

On Mission 2019

*The State of the Global Gospel:
Present and Future Trends*

Jason Mandryk - Operation World Convergence - Worship, Prayer and Mission

Hi, I am Jason Mandryk and I serve with the ministry Operation World. I'm speaking to you from the campus of All Nations Christian College, which is where Operation World has its base. It's just North of London, England. So, if you look far enough behind me, you can see the Towers of Canary Wharf in East London, and the body of water behind me is the River Lee, which was the venue for the whitewater rafting at the London Olympics and it flows into the Thames River in London and then out into the North Sea. And it's probably a very appropriate analogy because what I want to share about is the concept of Convergence or Confluence. And how God is at work in a particularly notable way as we've observed with Operation World.

I've had the privilege of -very recently- being in Singapore, and Indonesia, and Ethiopia. And I can see how God is replicating what He's doing in this area of Convergence. Not just in Western countries, but indeed throughout the Earth. And I think that in the missional context it's particularly relevant, hope-giving, encouraging and challenging.

And so, what I mean by this confluence or this convergence is that, one thing that we can probably share in our observations regardless of your perspective or your opinion, is that especially in youth culture within the church, with the global youth culture within the church, regardless of denomination, regardless of ethnicity and nationality, that, the worship movement, and the ease, and enthusiasm, and passion and fervency that we see particularly among the younger generation for some musical worship is something that is very real, very present, and very much a dominant element in the practicing of Christian faith today. What we also are increasingly seeing are our ministries, and movements, and individuals and opportunities for this enthusiasm to shift from worship into prayer. There are more and more ministries around the world that are catching onto this and many are very deliberately cultivating worship within churches, outside of churches, worship events over weekends or even for longer that are trying to tap into that passion for worship, and add to it, or directed toward, or allowed to flourish a spirit of prayer, particularly a spirit of intercession.

I think that it's a very healthy and encouraging thing that we start in worship and that is a great platform for us to move into prayer and intercession. From a recognition of our place before God, from a hallowing of God, and honoring of Him, and adoration of Him, recognizing of His worthiness of His power and then from that, realization and recognition. We have a profound

platform from which to engage in prayer and intercession. And that convergence doesn't just stop there. Although it's wonderful that worship, which often begins as an experiential me-oriented thing, moves into prayer and intercession which of course, is an outward, upward and outward thing. But it doesn't stop there. The convergence that we're really observing today, is that, the prayer movements around the world and mission-sending movements around the world are increasingly coming together. Why they were siloed in the first place, that's another conversation for another time. But it's encouraging to see how mission and prayer are coming together around the world - in Europe, in the Americas, in Africa and throughout Asia.

I can't imagine effectiveness in mission especially the task that remains today without a profound dependence on the power of God through prayer. I can't imagine an awareness of the information about unreached people groups, about social economic needs, about justice issues, about all of the profound needs of humanity throughout the world that doesn't drive us into prayer. And I can't imagine an active, profound prayer life for these kinds of needs that God doesn't somehow direct toward a missional engagement. And so, whether I was in Indonesia at a youth prayer event, whether I was in Addis Ababa at the launch of some prayer resources in empiric, whether I'm back here -part of a movement to see a school of prayer for the nations emerge here on this campus; we're seeing how this confluence of worship that streams and flows into prayer, into intercession, and eventually into mission is an encouraging thing. Sometimes at Operation World, we've almost half-jokingly said, why don't we put a moratorium on mission recruiting to our agencies and all of the publications, and the pamphlets, and the finances, and human resources that go into trying to recruit people into our agencies, we invest that instead into mobilizing prayer for the nation's and then see what God does. Over and over and over in the last few years, we've been meeting missionaries who are a product of prayer movements, not necessarily a product of missions mobilizing. That is, that they were engaged in prayer for the nations. They were part of movements whether youth or otherwise, whether small or large that were involved in praying for the nations and through that prayer, The Holy Spirit called them to go to the nations and to be the answers to their own prayers. Whether that was Brazilians serving in the U.K., whether that was Ethiopian serving in Somalia, whether that was Indonesians preparing to go to South Asia. Over and over we see that the Holy Spirit is working in this way, taking a younger generation passionate and enthusiasm for worship, shifting it into intercession and as a result, calling them into mission.

Now that's just one tiny thread of all of the many amazing ways that God is at work around the world. But it's one that, that just seems to feel right. It makes sense. It's bearing fruit and it's organic within the way that God is moved through the history of the church. I also think that it puts people in an excellent platform. If their missional activity comes from a foundation of worship of God and flows through engagement in prayer, and intercession, then they're, probably in a pretty good place to be effective, and fruitful and sustainable in mission.

So, that's what I'd like to share about. It's encouraging, it's challenging, and it's exciting, and it gives me hope for a younger generation that we've often thought is really hard to mobilize into mission. But I think that we're beginning to see a shift. Thank you for your time. God bless you.