

Article Review

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### **Article Review**

#### **What is one concept that stood out to you in this article?**

One concept that stood out to me in this article is the stewardship of money on missions. Alawode talks about three parts of the strategy: strategic giving, strategic receiving, and strategic advancement (Alawode, 2020, page 2). I understand all of giving to missions as an offering, not a tithe. Strategic advancement is a result of strategic giving and strategic receiving. The ones who give are more often those who are blessed financially and want to “spend their money for kingdom purposes.” These people are often those who are unable to go carry out the Great Commission, but want to contribute to the spread of the gospel. Those who receive are the ones who have a “burden to carry out the Great commission.” These people have skills sets, language, and culture to go to the nations to spread the gospel, but they do not have the finances to carry it out. The strategic partnership between the strategic giver and strategic receiver results in strategic advancement. Rob Peters says, “The way we contribute for the spread of the gospel testifies to our belief about it” (Alawode, page 2).

#### **What implications does this concept have for Missions?**

The implications of this concept is that everyone has a part to take responsibility for the sake of the gospel. Missions is not just the work of the missionary, but of the sender as well. There must be a partnership between the sender and the receiver that can effectively and strategically reach the people who do not know Jesus. This means that there must be no separation of the call of the GC between the people with funds and the people with the burden to carry it out. Many times, Christians don’t contribute to the GC because they don’t feel “called to missions.” There are many ways to contribute to the GC besides being sent out. I also think giving is not just meant for those with finances. God can do much with little. For those who can make a bigger impact with bigger contributions, I think that they should be responsible for

finding missionaries or organizations who they believe are doing the work of carrying out the GC.

**What needs to change in your life as a result?**

I do give regularly to missions and just recently committed 25% of a bonus that I received to missions. I am committed to continue to give to mission work and supporting missionaries. In this stage of my life, I am not currently on mission, but one day I hope to be. At one point in my life, I was convinced that God would send me out, but He told me to stay. And now I'm being blessed with finances that I am committed to continue to give. The issues that this article raises are worth evaluating and thinking about as I hope to participate in long-term missions.

**References:**

Alawode, A. O. (2020). The importance and challenges of money in Christian missions. *HTS Theologese Studies*, 76(1). <https://doi-org.ezproxy.nyack.edu/10.4102/hts.v76i1.5984>