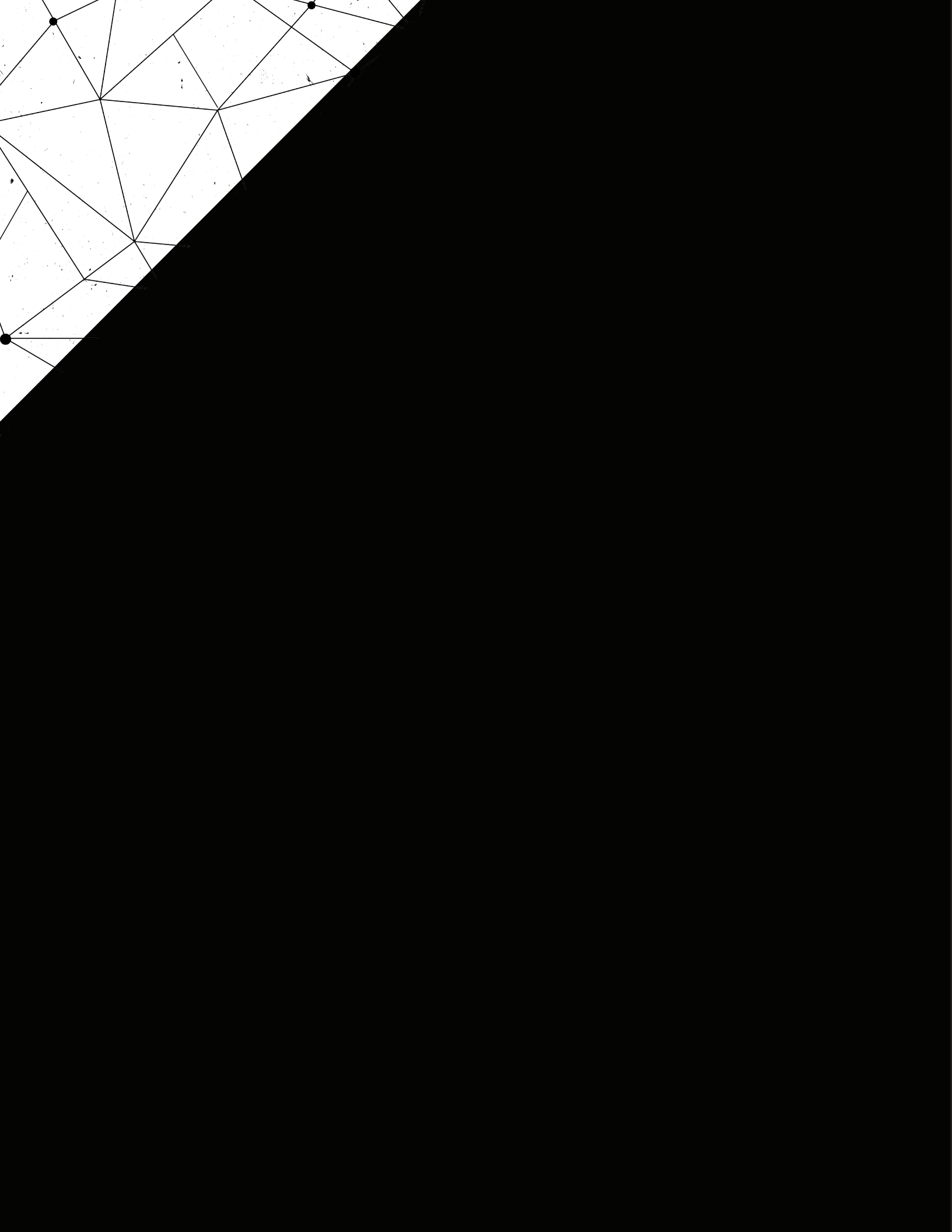




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RESOURCE GUIDE



Thank you for checking out the GGCW Resource Guide! It is more encouraging to think of listeners accessing these resources than knowing that you merely listened to the album. The topic of the church's mission has been a focus of mine for some time now. This area of doctrine is, undoubtedly, one of the most crucial issues for God's church in our day. The current and future faithfulness of the church depends greatly on how we answer the question, "What is the mission of the church?" It is my desire that you would enjoy the various resources in this guide so that you would be further encouraged, informed, and equipped to faithfully serve in your own local church.

The resources included in this guide are arranged into three categories:

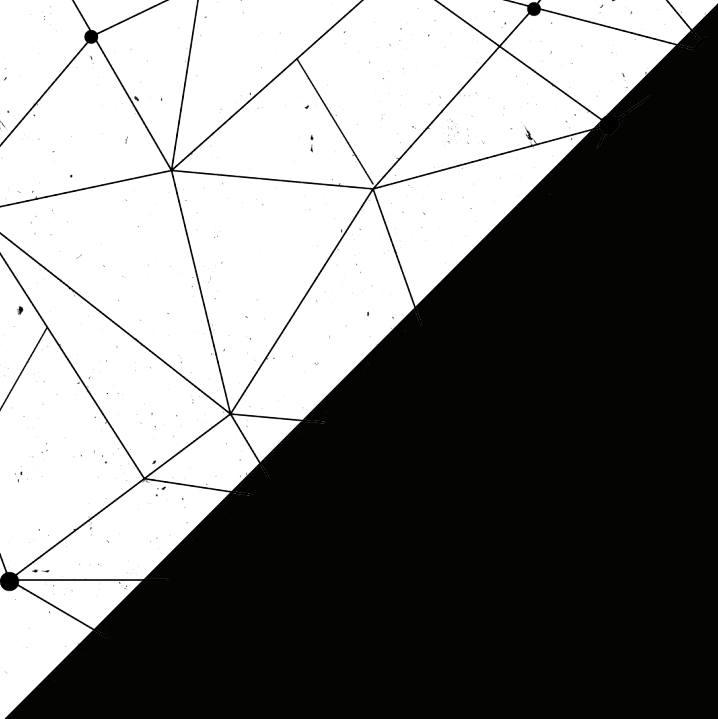
1. Resources on the church, its mission, and local church ministry
2. Resources on missions
3. Resources for Christian hip hop artists

Each of these three sections includes links to sermons, lectures, books, articles, videos and websites that have shaped my own thinking, life, and doctrine. I have also provided a brief summary of each resource and why I recommend it. Above all, I pray that the resources included in this guide would help you to "walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Col. 1:10).

May the Lord bless you as you learn more of Him.

Grace to you,

omri



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THE CHURCH, ITS MISSION, AND LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRY

SERMONS & LECTURES

Smedly Yates - "[Missions Must be Ecclesiological](#)"

This sermon is the third installment of the series that became the album concept for GGCW. It is a robust exposition of Colossians 1:16a, "and he is the head of the church."

Scott Maxwell - "[Acts: The Triumph of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!](#)"

This sermon series is a verse-by-verse exposition of the book of Acts. It includes over 100 sermons, preached from October 2011 to August 2015.

Scott Maxwell - "[Ephesians: God's Eternal Purpose in Christ](#)"

This expository sermon series in the book of Ephesians has contributed so much to my church's understanding of life within the body of Christ that it was impossible to not include in this resource guide. In this series, our church grew in its understanding of salvation, prayer, sanctification, sin, the church, marriage, parenting, and the gospel. It includes about 70 sermons, preached over a twenty-month period.

Smedly Yates - "[Grow the Church](#)"

This sermon from Ephesians 4:16 was preached as a part of our Philosophy of Ministry series (see below). Rarely do we hear solid biblical sermons about church growth, but this one is a rare gem.

[Philosophy of Ministry sermon series](#) (Grace Bible Church, Tempe, AZ)

The pastors at GBC are preaching sermons periodically that help define our church's philosophy of ministry.

Bob Whitney - "[Christ's Mission for His Church](#)"

Bob Whitney, Administrative Dean of The Expositors Seminary, preached on the Great Commission from Matthew 28:16-20. I found his use of the context in this passage incredibly helpful in explaining what Jesus commanded his church to do.

[2015 Ekklesia Conference sermons](#)

This conference was entirely devoted to answering the question, "What is the mission of the church?" The three following sermons are included here as well.

Jon Anderson - "[Ekklesia Session 2 - A Theological Critique of Tim Keller's Center Church](#)"

In this sermon from the 2015 Ekklesia Conference in Jupiter, FL, Jon Anderson critiques *Center Church*, Tim Keller's textbook on local church ministry. It is phenomenal! Jon demonstrates the error in the "cultural renewal" model of church ministry that Tim Keller has been so pivotal in establishing in our day. Jon's written critique can be found [here](#).

Jerry Wragg - "[Ekklesia Session 1 - Don't Seek the Food That Perishes](#)"

Jerry Wragg, preaching from John chapter 6, demonstrates that Jesus himself did not gain followers by providing for people's temporal welfare. He explains why social action is not any part of the church's biblical mandate.

Joel James - "[Ekklesia Session 4 - What Is the Mission of Missions?](#)"

Joel James, a pastor at Grace Fellowship in South Africa, explains why social action is not part of the church's mission. He explains how he has seen this trend grow in his context overseas and the damage it does to church planting. His critique is a thorough and potent blow to social action missions.

[2016 Ekklesia Conference: Sheep & Shepherds](#)

In 2016, the Ekklesia Conference theme was about shepherding and being shepherded in the local church. These sermons offer excellent teaching on being a faithful church member and a faithful shepherd in Christ's church. The pre-conference includes three sessions on building and maintaining a unified elder board, a very useful resource for pastors.

Jon Anderson - "[Foundations of Biblical Philosophy of Ministry \(Part 7\): The Social Gospel vs. the Mission of the Church](#)"

Following the MLK50 conference, Jon restated the mission of the church in Men of Grace & Granite. He properly explains common passages used (or misused, rather) to support that the church has some social justice or cultural renewal mandate to fulfill as part of the church's mission.

Scott Maxwell - "[Ephesians 6:5-9 - Households for Christ: Uncommon Slaves and Masters](#)"

The application of Ephesians 6:5-9 that was articulated in this sermon was transformative for me. Scott demonstrates how the apostle Paul affected a first century social ill (slavery) through the preaching of the gospel and discipleship.

Foundations of Biblical Philosophy of Ministry (Grace Immanuel Bible Church, Jupiter, FL)

This series was part of GIBC's Men of Grace and Granite ministry. In it, pastor Jerry Wragg teaches the foundations of their church's philosophy of ministry while explaining the detrimental effects of pragmatism to a church's ministry.

[Part 1: God's Sovereign Work in Conversion](#)

[Part 2: The Danger of Pragmatism](#)

[Part 3: Demonstration of the Spirit and of Power](#)

[Part 4: All Things to All Men?](#)

[Part 5: The Non-Negotiables Are Essential](#)

[Part 6: Building Up the Body of Christ](#)

[Part 7: The Social Gospel vs. the Mission of the Church](#)

Jesse Johnson - "[What Would Jesus Do?: Social Justice vs. The Great Commission](#)" At the Shepherds' Conference in 2016, Jesse Johnson explained the difference between social justice and the Great Commission. In this lecture, he draws helpful distinctions between what qualifies as biblically valid forms of mercy ministry.

Nathan Busenitz - "[Evangelicalism's Quest for Popular Acceptance](#)"

This lecture, also presented at the 2016 Shepherds' Conference, details the historical clash of pragmatism versus ministry practices founded on Scripture. Busenitz helpfully explains the importance of holding to Scripture and convictions founded on what the Bible says.

Nathan Busenitz - [Historical Theology I course lectures](#)

Nathan Busenitz taught this series of lectures at The Master's Seminary. In it, he surveys the history of the church from Pentecost through the pre-Reformation period (A.D. 33-1500). The goal of this course, in part, is that the student would be able to trace the development of Christian doctrine throughout church history and understand its practical implications for ministry.

Nathan Busenitz - [Historical Theology II course lectures](#)

This seminary-level church history course, taught at The Master's Seminary, begins with the Reformation era and ends with the church presently (A.D. 1500-present). Like the first set of lectures (above), a primary goal of this course is that the student would comprehend the development of doctrine throughout the history of the church and understand its practical implications for ministry. Listeners will benefit from learning how Christ has fulfilled his promise to build his church (Matt. 16:18) over the past 2,000 years.

JOURNAL & BLOG ARTICLES

Joel James - "[Regaining Our Focus: A Response to the Social Action Trend in Evangelical Missions](#)"

Written in the Master's Seminary Journal (Spring 2014 ed.), James and Biedebach critique the social action philosophy in evangelicalism. Readers will find similar content in this article as James's aforementioned resources. Since this is a scholarly theological journal, the critique includes more academic and influential resources on the subject of the church's mission.

Darrell B. Harrison "[Is the Gospel No Longer Enough for Black Christians?](#)"

In this blog post, Harrison pushes back hard against the idea that the fruit of the gospel is advocating and fighting for social justice. Since this thinking has become so prevalent among many in the church today, I decided to include it in this resource guide within this category on the church's mission and local ministry.

Jon Anderson - "[An Evaluation of Timothy Keller's Center Church](#)"

In this paper, Jon Anderson critiques the "cultural renewal" model of local church ministry espoused by Tim Keller's textbook, Center Church. Jon also preached a sermon critiquing the book at the 2015 Ekklesia Conference (see above).

BOOKS

Kevin DeYoung and Greg Gilbert - [What is the Mission of the Church?](#)

DeYoung and Gilbert offer this helpful critique of the social action trend so prevalent amongst churches in our day. They demonstrate that never throughout redemptive history did God require his people corporately to cure social ills in the world. They take on tough passages that advocates of the opposing view use in support of a dual mandate for the church. Unfortunately, because of DeYoung and Gilbert's eschatology (view of the end times), this books fails to point to Christ's Millennial Kingdom as the ultimate, eschatological solution to the social ills that now plague our world.

Wayne Mack and Dave Swavely - [Life in the Father's House: A Member's Guide to the Local Church](#)

This book is a basic introduction to what it means to be a member of Christ's church. What things make a church biblical? And how should one participate in what Christ is doing at this point of redemptive history through his church? This book answers these basic questions and more.

D. A. Carson - [The Cross and Christian Ministry](#)

This book originated from a series of lectures that D. A. Carson taught on Christian leadership from First Corinthians. It is an excellent resources that highlights the gospel's opposition to the world's wisdom. Carson demonstrates why pragmatic ministry methods undermine the wisdom of God in the cross of Christ.

MISSIONS

SERMONS

Smedly Yates - [Missions: The Glory of God in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Manifested in the Church Around the World sermon series.](#)

This sermon series from 2009 became the concept for GGCW. My pastor, Smedly Yates, preached this 5-part sermon series that explained our church's philosophy of missions. Some of these sermons are my favorite sermons to date.

Smedly Yates - [2018 Missions Conference at Grace Community Church in Jacksonville, FL](#)

This series is a more recent version of the aforementioned sermons series, "Missions: The Glory of God in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Manifested in the Church Around the World."

Scott Maxwell - ["Paul's Letter to the Romans \(Part 1\)" Part 2](#)

These two sermons are Scott Maxwell's introduction to our sermon series on Romans at Grace Bible Church. Scott spent several months preparing to preach Romans and makes the case in these sermons that the book of Romans is a missionary support letter. In short, the robust gospel found within the book of Romans was Paul's way of moving the church in Rome to support him on his way to preach the gospel in Spain.

[Jon Anderson - "Calvin: Why the Local Church Powers Missions"](#)

In this lecture, Jon Anderson explains why local churches were so successfully equipped and planted through the ministry of John Calvin.

[Missions Sermons](#) from Grace Bible Church (Tempe, AZ)

MISSIONARIES & MISSIONS AGENCIES

The following resources are closely affiliated with my church, Grace Bible Church in Tempe, AZ. Please consider keeping up with our missionaries and their progress. You will be encouraged by how God is revealing His glory through the gospel from local churches around the world.

Matt and Cameron Dodd

Matt and Cameron Dodd were among the pioneering members of Team PNG (Papua New Guinea). After years of training and preparation, they were finally sent out from Grace Bible Church in 2015. In 2017 Matt Dodd was diagnosed with stage four lung cancer and died shortly thereafter. All his sermons and updates given during our corporate gatherings can be view at the above link. The Dodds' story is one of faithful perseverance through suffering. These resources are a small glimpse of how years of pursuing the Lord as a normal pattern of life prepares God's people for unforeseen trials.

Zach and Cassidy Cann

Zach and Cassidy are good friends who I have known for over 10 years. They have dreamt about fulfilling the Great Commission in Papua New Guinea for many years and are currently working to see it accomplished among the nDo tribe in the Finisterre Mountains. They are a part of a small team sent out from my church who is laboring to translate the Bible into a previously unwritten language. Their goal is to see a church established in Papua New Guinea that is able to reproduce itself in other places locally and around the world.

Jeremy and Lorie Lehman

Jeremy and Lorie lived in Madang, Papua New Guinea for years, providing logistic support for the Dodds, Canns, Mitchells, and Amelia Brink in the nDo tribe.

Ryan and Elna Mitchell

The Mitchells are a family from Pretoria, South Africa. Ryan served as an elder at Grace Fellowship before joining our team among the nDo people.

Amelia Brink

Amelia is another missionary sent out by Grace Fellowship along with Ryan and Elna Mitchell. She is also laboring with the team among the nDo people to aid in discipling the woman in the tribe.

Massimo and Susanna Mollica

The Mollicas are missionaries to Genoa, Italy. They minister in a place that has rightly been called a missionary graveyard, since so few missionaries are able to endure there. The Mollicas are laboring to see people saved and a strong church established in Italy where Roman Catholicism maintains its greatest foothold.

Finisterre Vision

Finisterre Vision is a missions organization that is dedicated to finishing the Great Commission in the Finisterre Mountains of Papua New Guinea. This organization has established a unique practice among missionary agencies in sending 100% of supporter funds directly to supporting its missionaries. Consider partnering with them to support the expansion of the gospel in Papua New Guinea.

BOOKS

Andy Johnson - Missions: How the Local Church Goes Global

This book succinctly explains a biblical missiology. Johnson gives practical advice about how churches should think about missions, supporting missionaries, and the importance of missions to the local church. He helpfully demystifies the biblical mandate of sending and going.

S. Pearce Carey - William Carey

This book has had a tremendous impact on how I think about the history of missions. William Carey (1761-1834) is known as the father of modern missions and translated the Bible into several languages. His grandson masterfully documents his life in this 400-page book. By weaving many of William Carey's own personal letters and journal entries into the biography, the reader gets to know the missionary in a way that brings the man to life on every page. Carey's passion for the lost and commitment to the church and Christ's gospel is sure to convict, challenge, and encourage those who read this book.

David M. Doran - For the Sake of His Name

This is the first book that I would recommend reading on missions. David Doran's missiology aims at God's glory and is governed by the same. I am thankful that the author does not compromise a high view of the local church for the sake of missions, an uncommon feature in many missionary endeavors.

William Carey - [An Enquiry Into the Obligation of the Use of Means for the Conversion of the Heathens](#)

This pamphlet was William Carey's attempt to convince his Baptist denomination to obey the Great Commission. He lived at a time when hyper-Calvinism was the norm and men needed to be convinced that God intended to save men and to do it by His sovereign use of means. Carey eventually used the profits from this work to fund his mission agency's first sending endeavor.

John Piper - [Let the Nations Be Glad!](#)

In classic John Piper fashion, this book connects the significance of the glory of God with missions. Piper demonstrates how a burden for God to be glorified requires that the gospel be preached to every people group on earth until the Lamb receives the reward for his sufferings. One weakness of this book, in my opinion, is that it seeks to build this passion for God's glory through missions in individual Christians without emphasizing the role of the local church in this grand endeavor. Nevertheless, it is well worth reading!

Ruth Tucker - [From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya: A Biographical History of Christian Missions](#)

Ruth Tucker offers an engaging history of Christian missions by tracing the progress of the gospel through the lives of various missionaries. This book helpfully gives the reader a broad knowledge of how God has advanced His gospel through imperfect vessels. However, the reader ought to be aware of Tucker's preference for ecumenism and feminism. Both are apparent in this work as she includes the propagation of Catholicism, Protestantism, and even at times, "missionaries" who held to Universalistic beliefs. With these cautions in mind, discerning readers can benefit greatly from learning how God has spread the aroma of Christ around the world throughout church history.

BLOG ARTICLES

Joel James - "[What is the Mission of Missions? \(Part 1\)](#)"

Also [Part 2](#) | [Part 3](#) | [Part 4](#) | [Part 5](#) | [Part 6](#)

In this 6-part blog article, Joel James explains that, "Mission is your ecclesiology armed with a passport." He defends the teaching that the church has one mission - reproducing assembled, local bodies of Christ's disciples through the preaching of the gospel and teaching biblical truth. He argues convincingly that the church's success does not require social action endeavors.

VIDEOS

Ee-Taow ([Ee-Taow: The Mouk Story // Official Video by Ethnos360, founded in 1942 as New Tribes Mission](#))

This video is a story of missionaries who brought the gospel to Papua New Guinea. They were denied by multiple missions agencies before finally being sent. Once they learned the language, they preached chronologically through the Bible by tracing the gospel through the biblical narrative. The reenactment, combined with live footage, will thrill anyone who loves the gospel! Seeing this video for the first time is what sparked the desire of some of my church's missionaries to labor in Papua New Guinea.

The Taliabo Story

Part 1 of 4 | [Part 2 of 4](#) | [Part 3 of 4](#) | [Part 4 of 4](#)

This 4-part video series is another example of missionaries who witnessed revival amongst a remote people group by translating the Scriptures and teaching chronologically through the biblical narrative.

FOR CHRISTIAN HIP HOP ARTISTS

BOOKS

D. A. Carson - [The Cross and Christian Ministry](#)

This is a book that every Christian artist should read, in my opinion. Taken from several lessons on Christian leadership, Carson explains the centrality of the gospel message compared with the foolishness of the world. It is a great resource for artists who need to choose between making art that is explicitly about Jesus and art that does not expound biblical truth. Every Christian rapper, whether he knows it or not, is making this decision whenever he uses his craft. Therefore, knowing the centrality of the gospel is essential to rightly counting the costs.

Philip Ryken - [Art for God's Sake](#)

This book is a brief overview of how God intends art to bring him glory.

John MacArthur - [Ashamed of the Gospel](#)

In *Ashamed of the Gospel*, John MacArthur explains the error of the seeker-sensitive and emergent church movements (originally written in 1993). I am including this with resources for Christian artists because Christian Hip Hop, by and large, is a microcosm of a poor understanding of the church and how to lead people to Christ. Unfortunately, CHH has become an example of a poorly applied ecclesiology and missiology. Christian artists would do well to read this book and consider if their art effectively glorifies God, esteems the church, and draws people to Christ.

BLOG ARTICLES

Truth and Fire - ["We Just Lost One. Bye, Lecrae."](#)

This is, hands down, the most well-articulated critique of the Reach Records shift that I have encountered. While I do not share the author's conclusion about Lecrae's salvation mentioned in part one, the discernment exhibited in this 6-part article is gold. The critique is fair, sensible, and helpful as it includes many Scripture references with solid biblical commentary.

God's Servant - "Christian Hip Hop and the Glory of Christ"

[Part1-"HasCHH Fallen?"](#) | [Part2-"What's the Mission?"](#) | [Part3-"An Appeal"](#)

In this set of blog posts, Christian Hip Hop artist and pastor, God's Servant, helpfully clarifies the questions that artists within CHH have been debating. He also offers a helpful biblical critique of the idea that all art is equal, whether it explicitly makes known the glories of Christ or not.

Shai Linne - ["What Christian Hip-Hop Can Teach Kendrick Lamar"](#)

This article, written at the end of 2012, is Shai Linne's response to one Christian author's unqualified praise of Kendrick Lamar's album, *Good Kid, M.A.A.D City*. Shai contends that "Kendrick Lamar needs to learn from CHH far more than CHH needs to learn from him." This article is helpful in aiding artists think about the superiority of explicitly Christian, Christ-exalting, gospel-clarifying music over secular music, as well as music that is less-explicit about Christ although it might communicate a Christian worldview.

Shai Linne - ["Are Chance the Rapper and Coloring Book Christian Albums?"](#)

Written shortly after Chance the Rapper released his album, *Coloring Book*, Shai Linne responded to the hype that many Christians were buying into by labeling Chance and his album 'Christian.'

INTERVIEW

The following interviews all have one thing in common - William Branch aka The Ambassador. As a pioneer in CHH and theology professor who is thoroughly acquainted with the Scriptures, Ambassador has offered some of the best insights on Christian Hip Hop that I have ever heard. Listeners will notice that Ambassador is constantly bringing up specific passages of Scripture as well as biblical examples from which he draws his conclusions. His commentary on the CHH world is exemplary precisely because his conclusions are demonstrably derived from carefully studied passages of Scripture.

Rapzilla - [Cross Movement on the State of Christian Hip Hop](#)

The Wade-O Radio Show - [Cross Movement: Why We Embraced the Christian Hip Hop Label](#)

Rapzilla - [Ambassador on Why Mainstream Hip-Hop is Getting Praise for Rapping About God](#)

DJ Wade-O w/ the Ambassador - [We Need Christians to be Christian in Hip Hop](#)

DJ Wade-O w/ the Ambassador - [Ambassador Sets the Record Straight on His Position on Christians in Hip Hop](#)





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