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Mt. Everest peak, Himalayan mountains

GOD'S STRATEGIC PURPOSES FOR ASIAN-AMERICANS TODAY

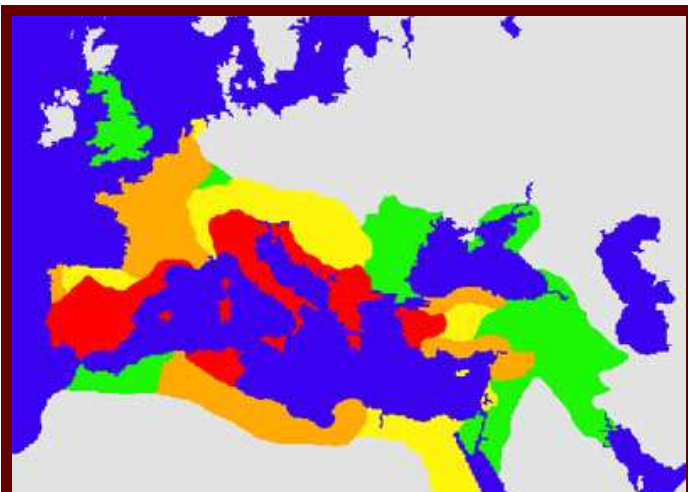
by Lisa Y.

For many years at WCC, Pastor John Lo of Epicentre Church in Pasadena, CA, has shared about the concept of Pax Americana as a strategic open window of time for Asian-American Christians to significantly contribute to God's global purposes. Pastor John Lo will be addressing this topic among others in his plenary sessions at WCC 2010. Lisa Y. adapted this article from his "Global Realities" paper.

God's strategic purposes today • The Lord of History has always used societal change to create spiritual hunger and gospel receptivity. In the first century, political oppression by the Romans, religious legalism by the Pharisees and sociological change in Palestine created a potent "stew" which stirred spiritual hunger and a desire for a Messiah for 1st century Jews and Greeks. In our day, news of the devastating 2001 9/11 tragedy, 2004 Asian tsunami, and 2008 Sichuan earthquake evoke memories and images of unforeseeable events that changed the lives of many and even the course of nations. Within the developing world, the large-scale migration of rural peasants to urban centers creates an unprecedented openness to new lifestyles and ways of thinking.

More recently, the global financial crisis has forced a re-evaluation of life's true treasures by those who placed their entire security in their finances. Such sweeping socio-economic and political changes are openings which God can use to create hunger for Him. Throughout the globe, these global factors (sociological change, political oppression, religious persecution and catastrophic events) are creating conditions ripe for a New Awakening among the nations. The fields in many lands are indeed ripe for harvest.

Pax Romana • In strategizing how to harvest these ripening fields, church missiologists have noted the similarities between the rise and fall of the Roman Empire's 1st century world with America's position in the 21st century. During the 1st century, when the Gospel flourished during an unprecedented period of peace under the Roman Empire, the PAX Romana (27 BC-180 AD) consisted of the three unique factors:



Extent of the Roman Empire around 133 BC (red), 44 BC (orange), 14 AD (yellow), and 117 AD (green)



A Roman soldier posing outside the Colosseum in Rome, Italy

Photo: Simon Howden, FreeDigitalPhotos.net

1. **Communication** ⚡ Within the Roman Empire, Latin was the common language that enabled communication across geographically-disperse and linguistically-distinct areas of the Roman Empire, stretching from North Africa all the way to England.
2. **Commerce** ⚡ Under the Roman Empire's political domination, business and trade became possible among lands that previously lacked the infrastructure and political unity to facilitate common trade.
3. **Connection** ↔ The construction of Roman roads facilitated communication, as well as trade between geographically-distant areas of the Roman Empire. The Roman military further provided travelers with protection and safety, opening the door for individuals to travel from North Africa to Northern Europe.

From a missiological perspective, the Lord of History used the PAX Romana as the critical historical context to spread the gospel. The PAX Romana began about 20 years before Christ's birth, and ended when the Gospel spread to the outer parts of the Roman Empire. In the decades following the establishment of the church, Paul and other 1st century missionaries shared the Gospel by traveling on commerce routes protected by the Roman military. Once the Christian movement had reached the edges of the Roman Empire and was sufficiently strengthened to flourish without Roman support, the Empire collapsed.

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GOD'S STRATEGIC PURPOSES FOR ASIAN-AMERICANS TODAY

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Pax Americana • Today, we live in a “PAX Americana” period, with our global world connected in ways that parallel those of the PAX Romana:

1. **Communication** **A** As the standard language of education, business and government, English facilitates communication across the globe. Only those who speak English can realistically aspire to access the resources and opportunities within these three afore-mentioned sectors.
Within the 21st century, the media- and internet-based emergence of a common youth culture also serves as a crucial communication bridge across nations. The name recognition of international celebrities, such as Michael Jackson, Tiger Woods and Barack Obama, highlight the existence of a global culture — particularly among the youth generation.
2. **Commerce** **\$** Despite the current financial crisis, America continues to have a strong presence in the global economy. Many countries continue to use the American dollar as the “gold standard” to base their economy, and continue to solicit American technological and business and expertise to compete in the global economy.
3. **Connection** **@** Airplanes, internet, email, cell phones, tele-conferencing and satellite technology reduce the communication barriers from geographic distance to create a tightly-connected, global world.


As God used the Pax Romana in the 1st century, many believe that this Pax Americana period is, at its root, primed for Americans to be global harvesters today.

Strategic role for Asian-Americans • The Pax Americana is a window of opportunity, as the world has sought English-speaking, American-trained educators, business and social sector professionals to move them forward into the global economy. However, in a post-9/11 world, the PAX Americana window has narrowed to Americans with Caucasian faces who, by their appearance alone, often stir up strong nationalist sentiments, especially in post-colonialist countries and in the Muslim world. In this specific situation, Asian-Americans have strategic importance in spreading the Gospel while the PAX Americana still lasts.

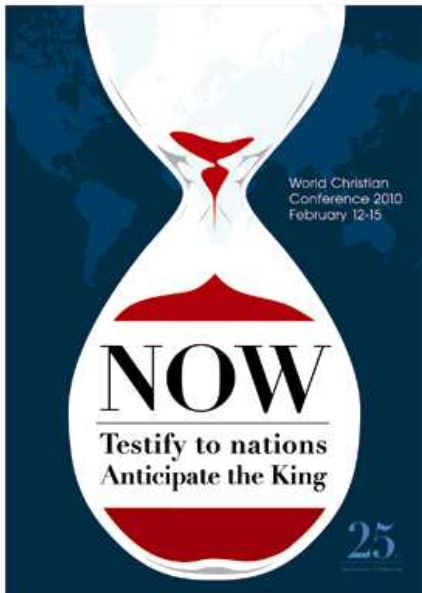
- (1) Asian-Americans carry the advantages of being American — fluent English skills, American education and training — without triggering post-colonialist and anti-American baggage.



Asian faces among Americans with US Passports

- (2) The historical cultural value which Asian parents thrust upon their children has resulted in a generation of hyper-educated Asian-Americans: ones with the skills and qualifications uniquely desired by developing countries still seeking parity with the first world.
- (3) Asian-Americans' strong work ethic and persevering spirit are spiritual assets in overcoming the inevitable obstacles and trials to accomplish God's work.
- (4) Asian-Americans are more culturally sensitive and adaptable in a global world than their Caucasian counterparts.
- (5) Asian-Americans possess a deep value for authenticity, dependence on God, and personal awareness of needing healing for themselves and others — critical components to wholeheartedly and humbly pursue the Lord of Nations — from their broken family backgrounds. The personal brokenness experienced by the many Asian-Americans — who come from homes in which parents have divorced, passed away, were emotionally/physically absent, or experienced trauma in the emigration process — is a powerful source of spiritual transformation that God can build upon to restore families, communities and nations.
- (6) Finally, as members of Generation X who have experienced the emptiness of wealth, Asian-Americans hunger for a radical lifestyle that will lead to strategic influence on peoples and nations that God has uniquely prepared for them. As Asian-Americans, we have the potential to be the workers which the Lord of History is seeking to bring His world to Harvest. The question we must now ask is: “Are we willing to live out the destiny God has prepared for us?” 

“The Pax Americana is a window of opportunity, as the world has sought English-speaking, American-trained educators, business and social sector professionals to move them forward into the global economy ... Asian-Americans have strategic importance in spreading the Gospel while the PAX Americana still lasts.”



World Christian Conference 2010

NOW

**Testify to the Nations
Anticipate the King**

Redwood Christian Park • February 12-15, 2010

Celebrating 25 years of prayer, sending, and equipping alumni for lifestyles centered on God's mission at Redwood Christian Park, February 12-15, 2010. The weekend will be filled with encouragement and transformation through plenary sessions from Donna Dong, John Lo, and Wayne, workshops, ministry consultations, and networking.

Visit wcfellowship.org/wcc/2010/ for more information.

WCC REGISTRATION SYSTEM PROGRAMMER WANTED

WCC desires to recruit an individual who is committed to the vision of WCF, willing to serve at WCC 2010 and 2011, and has the professional technical competence and experience detailed below. This person will be trained in the coding of the current registration database system, and will be relied on at WCC 2010 to run and troubleshoot this system. Ideally this person will also be responsible for developing the registration system for future conferences.



Photo: Gregory Szarkiewicz, freedigitalphotos.com

Requirements: A web-application software developer with a strong background in object oriented programming, including expertise in:

- OO Design and Programming using J2EE or .NET (experience with Struts or JSF and Hibernate, or with ASP.NET and NHibernate a plus)
- Experience with LAMP (Linux, Apache, MySQL and PHP) programming and administration
- Experience with XHTML and CSS scripting
- Experience with GIT a plus
- Experience with ER Diagramming Tools for MySQL Data Modeling a plus

Please refer any qualified and interested individuals to admin@wcfellowship.org.

Help us fill in the gaps of WCC history!

We need your help to compile WCC/WCF archival history. If you have old conference handbooks or information (AB/PC/EC servants, plenary speakers, etc.) related to any WCC from 1985-2000, please contact davids@wcfellowship.org.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear WCF Community,

Have you ever wondered for what purposes many of us from Asian immigrant families find ourselves in the United States? I mean, what is the BIG picture purpose?

Many of our families made significant sacrifices, experienced struggles, and suffered dislocation, in the hopes of having a better life in America. And for many of us 1.5 or 2nd-generation Asian-Americans, we have indeed benefited and experienced tremendous blessings, often in the form of quality education, careers, material resources, healthcare, and a relatively high standard of living compared with the rest of the world. Most importantly, many of us also began to know Jesus by living in this land.

The article in this issue by Lisa Y. regarding John Lo's thesis of Pax Americana discusses an intriguing big picture of why God has allowed Asian-American Christians to be blessed. *The first time I heard John Lo talk about this subject at WCC, I was stunned by the implications — that God had intentionally raised a generation of Asian-American Christians for His global purposes.* I hope you will benefit from reading the article as well.

The other article in this issue by Alan G. reminds me that the World Christian journey is an ongoing, fluid, dynamic path of faith. This faith journey involves continuing to actively integrate God's purposes into every part of our lives, even if it's "not a good time" to do so.

With WCC 2010, Chinese New Year, and Valentine's Day converging on the same weekend this year, many of us will be spending time with loved ones of one sort or another. I'll be with the "WCF family" at Redwood Christian Park and I hope to see you there! For the rest of you, I pray that you will be spending quality time in the important relationships in your lives.

I invite you to write us with any comments or reflections you might have about the articles you read. I am also still looking for a managing editor and other staff contributors. E-mail me at estherw@wcfellowship.org

Yours for God's glory,

Esther W.

PRAYER: THE FUEL OF THE MOVEMENT

REGIONAL WORLD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP PRAYER GROUPS

The prayer groups listed below meet monthly. For more information e-mail prayer@wcfellowship.org

•Seattle (Tukwila, WA)

Contact: Seattle-prayer@wcfellowship.org

•L.A. (Temple City, CA)

Contact: LA-prayer@wcfellowship.org

•Mid-peninsula NorCal (San Mateo, CA)

Contact: midpeninsula-prayer@wcfellowship.org

•S.F. Monthly Missions Meeting

(San Francisco, CA)

Contact: SF-prayer@wcfellowship.org

•East/South Bay NorCal (Fremont, CA)

Contact: SouthBay-prayer@wcfellowship.org

•South Bay NorCal

(Mountain View, CA)

sbay-mtview-prayer@wcfellowship.org

"Let these prayers of the saints be sweet smelling incense to Your heart." — Matt Redman



A LONG OBEDIENCE IN THE SAME DIRECTION

by Alan G.

In this article, Alan G. shares about his World Christian journey as “a long obedience in the same direction.” Along the way, Alan pastored a local church for 30 years, participated and served with WCC in various capacities, was transformed by a shift in prayer focus, and took steps of faith to be able to serve God regularly overseas. Alan is currently serving with Leadership Resources International (LRI) to train and mentor pastoral leaders in third-world countries.



With two Nepali leaders

Progression of a pilgrim ◊ When I first heard about the “World Christian Journey”, I immediately thought of John Bunyan’s classic fiction, *Pilgrim’s Progress*. I soon realized that this journey was not fictional in regards to the World Christian, but a reality that needed to be integrated into my life as a Christian. That was in 1987 when our family took a short-term missions trip to the Philippines. In 1988, the door to attend the World Christian Conference (WCC) opened and we walked through it.

I attended WCC until 1991, serving in various capacities such as workshop teacher, panel member, and speaking in the general assembly. Because of personal and pastoral responsibilities, I stopped attending, but encouraged others in our church to participate in their respective world journeys. I returned to WCC in 1998, serving on the advisory board for five years.

It was during this period of serving as an advisory board member that my journey headed toward a major change in vocational ministry. It was a gradual work of God, but definitely in a forward direction. At that time, I had been in a very comfortable and growing pastoral ministry since 1977. Those 24 years certainly changed my life, but nothing was as transformational as what I was about to experience.

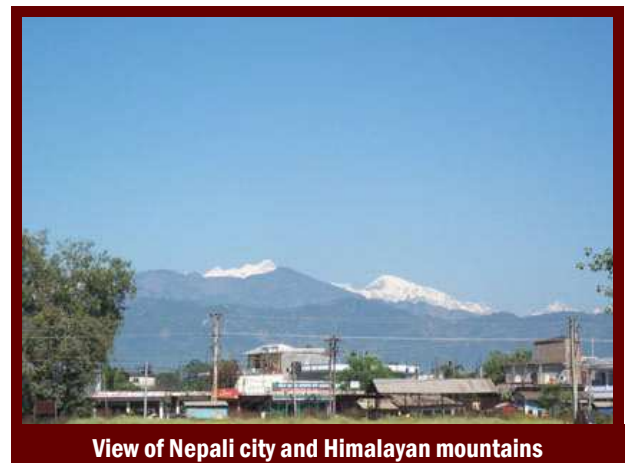
Encountering vertical prayer ◊ In 2001, my wife and I embarked on an exciting journey of prayer and faith. It started when we attended a prayer conference in which God changed the focus of my prayers from need-based to worship-based. God was placed at the center of my prayer life. Like many people, including pastors, I thought that prayer

was about asking God to do things in my life and ministry. It was more horizontal, focusing on earthly concerns. I was challenged to investigate the Disciples’ Prayer (Matthew 6) and discovered that the focus begins vertically — towards *worshiping God and acknowledging His holiness, seeking His Kingdom, and submitting to His will*. Prayer became filled with adoration for the Person of God, submitting to His plans and purposes. I began to incorporate this practice in our church.

Renewed praying renews faith ◊ As my prayer focus began changing in 2001, my faith was renewed and redirected by the Lord. I began to imagine what God could do when I aligned myself with His purposes and plans. One of His purposes was going on a short-term missions trip with our church’s newly formed Ecuador Team. Typical of many mission teams, the question was, “What would I do for God?” However, I experienced *what He was doing in me*.

God started to expand my borders. He showed me that He was a far bigger and greater God than I had known! I went on another short-term missions trip in 2003 to Nepal. There I learned and witnessed how the persecuted church was growing at a phenomenal rate of 70,000 converts each year! In the midst of hardship, the response to the Gospel was spreading. I was invited to train the next generation of laborers in that country. The believers had such a hunger for the Word of God and the things of Christ. My home church was gracious in allowing me time to go each year for the next three years.

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View of Nepali city and Himalayan mountains

“I soon realized that this [World Christian] journey was not fictional [as in *Pilgrim’s Progress*] in regards to the World Christian, but a reality that needed to be integrated into my life as a Christian.”

A LONG OBEDIENCE IN THE SAME DIRECTION

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Renewed energy for ministry ◇ I always came back changed in my perspective of God and His greater church worldwide. I had a renewed energy in my pastoral ministry – evident in my preaching and vision. The vision of mission increased, while my passion for pastoral leadership training in developing countries began to expand.

My wife knew that God was working in me and was birthing a new chapter in our life and ministry. I was struggling though; struggling between the comforts of the pastoral ministry and stepping out in faith. I could continue to serve where I was since there were enough ministries to do. We had a son finishing college, a daughter embarking on college, and a teenage son heading later for college. From the world's view, this was not a good time to make a major move!

Stepping out in faith ◇ With no definite plans for the future, we chose to take a big leap of faith. In February 2006, we announced to our church in that we planned to leave our pastoral ministry at the end of the year. Sad as it was, it was joy-filled because many affirmed God's hand in this step of faith and obedience.

In addition to family concerns, there were challenges of finding a suitable organization, the faith venture of support raising, and envisioning a ministry in overseas pastoral training. About a month before we left the pastoral ministry, we were introduced to a ministry that resonated with our vision. The director of Leadership Resources International (LRI) called me. The more we spoke over the phone, the more excited I became. LRI's mission of "launching pastoral training movements worldwide" through Training National Trainers (TNT) aligned with my heart's passion to "disciple nations". God fitted LRI's ministry, like a hand with a glove, together with us!

Beautiful in God's time ◇ So many things fell in place. We were in awe at our wonderful God. This is a partial list of His hand giving us the desires of our hearts.



Prayer at a pastoral training

- ▶ LRI utilized a short-term training program in third world countries; we wanted a short term model
- ▶ LRI designed its training with a mentoring and multiplying purpose; we wanted to mentor and multiply the next generation of pastoral leaders.
- ▶ LRI allowed for our family to remain in the US as our home base while I traveled overseas.
- ▶ LRI's CORE values to exalt God, trust God, teach the Word, and love the learner resonated with our values.

Writer and former pastor Eugene Peterson described our World Christian Journey as "a long obedience in the same direction." Our journey has certainly reflected that obedience, which is why we see our lives as the sun "rising" and not "setting". God brings "new opportunities" and "new chapters" in our lives like a new dawn rising. God is the Creator of "new beginnings." He does more than we can ever imagine (Ephesians 3). He continues to show Himself to be an AWESOME GOD!



"I always came back [from short term mission trips] changed in my perspective of God and His greater church worldwide. I had a renewed energy in my pastoral ministry – evident in my preaching and vision. The vision of mission increased, while my passion for pastoral leadership training in developing countries began to expand."

SEMINAR COORDINATORS

Vision and purposes ■ The purposes of the World Christian Fellowship (WCF) include equipping, activating, networking, and partnering with individual Asian-American World Christians and those who identify closely with the Asian-American worldview, and their churches. To this aim, WCF hopes to host more regional one-day seminars with relevant workshop content throughout the year, not just at the annual World Christian Conference (WCC).

Seminar coordinators wanted ■ WCF is looking for regional seminar coordinators in both Northern and Southern California. If you are looking for an opportunity to serve God through the WCF movement and have gifts and talents in the areas of event planning, marketing, and networking please contact us at info@wcfellowship.org.



GRANT WRITER AND ACCOUNTANT

Vision and purposes ▲ World Christian Fellowship (WCF) is committed to fiduciary standards that are above reproach and continuously strive to develop and improve the organization's financial and financial resource systems.

Accountant and grant writer: help wanted ▲ If God has gifted you with experience and talent in the area of accounting/finance or in research/grant writing AND you believe in the vision of WCF of mobilizing more Asian-American Christians for God's global purposes, please consider serving in one of these two areas of need. If you are interested in serving as an accountant or grant writer for WCF, please contact info@wcfellowship.org



WCF PURPOSES

The purposes of **World Christian Fellowship (WCF)** are to challenge and empower individual Christians and churches to:

- **Equip** committed Asian-American World Christians and World Christians who closely identify with the Asian-American worldview who are active disciples and evangelists for the nations, both in local and overseas ministry.
- **Activate** these individuals and churches to the nations through prayer, training, guidance, and support.
- **Facilitate** teamwork and networking among individuals, churches, and other organizations with a World Christian vision.
- **Partner** with other organizations and networks with complementary objectives so that we as World Christians can unite towards the goal of building up the universal body of Christ.



DONATIONS



Donations ► If you would like to make a charitable contribution, please send checks payable to *World Christian Fellowship* and mail to P.O. Box 256, Mountain View, CA, 94042-0256. Make sure you include a valid address so that we can send you a tax-deductible receipt.

Amazon.com affiliate link ► If you already do some of your shopping at **Amazon.com**, you can help WCF receive a small percentage back by **clicking through our affiliate link** at wcfellowship.org/contact.html and making a purchase during the same session.



Voices of the Movement, the monthly online publication of WCF, serves to inspire and motivate the World Christian community through articles contributed by fellow World Christians. In its third year of publication, Voices of the Movement, is also an archive of stories that document God's work through Asian-American World Christians and those who closely identify with the Asian-American worldview in the growth of His Kingdom on earth.

World Christian Fellowship
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www.wcfellowship.org | newsletter@wcfellowship.org

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