

## ***Topic: Living an Intentionally Multicultural Life***

### ***Sub-topic: The Social Swing***

Introduction: Mississippi Burning

- USA and Sothern Africa
- India and China
- Australia and New Zealand
- Middle East

Segregation more obvious the history of the countries above

- UK (Bicentenary 1807-2007) and Europe

Segregation is subtle

- Judiciary system (more black people found guilty)
- Work places (Hard for non whites to get top position in work)
- Churches (Leadership tends to be white male), and in the 50's and 60's when black people started coming here from the Caribbean in great numbers the white Churches did not welcome them.<sup>1</sup>

### ***Text: Galatians 3:26-29***

*26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

As Christians we are Abraham's true spiritual descendants

As Dan said so clearly last week with his many helpers, here at CJ's City we are Christ-Centred and Intentionally Multicultural.

Unity in Christ transcends ethnic, racial, social, and gender distinctions and here our vision is to see this vision lived out in reality.

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<sup>1</sup> The New Testament Church of God has a rich heritage. Courageous men and women of God have laid its foundation and planned the strategies for its growth in the 1950's and 1960's. They did so despite racism, marginalization and rejection. They refused to be so silent and dared to "sing the Lord's song in a strange land." As a result of their faithful service and the devotion of loyal followers, we now have a denomination, which is firmly set in the Pentecostal Evangelical tradition, organisationally sound, with over 115 congregations and more than 300 ministers serving a set of talented, gifted people across the age range.

The truth of living this life is possible but not easy, the world divides us by race, class, gender, and religion but in Christ we are all one.

Major Points:

### 1. Bookends (Table w/books at the front)

Black people and White people are generally the bookends of the racial divide. If these two races move closer together, the races in the middle (Asians, Latinos, Natives Americans and others) will come together.

Bookends are at the beginning and end of each row and all the books in the middle lean on these ends

**Example of Julio and Dion** (pure friends and didn't mind each other's race)

There is no segregation in the Bible, in God's Kingdom and in heaven. Segregation is therefore worldly.

*9And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased **men** for God **from every tribe and language and people and nation**. 10You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." **Rev.5***

Word Study on the word "men" to follow

*9After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, **from every nation, tribe, people and language**, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. **Rev.7***

*"Now the dwelling of God is with **men**<sup>2</sup>, and he will live with **them**. **They** will be his people, and God himself will be with **them** and be **their** God. 4He will wipe every tear from **their** eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." **Rev.21***

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<sup>2</sup> A human being, whether male or female

- a) Generically, to include all human individuals
- b) To distinguish man from beings of a different order
  - 1) Of animals and plants
  - 2) Of from God and Christ
  - 3) Of the angels

The word “**anthropos**” here means all human individuals, whether they are male or female, rich or poor, gentry or proletariat, black or white. Every one is included.

*22I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. 24The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. 25On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. 26The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. 27Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. Rev.21*

*And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Rev.22*

There is richness in diversity, we as a Church we need to appreciate different cultures and learn from each other adding value to each other and bringing glory to God our Maker.

We need to be proactive in our exposure to other cultures rather than reactive. We need to see great love being demonstrated within our Church family and indeed our Community. Destroying all cultural, class, and colour barriers. The reason for us to be proactive is 3 fold:

- i) God intends us to be
- ii) There is a richness in being multicultural
- iii) There is a powerful witness in being multicultural (My door to door story)

In the British Church today we see the “**white book Christianity**” (HTB, All Souls, Hill Song etc) and “**black book Christianity**” (NTCG, Glory House, Jesus House, KICC etc) and “**yellow book Christianity**” (Emmanuel Church)

We need as a Church to reach out to the communities around us with the wonderful news about our Lord Jesus. (*More on that look at the sermon I preached on the 21<sup>st</sup> October on being Intentionally Multicultural*), but the main point was the inextricable link between Evangelism and being a Multicultural Church in the (Panta Ta Ethne) Great Commission Passage.

As a Church we need to be intentional about our vision to see a Multicultural Church, there is a cost in achieving this multicultural unity.

We might need to learn a new language, a new lifestyle, and a new worship.

As the Church resound with its great symphony of praise on this earth as in heaven, the world will see and hear a compelling sound of Christian Unity. What a powerful testimony.

*Rhythms of Race | Julio's Story*

**Age:** 10 (Dion), 15-6 (New Birth), 20 (Community), 23 (Pastors a White Church), 25 (Missionary in Britain), 28 (Marries a white woman), 32 (HTB, Pastor and PCC, 38 (Founded CJ's City)

## 2. GETTING ON THE DANCE FLOOR

CJ's City is not the only Church in the world that is trying to be Intentionally Multicultural, trying to reflect the multicultural kingdom of God.

Here are a few Churches that are stepping on the dance floor of multicultural ministry. As we do business in this art form, the Spirit of God provides a sense of inner music in our worship for God in a multicultural context.

We might feel embarrassed, unable but as we pursue this more and more the Holy Spirit will provide the irresistible music that we can all dance to. Dancing with people from all cultures to a more melodious ministry.

The face of Britain<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> "London is officially the "most diverse city ever" according to today's Guardian."  
[http://londonist.com/2005/01/most\\_diverse\\_ci.php](http://londonist.com/2005/01/most_diverse_ci.php)

How's this for cosmopolitan:  
 "Country of Birth Population  
 United Kingdom 5,230,155  
 India 172,162  
 Republic of Ireland 157,285  
 Bangladesh 84,565  
 Jamaica 80,319  
 Nigeria 68,907  
 Pakistan 66,658  
 Kenya 66,311  
 Sri Lanka 49,932  
 Ghana 46,513  
 Cyprus 45,888  
 South Africa 45,506  
 United States 44,622  
 Australia 41,488  
 Germany 39,818  
 Turkey 39,128  
 Italy 38,694  
 France 38,130  
 Somalia 33,831  
 Uganda 32,082  
 New Zealand 27,494"

London is the most diverse city in the world according to the Guardian.

The question I have is this, Are we prepared to respond and embrace this wave of God and get aligned?

### In the USA

- Willow Creek Community Church

*Welcome to Willow Creek Community Church, where our doors are wide open to people from all backgrounds.*

- Ambassador Bible Church (Originally Korean)

*We're a multiethnic contemporary church, where everyone is welcome!*

- Bridgeway Community Church (Flavia's sister worships there)

*Bridgeway is a non-denominational, multicultural church*

- **Mosaic (Originally a white majority Church)**

*The name of our community comes from the diversity of our members and from the symbolism of a broken and fragmented humanity!*

- Vineyard Community Church, Evanston

A Multiethnic Ministry

### In the UK

Glory House

*Glory House is a multiracial and multicultural dynamic charismatic church based in the famous Docklands area of London, England.*

El-Shaddai International Christian Centre

*The churches are unique for their multi-cultural make-up and reach and over the past three years the ministry has experienced phenomenal growth.*

Jesus House

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<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London>

I would have to agree. The British Empire ruled a quarter of the world's population and land in 1921. London was, is/always will be the heart and soul of Britain, therefore many flocked here from all over the empire and settled here.

*For all Nations*

**In Zimbabwe**

- Family Praise Fellowship
  
- Celebration Ministries International

*To build strong Word-based churches, meeting people's needs- spirit, soul and body- and to touch the nations of the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

In South Africa a country torn by Apartheid for a long time churches are now realizing that being intentionally multicultural is the hope of South Africa.

**3. MOVING AND GROOVING**

The world around us is demographically changing; there is certainly a swing towards a multicultural existence.

The Evangelical Church needs to hear this message gone are the days of segregation, or homogenous unity group Churches. In matters of race relations and multicultural ministry, God's call is louder and clearer.

Our neighbourhoods, work places, schools, colleges, leisure centres, and other social networks are so inter-racial.

**The Asda-Ikea factor**

When we go to Flea Markets, Asdas, IKEA or Tesco we see people of all cultures coming together, primarily because people can get food or furniture cheaper.

We as CJ's City what to move towards this dream, which the Spirit of God has birthed, and help others groove with us.

The time is now to see this move we have seen move such as the Reformation, Body Ministry, Miracles Ministry, Healing Ministry, Evangelism Ministry and now its Multicultural Ministry in both Evangelism and Discipleship.

We should follow the example of Christ:

- Humility (Phil.2: 6-9)
  
- Reconciliation (2 Cor.5: 17-21)

Reconciliation is a value we must pursue but its not easy, we have to be honest with each other to achieve this multicultural vision.

### Gatehouse Experience:

- Cultural differences (Hospitality)
- Cultural differences (Class-haves and have not's)

When people come to CJ's we want them to feel welcome, its all very well telling them that they are welcome but they have to know and feel that they are welcome.

### Home Example:

We can tell someone that they are welcome in our home, but do they have the right to touch things, to hang they pictures, put they food on the table.

If they can't do these then they will know that they are not welcome and they will move on.

### Church Context:

For people in our churches to feel at home enough to groove (enjoy themselves), we need a rhythm of cooperation, power sharing, and idea generation.

All the people in our Church need to share the power (leadership), share responsibilities (every member ministry through Inreach), investment (time and money), and accountability (one to another) for complete ownership of all peoples and races.

Every people group need to be welcomed, need to feel included, and valued.

In the next weeks we will be learning how to dance to this dream of Multicultural Ministry.