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A SPIRITUAL STRATEGY FOR CROSS-CULTURAL MISSION IN AFRICA

A CHINESE MISSIONARY'S PRACTICAL PROPOSAL

BY

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To God be the glory!

Summary of Thesis

For all effective and successful ministries that are pleasing to God, whilst it is always important to found our work on sound biblical theory, theology and missiological knowledge, it is equally important for us to place due emphasis on the spiritual aspects. Clearly, all spiritual work must be conducted spiritually and we need to wait upon our Lord for His support. Consequently, the writer attempts to elaborate on the "Spiritual Strategy" which he employed behind all his work.

Chapter 1 gives an introduction of the theme of this thesis and provides some background information concerning the Chinese writer Paul Chiang.

Chapter 2 describes the Chinese cultural and religious background. The first part of this chapter outlines the Chinese country, people, history, philosophy, cultural background and major religions. The second part introduces the Chinese church history. It gives a brief account of how the Western missionaries came to China and why the Chinese rejected the gospel initially. It goes on to describe how the church has grown in spite of persecutions and how opportunities have arisen for Chinese Christians to participate in cross-cultural mission work. This chapter hopes to encourage Chinese churches to play a more active role in world mission.

As we review church history, we knew that the Jews took the first baton for world mission. The Europeans then took over and the North Americans were third in picking up the rein. Now, as we are approaching the ultimate showdown, the Chinese should boldly carry the last baton for world mission. To assume this important role in order to fulfill the great commission of Jesus Christ, the Chinese would have to act as cross-cultural missionaries.

The rapid growth of the Chinese Church since 1977 has no parallel in church history. By 1990, there were already some 30-75 million Christians in China. It is widely known that about 1/5 of the world population today is Chinese. Therefore, if all Chinese round the world were converted to Christianity and if each converted Chinese can successfully evangelize four other people, then the entire world will become Christianized. One of the underlying thoughts of this postulation is that our Lord will utilize all races to fulfill His commission in His time. In particular, He is going to mobilise people from the Third World to reach out to the remaining parts of the world.

Chapter 3 focuses on the life of the Gbandi tribe of Liberia. It describes the characteristics of this tribe and covers the various aspects of mission work amongst them. This chapter also makes comparison amongst the different approaches adopted by missionary groups working in the same region. Understandably, such differences could be quite significant as different missionaries originate from a multitude of nations, cultures as well as having varying denominational backgrounds.

Chapter 4 presents a case study of Chinese missionary working in Indian and Black South African communities. The spiritual strategy that has been developed by them for mission work will be described here. Such strategy covers the training of disciples of Jesus Christ, as well as efforts made in relationship building. In the chapter, it explains how a Prayer Mountain strategy was adopted for uniting the body of Christ and for waging spiritual warfare. Amongst other work, outlines of how a "March for Jesus" had been organized was also mentioned.

In Chapter Five, the writer describes some of his major underlying biblical thoughts and elaborates, as applicable, relevant issues arising from case studies. Inter alias, he covers miscellaneous aspects such as: mission theology, Kingdom mind for world mission, Paul's mission theology, form and meaning, cross-cultural mission through incarnation, practical theology by intercession prayer for unity and revival etc.

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