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Founded By
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 Making Disciples of the
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 Americas

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<- Areas of Ministry ->

~ **Educating** Local U.S. Churches of
 Mission Opportunities
 ~ **Evangelizing** the Lost
 ~ **Edifying, Encouraging &
 Equipping** Church Leaders
 ~ **Educating** Students in the Warner
 School in Peru &
 Vo-tech Training in Guatemala
 ~ **Empowering** the
 Abandoned/Abused Girls &
 Women in Guatemala

The Importance of Making the Gospel Indigenous

By Karvin Adams

To reach people of different cultures as instructed by Jesus (Matthew 28:19); we must make the Gospel relevant to their culture. Why are only 5% of the Native Americans of the U.S. Christians? In most cases in the last 500 years, it wasn't a lack of love, sincerity, faithfulness, hard work or sacrifice on the part of missionaries or churches. A major reason was a false belief that before Native Americans could become disciples of Jesus, they first had to leave their culture and become as Europeans. People should not have to learn another language or leave their culture in order to embrace Jesus Christ.

Do missionaries and churches still make this mistake today? Regrettably some do. Three independent indigenous churches in Ecuador affiliated with our churches after we served as missionaries in that country. The indigenous churches had talked with another group of believers, but that group demanded that Indian churches worship in Spanish, rather than their native Indian language. Our group allowed them to worship in their mother tongue, which was Quechua, for most of the older women do not speak Spanish.

Missionary to China, Hudson Taylor, was kicked out of his missionary compound by his fellow British comrades accused of rejecting their "Christian" culture in favor of the heathen culture of the pagan Chinese. What had he done? He wore his hair long in a braid as the people he was trying to reach. Sounds like Paul's missiology to me, "I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some" (1 Corinthians 9:22 ESV).

I've yet to find a culture that is truly "Christian". In order to become a Christian, a disciple of Jesus, one must leave those things in his culture that are in disagreement with the Bible and embrace the teachings of Jesus as He said, "Teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:20 niv). As a disciple of cultural anthropology, I can see some good and some bad in every culture I've studied; whether my own or one in which I am ministering. I try to see a person as Christ does and allow God to change him within his culture, allowing that disciple to change his culture for Christ.

When Things Don’t Go as Planned

One principle a missionary always keeps in mind: “go with the flow, be flexible” for things do not always go as planned. This has especially been true since March due to Covid-19. PiM was in the process of buying two pieces of property; one in Guatemala, the other in Peru. Three seminaries were scheduled in Peru and Ecuador. We were going to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Warner School in Peru, but Peru’s education department canceled all school gatherings for this year. All of our “planned” ministries have been canceled by others, but we are still doing ministry.

We are seeing some relief of the virus here in the U.S., the virus in Latin America has not peaked and most people there live day-to-day, not having money saved for emergencies. Due to their lack of resources; we sent \$4,000 to help feed our church people and \$2,000 to support orphans.

Your generosity has made it possible for us to adapt and continue ministry though not in the manner we had planned. Thank you!!!

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“Chance Project” Update

Twenty-four (24) ladies have finished their training since **Chance** started six (6) years ago. Twelve (12) are currently studying. **Chance** empowers abandoned wives of Guatemala with Vo-tech skills (baking, sewing, beautician) so they may be self-reliant; able to take care of themselves and their children. To learn more about this or other PiM ministries, please visit our website: www.partners-in-missions.org



Special Thanks to **Kathi Sellers** for her service on our team for over three years. Kathi has ministered with her husband Wayne as pastor for 18 years, missionary to Costa Rica for 16 years and worked for Global Strategy of Church of God Ministries 7 years. God’s blessings on you, your family and ministry. She is an excellent teacher with a heart for the people. We hope you will be able to teach in our seminaries again in the near future.