
HERALD

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There is No Greater Satisfaction ***God-Centered Motivation for World Missions***

John Piper is pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minnesota, USA. This article first appeared in John Piper's "Taste and See" articles in 1990.

Duty is good, but delight is better. Picture me bringing a dozen roses home to my wife on our wedding anniversary. I hold them out to her at the door; she smiles and says, "Oh Johnny, they're beautiful, why did you?" Suppose I lift my hand in a self-effacing gesture and say, "It's my duty."

So what's wrong? Is duty a bad thing? No, it's not a bad thing. But it can only take you so far. If you want romance, duty won't reach. The right answer to my wife's question goes like this: "I couldn't help

myself. My happiness just got out of hand. In fact, to make my day, I'd really enjoy taking you out tonight."

The amazing thing about this answer is that it does two things that many people think won't fit together. It expresses my happiness and makes her feel honored. A lot of people think that if I do something because it makes me

happy, it can't honor another person. But it can! Why? Because delighting in someone is a very high compliment. If you enjoy someone, two amazing things happen: You get the joy; they get the glory. Pleasure is the measure of your treasure.



This is a revolutionary insight in relation to God. Here's what it means:

God is most glorified in you when you are most satisfied in him. This is a radically life-changing discovery. It means that the pursuit of God's glory and the pursuit of your joy are not at odds. They are, in fact, one.

The chief end of man is to glorify God BY enjoying him forever. Not by enjoying money and comfort and prestige and power and achievement, but by enjoying HIM, God! And every other good thing for God's sake. As Saint Augustine prayed, "He loves you too little who loves anything together with you, which he loves not for your sake." The biblical command, "Delight yourself in the Lord," (Psalm 37:4) is another way of saying, "Do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31). God is most glorified in you when you are most satisfied in him.

And the greatest passion of God's heart is to be glorified. He created us for his glory (Isaiah 43:7); he called Israel to be his people for his glory (Isaiah 49:3); Jesus lived (John 17:4) and died (John 12:27-28; Romans 3:25-26) and rose (Romans 6:4) and reigns (Philippians 2:11) for the glory of God; he chose us before the foundation of the world for his glory (Ephesians 1:4-6); he forgives us for his glory (Psalm 25:11; Isaiah 43:25); he works through us for his glory (1 Peter 4:11); he calls us to do all things for his glory (1 Corinthians 10:31); and his aim is that the earth will be covered with the knowledge of his glory the way the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk

2:14), and in the age to come that the glory of the Lord alone will be the awesome light of the endless days (Revelation 21:23).

If the glory of God is the highest passion of his own heart, then it should be the highest passion of ours. And if God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him, then we should spare nothing to maximize our joy in him. But where is this maximum joy to be found? Well, we have already said it: in God! Yes, but here we can make a very subtle and devastating mistake. Be careful.

There is something about the nature of true joy that is restless. It is expansive by nature. It wants out. Imagine me at my son's soccer championship and someone saying to me, "You are permitted to have all the pleasure you want in your son's performance, but you may not express any of it verbally or physically." Would my joy be full? No. There is something about joy that comes to consummation when it gets out. Joy gets bigger by expanding. Joy increases by extending itself to others. My gladness gets bigger when it becomes your gladness.

This means that the human quest for joy leads straight to the missionary heart of God. You can see it already. But let me put it together: God is the fountain of joy because he is blindingly glorious, and infinitely worthy, and breathtakingly beautiful, and awesome

in power, and inscrutable in wisdom, and limitless in knowledge, and tender in mercy, and terrible in wrath, and the source and foundation of all truth and goodness and beauty. When we see him for what he really is, and turn from all the broken cisterns of the world that cannot satisfy (Jeremiah 2:13), we find "joy unspeakable and full of glory" (1 Peter 1:8).

But this joy, like all joy, wants out. It wants to expand. If it doesn't extend itself and overflow, it begins to stagnate. There is something about God that cannot be hoarded. And to hoard joy in God is to lose joy in God. But to lose joy in God is to dishonor God—just like my wife would be dishonored if I said, "It's my duty," instead of, "It's my delight." God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him.

Therefore, our joy must get out—for God's sake and for our sake. God wills for his glory to be reflected in the joy of redeemed people from every tribe and tongue and nation (Revelation 7:9). He wills worldwide praise. Therefore, world evangelism is the pathway to maximum joy and maximum worship.

Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. The glory of God is the ultimate goal of the church—because it's the ultimate goal of God. The final goal of all things is that God might be worshiped with white-hot affection by a redeemed company of countless persons from every tribe and tongue

and people and nation (Revelation 5:9; 7:9).

Missions exists because worship doesn't. When the kingdom finally comes in glory, missions will cease. Missions is penultimate; worship is ultimate. If we forget this and reverse their roles, the passion and the power for both diminish.

J. Campbell White, the secretary of the Laymen's Missionary movement wrote in 1909,

Most men are not satisfied with the permanent output of their lives. Nothing can wholly satisfy the life of Christ within his followers except the adoption of Christ's purpose toward the world he came to redeem. Fame, pleasure and riches are but husks and ashes in contrast with the boundless and abiding joy of working with God for the fulfillment of his eternal plans. The men who are putting everything into Christ's undertaking are getting out of life its sweetest and most priceless rewards.

This is the testimony of virtually all the great missionaries in the history of the church. Pouring out their lives brought their lives back to them. They proved again and again the words of the Lord, "He who loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it" (Mark 8:38). In other words, joy in God grows by expanding toward others. Jesus said to Peter, "There is no one who has left house or brother or sisters or mother or

father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundred-fold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life" (Mark 10:28-30). You can't out-give God.

On December 4, 1857, David Livingstone, the great pioneer missionary to Africa, made a stirring appeal to the students of Cambridge University, showing what he had learned about these words of Jesus through the years:

For my part, I have never ceased to rejoice that God has appointed me to such an office. People talk of the sacrifice I have made in spending so much of my life in Africa....Is that a sacrifice which brings its own best reward in healthful activity, the consciousness of doing good, peace of mind, and a bright hope of a glorious destiny hereafter? It is, emphatically, no sacrifice. Say rather, it is a privilege. Anxiety, sickness, suffering or danger, now and then, with a foregoing of the common conveniences and charities of this life, may make us pause and cause the spirit to waver, and the soul to sink; but let this only be for a moment. All these are nothing when compared with the glory which shall be revealed in and for us. I never made a sacrifice.

And in saying that, Livingstone paid his God the highest tribute possible. It was not mere duty. It was a profound delight—beyond what anything in this world can give. God was glorified in him because he was satisfied in God. And his satisfaction came to consummation not with the comforts of a cozy life in England, but with the expansive vision of giving his life and his joy away on the frontiers.



That's it. That's the most profound, God-centered motivation. It makes my heart beat faster even as I think about it again. O, may God give us eyes to see where true satisfaction can be found—to the glory of God!

More information about John Piper and Desiring God Ministries can be found at www.desiringgod.org.

SURGE 2009 Reflections



“God”

by Krishan Sinnadurai

What an adventure! Due to work commitments, I was only able to attend the tail end of the trip. Nonetheless, I thoroughly enjoyed my time on the trip.

I felt challenged to evaluate my selfish desires and question why material things were so important when all that was required to sustain me was the knowledge and love of Christ in my life (and its subsequent effect as I strive to live out my life in a manner pleasing to Christ). I was also challenged by the limitations I had subjected God to; that is, God does not need fancy Church programs or especially talented/gifted people to carry his work out. Whilst great Church programs and events are certainly helpful, I saw that He was able to work effectively in India simply through a willing and able heart.

Obedience to do His will and preach the good news is all that is required.

I can only begin to imagine what the experience must have been like for the students who were there during the entire duration of the trip. Given this, I thought I'd also share their experience through my eyes.

Upon re-uniting with the team, I was instantly struck by the overflowing joy of the students who exuded excitement and devotion in serving God through the work that they had been involved with thus far. They had ministered in various villages in and around Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. They preached the gospel, shared their testimonies and ministered through song, games and dramas. Despite physical tiredness, the students' joy in the Lord was boldly evident to me! Praise God!

The last full day of the trip was the culmination of this overflowing joy as we together celebrated 21 years of ministry with India For Christ Ministries (IFCM) – the organization we partnered with for this trip. We witnessed the fruit of this ministry as many people (including several young people from the villages), were baptized into the kingdom of God that day.

I asked students to summarize their experience on this trip and what they'd learnt. Responses included, “amazing”,

“seeing the results of Him working everywhere”, “God’s provision for people in the way He uses us to accomplish His plan for salvation” and “Romans 12 being lived out.” Perhaps the most succinct response was one young man’s statement – “God”. And indeed this was what Surge 4 was all about – telling people about the wonderful heavenly Father whom we serve who sent His one and only son Jesus to save us from certain death.

Thank you Church for supporting us in a myriad of ways, from praying for us, baking muffins and providing so generously with your time and money. We value your loving support and care for us. Thank you. Finally, it wasn’t just the lives of those whom we ministered too that were forever changed – ours also are indelibly etched with God’s reminder of His faithfulness and great love for all.

Jonathan Lim

What is missions?
What makes one successful?
What is our goal on a short term missions trip?

What should we be praying for? These are just a few questions that go through the mind of a surgee. But before I



continue, I would like to thank the congregation for supporting the team financially and with your prayers! Your money donated was used to send 51 people on a short term missions trip to India, where God definitely used sinners saved by grace for the spread of His Glory. The money was also used to support India For Christ Ministries (IFCM) workers, and whatever else that IFCM needs to use the money for. So thank you once again for your financial support, know that it is being used for the expanse of God’s kingdom, and the supremacy of Jesus Christ in India. I would also like to thank you all for your prayers for the team, we could never have done any of the work with out the work of God, so thank you once again greatly.

This is my second surge trip, last year I went as a student, and this year I went as a leader. Both trips taught me so much about His grace. As we were there this year, we got to run a youth gathering, gathering students from the age of 8 to about 18. This happened on Saturday. I had the privilege to speak at the gathering, and spoke on John 3. It was a great time of fellowship with the team as well as with the students there! We sang songs together and we ran a bunch of games outside, games such as red light green light, freeze tag, which became a game of chaotic tagging, and more. We had a student share their testimony as well. While this gathering was going on there was a

children's service held the IFCM home base by the other half of our team.

On Sunday we split up into 6 different teams to go to a couple church services, and Monday through Friday we went into the villages. A team of 40 went to Andhra Pradesh, and a team of ten went to Pondicherry, our last member would join us after the villages. During our stay in the different villages, the team of 40 broke up into teams of 4 and visited a one or two churches a day, some villages were unreached, and our team was the first to proclaim the message of Jesus in the village, which is a very humbling thought, and privilege. The entire Pondicherry team went to various villages in Pondicherry. In both places we ran a service, which included praising God through song, a personal testimony, a drama, and a message. Saturday was a day of reflection, and Sunday we ran the 21st anniversary celebration of IFCM. So praise God for 21 years of ministry in India!

This year I had the privilege to lead a team of 7 with Orlando Taylor. It was a great time of fellowship and unity in the gospel! We had great conversations as people were squished into a car, and battled challenges of heat, and sickness. At times it seemed that we could not make it through a service, but God's grace and faithfulness definitely was shown. We visited 5 churches in total, and ran a service at each place. The places varied from church buildings to someone's porch, to the middle of an alleyway. Some places the gospel was

very new; there was one village where one of our students was the first to ever share the gospel there. And in some other places, ministry had been going on for a couple years.

God definitely challenged me and taught me so much! I would not be able to tell you all of it! So if you would like to talk to me, or anyone who went on the trip, we would love to talk to you in person! But God definitely taught me a lot. God revealed a lot sin in my life, and how selfish I am, which produced in me a heart of thankfulness for the gospel! It reminded me of the great hope I have and produced a greater joy in my heart for the Gospel! It showed me how my heart is really prone to wander, and I really felt it on this trip. I love the song "Come Thou Font." It's definitely a song that stuck with me this whole trip,

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.

It reminded me that I remain and grow in the faith not by my own power but in the power of a sovereign God who saved me and continues to change my heart! My stony heart is prone to wander, and I need God to seal and change it into a heart of flesh.

It was a trip that reminded me and taught me of God's sovereignty especially in evangelism. It taught me what success means in a missions trip. Success is not based on the amount of people converting to Christianity. It is

not found in the amount of people one speaks to... but it is based on whether one faithfully preaches the Gospel! Weather that is to a 1 person or a crowd of 1000 people, weather no people were converted or a whole village came to Christ... our success is in preaching the whole Gospel wherever we go! I was reminded of how powerless we are to change someone's heart, or to bring belief in a persons life. I was reminded of the supernatural work of God in a person's life; that we cannot change a person's heart; that is God's work. Being reminded of this pushed me to pray for these villages, as well as depend on God to work in our work. We plant the gospel, but God makes it grow.

This trip also taught me a lot about missions and what that is! It taught me that the missions field is everywhere. The need of Jesus is not only found in poor countries, it's in places like Dubai, in our homes, in our workplaces, in our schools... everyone needs a savior, and the Savior has come! I have seen the savior, and the gospel



pushes me to tell people about it! And its success is not based on results, but its on preaching the full Gospel, and sharing the great news of Jesus! It has definitely increased my desire for missions, not only for overseas unreached people groups, but in our communities as well: in Dubai, in America, Australia, where ever one

lives. We are looking at a place where their greatest need is not money, or health, it's a savior, and He has come! Everyone on earth has sinned against a holy God, and stands condemned because of that... But Christ has saved us, he has saved those who would believe in Him! Now we can find our supreme Joy in Christ alone, and live for His glory among the nations!

Hands down I would say Surge is a great trip spiritually for the youth! It challenges them to think about their faith as they write own testimony, and makes them think about the fruit of the Gospel! It challenges them to see if the Gospel has ever truly affected their life.

Has this truth been mere fact to me? Or has it transformed me? It also challenges them to depend on God for everything, health, strength, and joy especially when our hearts are being selfish and have no joy. And above all it's a trip that is centered on the most important truth of all of history, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the way that he has rescued people from darkness. It's a trip that looks to the supremacy of Christ in our lives, and reveals to us our need of Jesus, and the world's greatest need, not health or wealth, but a Savior. Praise God He has come, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Hanah Parks

I'm still in the process of figuring out how to summarize an explanation of the Surge 2009 trip.

How do I begin to describe the wonder of singing worship songs beside an Indian woman who had been healed from paralysis in a tiny, rural, predominantly Hindu village, and pondering in awe our deep fellowship through Jesus and the healing work He had done in both of our hearts? How do I explain the shame I felt as God revealed to me the depth of the evil



selfishness in my heart on a particularly hot day during a particularly long service, but then the joy and grace that was mine of which I was so powerfully reminded? How can I put into words the love that God gave me for the many village children I encountered—poor, dirty, but beautiful and full of life—as we played “Duck, duck, goose” or giggled while trying to pronounce one another's names? I will do my best to tell you briefly how God has worked in my life throughout the past 10 days.

First of all I want to thank all of you for your support through prayer and finances. God used you to work in the hearts of the 51 people on the trip, and to bless our brothers and sisters in India. If you ever have an opportunity to go on a mission trip or support one in any way, I highly recommend you do so. This was my second time to travel with the youth group to India, and God has used both trips to reveal more of my sin to me and to help me to rely wholly on Him in every area of my life. It was so encouraging for me to have a chance to see many of the people that I met on Surge 1 two years ago; people I thought I would never see again. God also has used these trips to deepen my desire to spread His word to unreached peoples in the world. I am challenged by the boldness and sacrifice I see in the Indian missionaries and Pastors we encountered.

While we were in India, I had the opportunity to share the Gospel message and my testimony of how I

came to put my faith in Jesus. What a joy and privilege it was to know that God has chosen me for this task in a remote village where people may have never heard the Good News before! In the first village our team of ten visited, we had to make two car trips to get there (it was an hours drive away). The girls on our team went first, and ended up waiting for the boys for about two hours without Adrian, our male team leader, or a proper translator. We were attracting a crowd and the pastor wanted to start the service. We had no idea when the boys would arrive and whether or not we should start our planned program of songs and testimony. I was terrified and confused. I just prayed and stood up and began talking. I shared the gospel on the spot, talked about why we sing songs of worship to God, and all the girls sang some songs. The pastor's daughter from another village, a 14-year old girl named Shiny, was with us and could roughly translate. Even though I was so scared and confused, the Lord somehow gave

me the words to speak that evening. I pray that He used them to encourage or challenge someone listening. Through that one experience where I was completely out of control, God showed me that He is always in control and that I need to trust in His sovereignty in every situation, even to my death.

I'm so thankful to the Lord for this opportunity and for the loving support of a church body like UCCD! As I move to the States to attend university this fall, I go with a sad heart, but with confidence that the God who saved me and who blessed me so richly through people like you here in Dubai will continue the good work that He has begun in my life. Praise God!



From the Mailbag: Robin W.

UCCD bookstall plants in Delhi!

I'm sure you're familiar with Church plants, but who ever heard of bookstall plants?! Yet through your wonderful generosity, that's effectively what you at UCCD have done by giving Delhi Bible Fellowship (the church which I serve), a large some of money so that we can buy some books for our first ever bookstall.

Over the last couple of years we have been enjoying a growing relationship between your church and ours. It was a joy to be with you on the first Friday in June and a privilege to preach at your gathering and to share at your Praise & Prayer meeting. I don't think I have ever been in a place where there have been so many nationalities under one roof – what a foretaste of that day when those from every tribe, tongue, nation and language will be gathered before the Lamb.

While we were with you, the Elders & Deacons of UCCD intimated that you were keen to express our growing gospel partnership with a financial gift. Last week I was in London attending the Evangelical Ministry Assembly at which there was a wonderful bookstall (see www.10ofthose.com). So I asked UCCD if we could spend the money to buy books to kick start a bookstall. Wonderfully the answer was 'yes'. And so I had a thrilling couple of hours with the bookstall manager buying multiple

copies of good books which will really help our folk in Delhi – both Christians and not-yet Christians.

Lord willing the books will be shipped to Delhi in early July and we can then open the first ever Delhi Bible Fellowship bookstall. I am so excited about this, but am aware this simply would not be possible without your immense generosity. I thank God for UCCD and your cheerful giving to gospel work in other nations. We plan to sell the books at affordable prices and use the money we make to re-stock the bookstall as best we can.

In due course I will send you a list of the books we will be selling, or in some cases giving away. In the meantime, I want you to know how grateful we are. We covet your prayers, not least that people will buy, read, and put into practise the books which your kindness has made available.

Your brother in Christ,

Robin W.
Delhi Bible Fellowship
www.dbfsouth.org

Robin W. is pastor of Delhi Bible Fellowship and friend of UCCD.

FRIDAY FOUNDATIONS

9:30-10:30 am

Classes offered:

1. **Track I**

- *Meeting with God: The Why and the How* (June 19-July 17)
- *Systematic Theology* (July 24-Aug 28)

2. **Track II**

CLASS BEGINS TODAY

- *Pleasures of God: Meditations on God's Delight in Being God.* (July 3-Aug 28)

Looking for some summer reading?

1. *Humility*, by C. J. Mahaney. God opposes the proud. This is how you can pursue true greatness. 45 dhs.
2. *The Cross Centered Life*, by C. J. Mahaney. Keeping the gospel the main thing in your life. Profound and practical. 35 dhs.
3. *Guidance and the Voice of God*, by Phillip Jensen. God still speaks loud and clear. Are you listening? 38 dhs.
4. *Ten Questions to Diagnose Your Spiritual Health*, by Don Whitney. Excellent for discipling one another! 45 dhs.
5. *Evangelism & the Sovereignty of God*, by J. I. Packer. Pray or evangelize? 48 dhs.
6. *When I Don't Desire God: How to Fight for Joy*, by John Piper. 50 dhs.

July Calendar

July 3, 2009

8:00 & 10:30 UCCD church gathering. Jeremy Yong continues through I John.
9:30-10:30 Friday Foundations. NEW CLASS: The Pleasures of God!
6:00 pm First Friday Prayer & Praise

July 9, 2009

7:00 pm Thursday Bible Study on I Thessalonians.

July 10, 2009

8:00 & 10:30 UCCD church gathering. Jeremy Yong continues through I John.
9:30-10:30 Friday Foundations

July 16, 2009

7:00 pm Thursday Bible Study on I Thessalonians.

July 17, 2009

8:00 & 10:30 UCCD church gathering. Jeremy Yong begins series on I John.
9:30-10:30 Friday Foundations

July 23, 2009

7:00 pm Thursday Bible Study on Galatians.

July 24, 2009

8:00 & 10:30 UCCD church gathering. Jeremy Yong continues through I John.
9:30-10:30 Friday Foundations. NEW CLASS: Systematic Theology

July 30, 2009

7:00 pm Thursday Bible Study on Galatians.

July 31, 2009

8:00 & 10:30 UCCD church gathering. Etienne Nel preaching.
9:30-10:30 Friday Foundations