



## Part 26

# Has Christianity Made Useful Contributions to Civilization?

## 1. MISSIONS MATTER

The distortion of colonial missionary influence – i.e. that Christianity is the “source of untold misery to the human race” – is \_\_\_\_\_!

“Bob’s research shows that the total is more than the sum of its parts. ***Christians collectively make a difference in society.***” Dana Robert, Director, Center for Global Christianity and Mission, Boston University

## 2. THE CHURCH MATTERS

We, the Church ***MUST*** remain “the Church” regardless of \_\_\_\_\_ or the \_\_\_\_\_

*Matthew 5:13 – 15 – <sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.*

*<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.”*

The mission of the Church is to advance the ***Christian Faith***, which is distinct from other forms of religious faith.

*1 Peter 2:12 – Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.*

### Suggested Reading:

*Bonhoeffer, Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy*, by Eric Metaxas

*From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya*, by Ruth A. Tucker

*6 Modern Myths About Christianity & Western Civilization*, Philip J. Sampson  
*The Surprising Discovery About Those Colonialist, Proselytizing Missionaries*,  
by Andrea Palpant Dilley in *Christianity Today*, January 2014.

### 3. YOU MATTER

Your giving makes a difference for \_\_\_\_\_ in the world.

## **What Christianity has contributed to civilization? Here are just a few of the many things and people.**

**TARAHUMARA PEOPLE** Dr. Bruce Daugherty

**CENTRAL AMERICA** Rigoberto & Claudia Reyes

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ASIA, SOUTH AMERICA, &  
MEXICO** Aaron Palmatier

**CONGO** John & Alice Seeley Harris

A UK Baptist, Harris and her husband, John, were among the first people to use photography to promote human rights. In the early 1900s, colonialists used forced labor to extract rubber from the Congo's jungles—and villagers who resisted were castrated, burned, or had limbs cut off. The Harrises traveled throughout the United States and Britain disseminating photos and giving lectures detailing the abuses.

**BOTSWANA** John Mackenzie

The British missionary partnered with a chief named Khama III to protect his land from being occupied by white settlers in South Africa. Their efforts birthed a pivotal land protection agreement. If not for Protestant missionaries, Botswana would most likely not exist today.

**SOUTH AFRICA** Trevor Huddleston

The Anglican missionary to South Africa earned the nickname Makhali—“dauntless one”—in part for publishing *Naught for your Comfort*, a devastating critique of South African racial policies. His writings and later leadership with the Anti-Apartheid Movement helped turn British public opinion against apartheid.

**INDIA** Ida Sophia Scudder

She vowed to never become one. But then Ida Sophia Scudder watched three women die needlessly one night at her parents' missionary bungalow and knew God was calling her to the mission field. Scudder addressed the plight of Indian women and the fight against bubonic

plague, cholera, and leprosy. In 1918, she started one of Asia's foremost teaching hospitals, the Christian Medical College & Hospital.

**INDIA** James Long

Sent to Calcutta at age 22, Long was an Irish Anglican priest who played a key role in the Indigo Revolt of 1859, when rural indigo farmers rebelled against British planters. Long translated and published *Nil Darpan*, a play written by Dinabandhu Mitra about the poor treatment of indigo farmers, for which he was fined and briefly jailed. He is remembered today as a key preserver of Bengali education, literature, and history.

**JAPAN** Guido Verbeck

Guido Verbeck was a Dutch political adviser, educator, and missionary hired by the Japanese government to establish a new English school system in Nagasaki. He went on to lead massive change in Japan's education system, set up an exchange program with the States, and began the first Bible study in modern Japan.

**CHINA** Timothy Richard

Amid China's famine of 1876–79, Timothy Richard, a Welsh Baptist, helped lead one of the first major humanitarian relief efforts in modern history. While in Shanghai, he helped produce almost 300 books, campaigned with the Anti-Footbinding Society, and consulted with the governor of Shanxi Province to found a university.

**CHINA** Eliza Bridgman

In 1864, 20 years after sailing to China, American missionary Eliza Bridgman opened a school for girls in Beijing who otherwise would have suffered prostitution, forced labor, or starvation. Bridgman's school was eventually folded into Yenching University, one of the first universities in China. Now Peking University, today it is China's most prestigious university.

**NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA** Lancelot Threlkeld

Learned Awabakal in order to translate the Bible. His work preserved their language. In his opposition to French colonists he wrote that they, “regarded the Aborigines as a species of the baboon, that they might be shot down with impunity,” a philosophy derived from Darwinism that he opposed vehemently. (*6 Modern Myths About Christianity & Western Civilization*, Philip J. Sampson, p.97)