

The Church At Her Best

The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough.
Mat 13:33

“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³² Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches.”

Mat 13:31-32

The Kingdom

- Starts Small
- Grows, Permeates

May Your kingdom come
May Your will be done
On earth as it is in Heaven

The Kingdom

The List

- The Content - This is What we are Asking For
- The Dream - When the Right King Reigns

Jesus

- He is the One! - This is What Jesus Did
- But - In Surprising, Unexpected Ways

Jesus' Followers

- Church At Her Best - What She Has Always Done
- Jesus Started Something - Growing, Permeating Still!

The List

- **Leaders** – Fair, Righteous, Truth
- **Oppression** – Freedom, Overthrow Tyrants
- **Poverty** – Food, Prosperity, Independence
- **War** – Peace, Reroute Resources
- **Sickness and Death** – Healing, Resurrection
- **Harm and Fear** – Safe and Secure
- **Knowledge of God** – Like Waters Cover the Sea
- **Corruption of Earth** – New Heaven and Earth

This is It!

- **Already** – This is What Jesus Started
- **Not Yet** – This is What is Coming
- **Mission** – This is Our Task in the World
- **Prayer** – This is What We are Asking For

Expansion of Christianity

- Largest World Religion
- People – 2.1 Billion
- Percentage – 33%
- Countries where Majority – 117

<http://www.adherents.com>

Reach of the Bible

- Top Selling Book of all Time
 - (by a margin of more that 6 to 1)
- Estimated Copies – 6,000,000,000
- Languages – New Testament – 1068
- Languages – Whole Bible – 414

Wycliffe Bible Translators

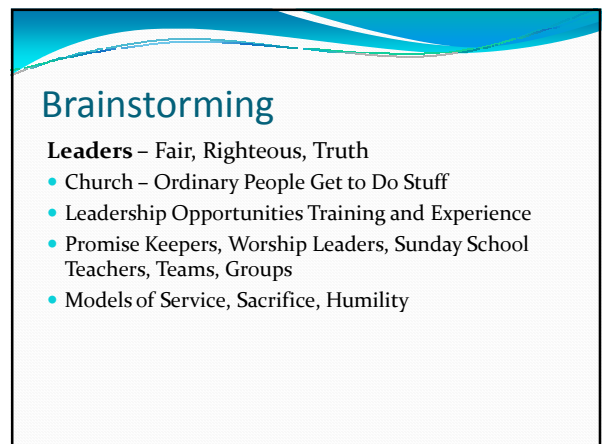
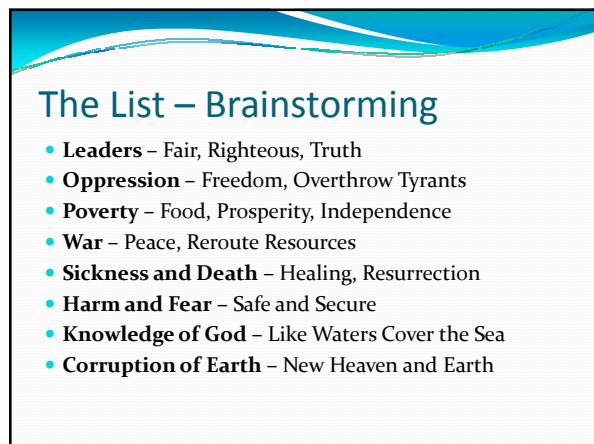
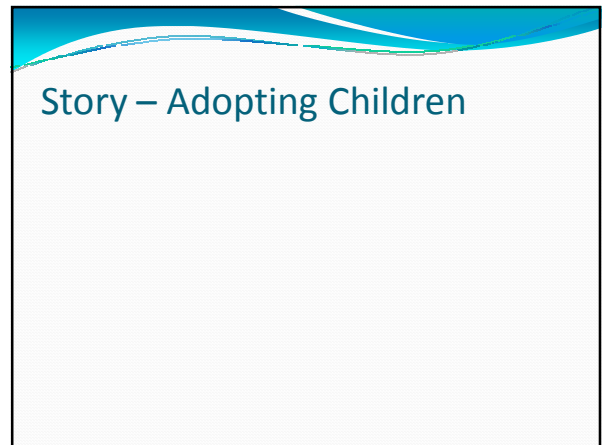
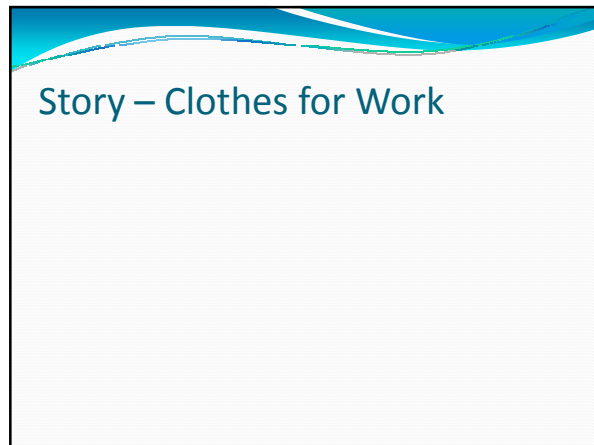
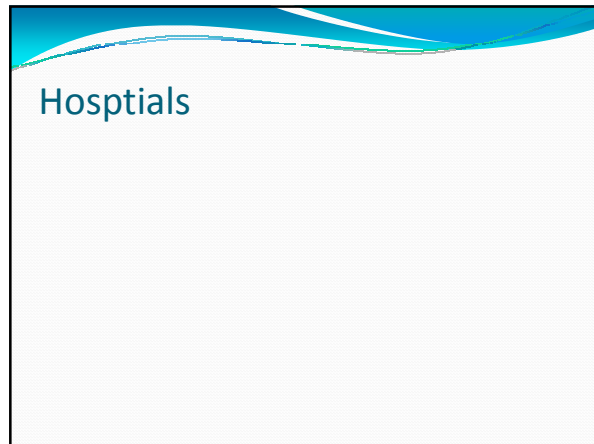
Global Christianity

- 1900 – 80% of Christians lived in Europe and Northern America
- 2005 – under 40%
- Today, Africans, Asians and Latin Americans are more typical representatives of Christianity than Americans or Europeans

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Political Impact

- Abolishing Slavery
- American Civil Rights
- Dismantling Apartheid
- End of Eastern European Communism



Brainstorming

Oppression – Freedom, Overthrow Tyrants

- Try to Do Good – Discover There is Evil
- Refugees
- Addiction Work
- Freeing Sex Slaves
- Legal Help for Poor
- Abusive Work Conditions

Brainstorming

Poverty – Food, Prosperity, Independence

- Poverty Relief – Food Banks, Soup Kitchens, Food Distribution; Emergency Aid
- Micro-financing
- Drilling Wells
- Training in Farm Techniques
- Literacy and Education
- Neighbourhood Infiltration

Brainstorming

War – Peace, Reroute Resources

- Peace-Keeping Work
- Negotiation work – International, Labour, Racial
- Family / Relationship Reconciliation

Brainstorming

Sickness and Death – Healing, Resurrection

- Prayer for Sick
- Hospice
- Medical Research
- Caring for Ill, Elderly
- Volunteer at Hospital

Brainstorming

Harm and Fear – Safe and Secure

- Refugee
- Child Soldiers
- Shelters For Victims Of Violence
- Bullying Interventions

Brainstorming

Knowledge of God – Like Waters Cover the Sea

- Bible Translation
- Bible Distribution
- Preaching and Teaching
- Sunday School
- Training in Spiritual Disciplines

Brainstorming

Corruption of Earth – New Heaven and Earth

- Cleaning up Junk
- Disaster Relief
- Environmental Action
- Beauty – Art and Music

So What?

- No One Can Do All This
- Everyone Can Do Something
- Start Small
- Do Something