PIONEER: a person who is among the first to research and develop a new area of knowledge or activity
Key word describing missionary pioneers?

Faithful!
Moravians

Perspectives on the World Christian Movement
Moravians

“..if there is no passionate love for Christ at the center of everything, we will only jingle and jangle our way across the world, merely making a noise as we go.”

Count Nicolaus von Zinzendorf
quoted by Colin Grant, Reader, p. 275
Church leader’s rebuke to Carey: “When God chooses to win the heathen, He will do it without your help or ours.”
William Carey: “The Father of Modern Missions”

Does he merit that title?
Perspectives on the World Christian Movement

• Spoke about establishing mission societies as a “means”

• Graphically presented the world and presence of the church

• Answered common objections to foreign mission work one-by-one

• His wholistic approach became the Magna Carta for mission societies
Hudson Taylor: Missionary to China

- Passion to reach the unreached
- Great example of contextualization
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?”
An Indian’s question: “How come God doesn’t speak my language?”
Donald McGavran, missionary to India

“God wants His lost children found!”

Perspectives on the World Christian Movement
Donald McGavran (1897-1990)

How do whole peoples become Christians?

The gospel travels best along lines of existing relationships.

Normal church planting can only take place after the breakthrough into a particular group.

The Homogenous Unit Principle.

McGavran started both the church growth movement and the frontier mission movement.
“It is clear that Jesus is referring primarily neither to geography nor walls of prejudice when he lists Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth... It seems likely he is taking into account cultural distance as the primary factor.”
Ralph D. Winter

Presbyterian Missionary to Guatemala
Professor at Fuller School of World Mission
Speech at Lausanne Conference on World Evangelization, 1974: “Hidden Peoples.”
US Center for World Mission and William Carey International University, 1979
Ralph Winter

“... until we all recover from this kind of blindness, we may confuse the legitimate desire for church or national unity with the illegitimate goal of uniformity.”
Amy Carmichael of Donavur

“Why don’t you concentrate on saving their souls?”

“I find their souls are very stubbornly attached to their bodies.”
Three girls rescued from temple prostitution by Amy Carmichael
Mary Slessor was raised in a one-room home in Great Britain. In 1876 went to Calabar (part of Nigeria) with United Presbyterians. Became an insider among the Efik -- became “more African than the Africans”. Planted churches and fought slavery, twin-killing, and other social evils.
Gladys Aylward (1904-1951)
Born in a poor home in London.
At age 26 applied to CIM, rejected.
Went to China by train
Founded an inn there.
Was appointed foot-inspector for Yangchen.
Adopted many orphans.
Helen Roseveare, missionary in the Congo

- Helen showed how to really live out loving a people group.
Farsightedness: Harmon and Lula Schmelzenbach

Perspectives on the World Christian Movement
What’s your takeaway from this evening?
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