A BRIEF HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN MISSION

AD 0-400 → JERUSALEM to ROME

- 28-30 Jesus’ earthly life, death & resurrection
- 33 Pentecost & the birth of the Christian church
- 34 Persecution of the church – the gospel spreads from Jerusalem to Judea & Samaria
- 48-57 Paul’s missionary journeys to Asia-minor, Macedonia & Greece
- 60 Paul reaches Rome
- 64-311 Despite severe persecution, Christianity spreads throughout the Roman Empire
- 313 Edict of Milan granting tolerance of Christianity
- 324 Christianity becomes the state religion of the Roman Empire
- 364 Mission to the Vandals (East German tribe)
- 380 Christianity becomes the only permitted religion in the Roman Empire

AD 400-1500 → ROME to EUROPE

- 432 Patrick sent to Ireland
- 589 Christianity reaches the Visigoths in Spain
- 596 Augustine sent to England
- 622-750 Palestine, Egypt, North Africa & Spain lost to Islam
- 675 Christianity reaches Belgium & the Netherlands
- 722 Boniface sent to the Germanic tribes
- 740 Irish monks reach Iceland
- 828 Missionaries sent to (modern-day) Slovakia & Czech republic
- 900-1000 Denmark, Norway, Sweden & Iceland accept Christianity
- 1095-1272 Crusades undertaken as ‘mission’ to the Saracens (Muslims)
- 1015 Russia & much of eastern Europe converted to Christianity
- 1382 Bible translated into English by John Wycliff
- 1462 Gutenberg produces the first printed Bible

AD 1500-1800 → EUROPE to the WORLD

- 1493 Columbus takes priests to the New World
- 1501 Pope Alexander VI enlists Spain to take Christianity to the Americas
- 1517 Luther’s 95 theses ignite the Reformation & the ‘re-evangelisation’ of Europe
- 1527 First protestant missionary conference in Augsburg
- 1600-1800 Roman Catholic mission explodes across the world
- 1620 The Puritans arrive in America
- 1698 The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (SPCK) founded
- 1644 John Eliot sent to North American indians
- 1731 The Moravians begin to send missionaries throughout the world
- 1792 William Carey forms Baptist Mission Society and takes the gospel to India

AD 1800-2000 → the WORLD to the WORLD

- 1800+ Protestant mission explodes across the world
- 1806 ‘Haystack’ prayer meeting (for American mission)
- 1812 First American missionaries sent to India
- 1846 World Evangelical Alliance founded
- 1865 Hudson Taylor founds China Inland Mission
- 1886 Student Volunteer Movement launched
- 1890s Penetration of African interior by European & American agencies
- 1910 World Mission Conference in Edinburgh
- 1946 First Inter-Varsity convention (“Urbana”)
- 1950-60s Non-western mission agencies & ‘tent-maker’ ministries commence & expand
- 1974 First Lausanne Congress on World Evangelisation
- 2000 Local alliances of mission agencies & sending churches active on every continent

© Mark Barry 2008 (with Bruce Dipple & Greg Anderson) | visualunit.me | Please do not republish without permission, but feel free to copy for personal use.