

The Sound Of Distant Drum Beats

By Larry Kutzler

Come and Visit!

4/7 Challenges of the City—*Youth and Gangs*—Robert Bushman—Law Enforcement Leadership Strategies, LLC

4/14 Challenges of the City—*Prostitution /Sex Trafficking*—Danielle Kluz—Breaking Free

4/21 Challenges of the City—*Justice/Courts*—Thom Olson

4/28 Pulling it All Together—Rev. Roland J. Wells, Jr.

5/5 Unreached People Group Presentations

5/12 Graduation and Ice Cream Party!

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Rumors of War

The sabers are rattling again from the era of the Cold War. Russia is on the move, and the victims of her aggression are the countries of the former Soviet Union. Regardless of the political ramifications of this newest upheaval, we are hearing the sound of distant drum beats of annexation coming not only from the Kremlin, but also from the South China sea.

China has laid claim to a series of islands that were in international waters, and many think is a preliminary move before they annex Taiwan. Leaders in the West are feeling uneasy about this new movement by the superpowers to expand their territories, and are wondering how this can be stopped and by whom?

For several decades now, we have seen a migration of people moving away from their countries of origin, and moving to places like Europe or the United States. Some have seen this as simply a sociological movement, but I would disagree. People come here for a variety of reasons, but the question that needs to be asked, is, *“can this movement of people be a prophetic move of God”* in order to infiltrate their culture with the gospel?

The Gospel in this Context

Many of us who are connected to MissionShift believe it is. God’s overwhelming concern is not for the geopolitical status of a country, as much as He is concerned about the people hearing the gospel. There are many fine missionary outreaches around the world, and yet, God is orchestrating this



George by Mariah Wilder (mariahjoyphotography.com)

movement of people to position them in countries with communities of faith that will care for their spiritual needs.

This is a little different from what we saw God do following the fall of the former Soviet Union in 1991. Many Christian organizations flooded Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine with the gospel, and millions came to know the Lord. You can’t help believing that this movement of God was in preparation for what many in those areas are experiencing today. However, our world keeps changing, and the tactics God uses are also changing.

Because of the difficulty of missionary support, and the harder access into some countries, we feel God is sending us spiritual refugees who need the gospel. If the gospel can’t get to them, He will bring them to the gospel. This is a Great problem to have, but most churches are not prepared for this mission field, nor are they getting prepared.

A Sanitized Gospel?

MissionShift has been sounding the alarm for over a decade to get the attention of American (*continued*)

Drum Beats (continued from pg. 1.)

Christians to see this need, and prepare ways to reach these new immigrants. Our churches are busy trying to sanitize the gospel so it fits into a middle class culture that addresses the needs of a 21st century family. However, the reality of the gospel message has to do with the power to change lives, and transform cultures.

You cannot sanitize the gospel to fit your world of convenience and maintain the nature of the message. If we remain indifferent maintaining a sanitized gospel, we will lose the opportunity to reach our world, right in our backyards. If the church goes into all the world to transform it with the message of the



Nicollet Mall Drum by Mariah Wilder (mariahjoyphotography.com)

gospel, as Jesus told us to do, be prepared. The gospel is designed by God to be inserted into all kinds of conditions for the purpose of bringing people to Christ.

Our opportunity is now, to insert the gospel into the lives of our immigrant neighbors. As the world continues to change, and governments continue to rattle their sabers, people of those countries need to hope in God, and perhaps that hope might just come from their relative living next door to a church that was effective in bringing the gospel to their door. Immigrants are fertile ground for world evangelization.

(Larry Kutzler is the Executive Director of CitySites Urban Media and a MissionShift Board member)

Student Spotlight: Sheryl Marshall

Sheryl's interest in cross-cultural ministry started a few years ago. At a local event she had heard Dan Adler speak about multi-cultural worship. She began to connect with the Heart of the City and other worship leaders doing multi-cultural worship. Sheryl began to realize that she has neighbors that live next to her in Blaine from other cultures and wondered if anyone was reaching them.

About a year ago, she had a last minute opportunity to go on the City Vision tour where she received a *MissionShift* brochure. Sheryl tucked it away until a couple of months later when attended the Global Worship Celebration where Dan and Sandy were receiving the Bridge Builders Award. She had the opportunity to talk to someone in the *MissionShift* program and felt God impressing her to take the class.

Sheryl has enjoyed many of the *MissionShift* classes, but her favorite was the presentations by different cultural leaders teaching about their culture. She has been able to take what she has learned already and apply it to her neighbors by listening and asking questions. She loved the books that were assigned. Sheryl is excited to get started in entrepreneuring her church.

As a worship leader at Samaritan's Hill in Rogers, she really was impressed by his message. Sheryl stated that the biggest thing she will take away from the class is when starting a ministry; don't assume that you know what people need, do the research. She has already has someone in mind that she would like to attend the class next year.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for the health of staff and students
- Pray for the students as they work on their Unreached People Group Projects
- Pray for the speakers as they present God's love for the community

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