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.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHAPTER ONE:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO THE CHINESE MISSIONARY WORK AMONG THE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gbandi Tribe of Liberia and the Indian Muslim People</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of South Africa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.1 Introduction                                       12
1.2 Chapter One – Introduction                          12
1.3 Chapter Two – The Chinese Factor                    12
1.3.1 Why focus on the Chinese in this Research Study?  13
1.3.2 Why this Thesis? The Goal of the Study           13
1.3.3 The focus of the Study                            16
1.3.4 The Emphasis on “Spiritual Strategy”             18
1.3.5 The Purpose of this Thesis                        19
1.3.6 Are Chinese Capable of Doing Mission Work?        20
1.3.7 What are the Problems Hindering Chinese from     22
Reaching Out?                                           |
1.3.8 An Introduction to the Background of the Writer – 23
The First Missionary from Taiwan to Liberia            |
1.3.8.1 Background                                     23
1.3.8.2 Born Again                                     24
1.3.8.3  Called to be a Servant of God  25
1.3.8.4  Called to Africa  26
1.3.8.5  Mission Field  28
1.4  Chapter Three – Work among the Gbandi People  30
   1.4.1  The problems and Difficulties Encountered in the
          Gbandi Rural Area  30
   1.4.2  The Spiritual Strategy and Plan for Reaching
          the Gbandi People  32
1.5  Chapter Four – Work in Lenasia, South Africa  33
1.6  Chapter Five – MISSIOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS  37
1.7  Chapter Six – Conclusion  38

CHAPTER TWO:
THE CHINESE FACTOR

2.1  Introduction  39
2.2  The People’s Republic of China  39
   2.2.1  The Country and Its People  40
   2.2.2  Chinese Philosophy  41
   2.2.3  Traditional Chinese Religion  44
   2.2.4  The Current Religious Situation in China  47
   2.2.5  Political Situation in China  49
2.3  The “Sleeping Dragon Nation” is Waking Up  50
2.4  Christianity in China  52
2.5  Why the Chinese had Refused the Gospel  55
   2.5.1  Colonialism in China  55
CHAPTER THREE
A CHINESE MISSIONARY IN LIBERIA

3.1 Introduction 72
3.2 Liberia 73
3.2.1 The History of Liberia 73
3.2.2 Summary Facts of Liberia 74
3.2.3 The Liberian Situation 75
3.2.3.1 Economy 75
3.2.3.2 Politics 75
3.2.3.3 Religion 77
3.2.3.4 The Bloody Civil War 78
3.3 A Case Study of the Gbandi Tribe 78
3.3.1 Introduction 78
3.3.2 The Gbandi Tribe 79
3.3.3 Geographic Location 79
3.3.4 General Information 80
3.3.5 The Gbandi Religion 80
3.3.5.1 Gbandi’s Concept of Deity 81
3.3.5.2 Death 84
3.3.5.3 Life After Death 85
3.3.5.4 Magic and Religion 86
3.3.5.5 The Devil Society 87
3.3.5.6 The Ways of the Secret Society 88
3.3.5.7 Muslim Influence 91
3.3.6 Life Style 91
3.4 Christian Mission Among the Gbandi 92
3.4.1 Introduction 92
3.4.2 History of the Sudan Interior Mission (SIM) 93
3.4.3 History of SIM’s Work among Gbandi 94
3.4.4 Difficulties Faced by Missionaries in the Cross-cultural Environment 95
3.4.4.1 The White Man’s Grave 95
3.4.4.2 Cultural Adjustment 95
3.4.5 Religious Reasons Hindering Gbandi People from Following Christ 96
3.4.5.1 The Devil Society 96
3.4.5.2 Human Sacrifice 97
3.4.5.3 Witchcraft 98
3.4.5.4 Divination 98
3.7.3.3 Understanding People
3.7.3.4 Walking with Jesus Day to Day
3.7.4 Making Disciples
3.7.4.1 Disciple Training Centre
3.7.4.2 Building Up Disciples
3.7.4.3 Training Gbandi Sunday School Teachers
3.7.4.4 Providing Learning Materials
3.7.5 Open Air Evangelism in the Villages
3.7.6 Bible Study / Bible Teaching in Public Schools
3.7.7 Recognising Indigenous Ways
3.7.8 March for Jesus
3.7.9 Music Ministry
3.7.10 Gbandi Tribe Conference
3.8 The Working of the Holy Spirit
3.8.1 Gbandi Church Leaders
3.8.2 Power of the Gospel
3.8.3 A Witch Accepted Christ
3.8.4 A Man Risen from the Dead
3.8.5 Worship of the Tree God
3.9 Conclusion - Possibility of Third World Mission

CHAPTER FOUR
A CHINESE MISSIONARY IN LENASIA

4.1 Introduction
4.4 Some Background about South Africa
4.2.1 Economy 137
4.2.2 Politics 138
4.3 Lenasia 139
4.4 The Religions of Lenasia 140
4.4.1 Hinduism 140
4.4.2 Islam 149
4.5 Christian Ministry in Lenasia 153
4.5.1 The Churches in Lenasia 153
4.5.2 Mission in Lenasia 154
4.6 The Work of the SIM Chinese Missionary in Lenasia 160
4.6.1 The Beginning 160
4.6.1.1 A Personal Biographical Introduction 160
4.6.1.2 The Beginning 162
4.6.2 The Spiritual Strategy of the Chiangs 164
4.6.2.1 Introduction 164
4.6.2.2 Outline of the New Strategy 166
4.6.2.2.1 The Incarnational Approach 166
4.6.2.2.2 Home Cell Groups and Bible Study 173
4.6.2.2.3 Prayer Ministry and Prayer Mountains 178
4.6.2.2.4 Unity among the Churches and the Jesus March 182

CHAPTER FIVE
MISSIOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS
5.1 Introduction 190
5.1.1 God’s Spiritual Strategy 191
5.1.2 Theological Strategy 191

8
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.1.3</td>
<td>Pentecost and Mission</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.4</td>
<td>Form and Meaning of “Spiritual Strategy”</td>
<td>196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.5</td>
<td>Spiritual Strategy in the Light of God’s Kingdom</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.5.1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.5.2</td>
<td>The Inauguration of the Kingdom</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.5.3</td>
<td>The Usurpation of the Kingdom</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.5.4</td>
<td>The Spiritual Battle of the Kingdoms</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.5.5</td>
<td>Kingdom Spiritual Strategy strikes Back –</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Through Israel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.5.6</td>
<td>Kingdom Spiritual Strategy Strikes Back –</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Through the Church of Jesus Christ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>The Incarnational Approach</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.1</td>
<td>Incarnational Missiology as Spiritual Strategy</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.1.1</td>
<td>Introductions</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.1.2</td>
<td>Incarnation</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.1.3</td>
<td>Jesus’ Incarnational Life</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.1.4</td>
<td>Paul’s Incarnational Life</td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.1.5</td>
<td>Incarnation in Practice</td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.2</td>
<td>A Spiritual Strategy in a Spiritual World</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.2.1</td>
<td>Introductions</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.2.2</td>
<td>Spiritual View of Western and Gbandi People</td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.2.3</td>
<td>Western and Hebrew Paradigms</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.2.4</td>
<td>A Spiritual Strategy of Healing</td>
<td>234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.2.5</td>
<td>Divine Healing as Part of Spiritual Strategy</td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>Cell Groups and Their Leaders</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3.1</td>
<td>Introductions</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.3.2 The Spiritual Strategy of the Missionary is to 
Train Local Church Leaders in Team Work

5.3.2.1 Teamwork

5.3.2.2 Cell Groups

5.3.2.3 Cell Group Leadership

5.3.2.4 Training Cell Group Leaders

5.3.2.5 Indigenous Church and Theology

5.3.2.6 SIM Chiang's Spiritual Strategy

5.4 The Prayer Strategy

5.4.1 Personal Prayer Life

5.4.1.1 Introduction

5.4.1.2 The Importance of Prayer

5.4.1.3 When and How?

5.4.2 Communal Prayer Life

5.4.2.1 Morning Devotions

5.4.2.2 Teamwork Prayer

5.4.3 The Prayer Mountain Strategy

5.4.3.1 The Concept of a Prayer Mountain

5.4.3.2 Prayer Mountain in South Africa

5.5 The Striving for United Action

5.5.1 Unity

5.5.2 Teamwork for Unity

5.5.2.1 Introduction

5.5.2.2 Gleaning from the Asian Culture

5.5.2.3 Teamwork for the New South Africa

5.5.2.4 Teamwork in Large Churches
5.5.2.5 Teamwork from the Bible
5.5.2.6 Teamwork for Unity
5.5.2.7 Unity Brings Revival
5.5.2.8 Problems and Practicalities of Teamwork
5.5.3 Mountain Prayer for Unity and Revival
5.5.4 March for Jesus as a Spiritual Strategy for
Unity in World Mission
5.5.4.1 Reconciliations
5.5.4.2 Motivation for the Movement
5.6 Conclusion

CHAPTER SIX
CONCLUSION

6.1 The Liberian Experience
6.1.1 The Power of the Gospel
6.1.2 Third World Missionaries
6.2 The South African Experience
6.2.1 Strategy for the Indian Mission in Lenasia
6.2.1.1 The God-given Strategy
6.2.1.2 The Pastor's Pastor
6.2.1.3 Prayer
6.2.1.4 Teaching
6.3 The Future of the Chinese Churches

BIBLIOGRAPHY
INTERNET INFORMATION

11