

# Lesson 4

## Institutional Expansion and Internal Conflict

### 1000-1500 AD



# Mission representative of the Period



## **Bartoleme de LasCasas - 1484-1566**

In response to the period that preceded him, including the Crusades' mass conversions, and the Inquisition, Las Casas focused on the social mandate of advocacy, activism and meeting physical needs for the Indians who had been repressed by the Spanish and Portugese and as a result, the Gospel gained a hearing.

## **The essence of Las Casas**

Las Casas has been noted as the father of the modern human rights movement

Desperate times call for desperate measures and Las Casa became radical in methodology

He did not have a conversionistic approach – he had to deal with a huge pressing problem of injustice before he was verbal about the Gospel

Las Casas spent much of his energy trying to right the mission ship and was involved totally with the internal mission trying to change policy.

# Highlights of Bartholome de las Casas' Story

Born in Seville to Pedro de Las Casas, a small merchant wealthy enough to send his son to learn Latin in the academy of Seville in 1497.

1502 – Leaves Spain for Hispaniola in the West Indies with the governor, Nicolas de Ovando. He earns an 'ecomienda' (land and inhabitants) for his participation in several expeditions and then proceeds to evangelize the Indians.

1506 – Returns briefly to Europe where he is ordained a deacon in Rome.

1511 On August 15, Pentecost Sunday, listens to a sermon by a Dominican priest, Father Antonio de Montesinos on the text "I am a voice crying in the wilderness," denouncing Spain's treatment of the Indians. As a result Las Casas returns his Indian servants to the governor and the rest of his life is to be spent in defense of the Indian.

1516 In November returns to America as a member of a commission sent to investigate the treatment of the Indians

1566 Dies in Madrid and Buried in the convent chapel of Our Lady of Antocha

# Historical Highlights of 1000-1500 AD

Booktext: The Middle Ages Graphics from the World History Chart

<b>America</b>	(Coastal state of <b>Chimu</b> evolves in Peru)	<b>Incas</b> (cap. Cusco established) (Chimu Empire evolves)	Inca Empire evolves
	<b>Mayas</b> (New Empire: Mayas move to Yucatan)	<b>Aztecs</b> (to 1521) (cap. Tenochtitlan establ.)	3-city league formed
<b>Russia</b>	<b>Kievan Rus</b> Varangian (Viking) upper class	Kievan state splits up	<b>Alexander Newski's</b> victory over Sweden saves northern Russia
		<b>Tartars</b>	Great Russia ruled by the <b>Golden Horde</b> (Mongols)
<b>Europe</b>	<b>Britain:</b> b. of Hastings • (Norman England)	<b>PAPAL DOMINATION</b>	
	Holy Roman Emperors (Struggle with Papacy)	Hohenstaufen Emperors	Inter-regnum
	• Kdm of Poland	• Kdm of Hungary	Rise of Venice
	1	← <b>Crusades</b> →	3 4 5 6 7
			Rivalry Venice/Genoa
			Plague
			Great Schism
			Struggle betw. Pope & anti-Pope
			Habsburg Emperors
			England: House of Lancaster
			War of the <b>Roses</b>
			Tudors
			100-Years War
			Overseas Discoveries
	Moors in Spain	High Middle Ages	Reconquista in Spain
<b>Byzant. Empire</b>	<b>BYZANTINE EMPIRE</b>	Battle of <b>Manzikert</b>	Re-conquest of Jerusalem
			Crusader states established
			Crusaders establ. the Latin Empire
			<b>Late Byzantine Empire</b>
			Ottomans in Balkans
			Battle of <b>Kosovo</b>
			Ottomans take <b>Constantinople</b> (End of Middle Ages)
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>CALIPHATES</b>	<b>Seljuk Sultanate</b>	Break-up of Seljuk Sultanate into smaller states
	(Intrusion of Turkish peoples who form Palace Guard and exercise political power)		<b>Khanate of Persia</b> (Mongols in Persia)
			<b>Timur</b> attacks Anatolia and Egypt
<b>Egypt</b>	Shiite dynasty of <b>Fatimids</b> form anti-Caliphate in Egypt	<b>Ayyubide Sultanate</b>	<b>Mamluke Sultanate</b> in Egypt
			(Turkish Palace Guard establish Sultanate)
	1000	1100	1200
			1300
			1400
			1500
<b>India</b>	<b>Ghazni Mahmud</b> of Ghazni (Afghanistan) raids into India	<b>Delhi Sultanate</b>	<b>Timur</b> invades
	<b>Rajput</b> states arise	<b>Mohammad of Ghor</b> occupies Delhi	Afghan Lodi Sultans (Delhi)
		Turk Moslem invaders settle in northern India	Dekhan Sultanats
<b>S'India</b>	Chola Kingdom	(Tamil reform by <b>Ramanuja</b> )	Buddhism declines
		Pandya Kingdom (cap. Madurai)	• <b>Vijayanagar</b> Kingdom (Hindu Kdm)
<b>China</b>	Khitan (Mongols) rule over Manchuria and Korea	<b>Great Mongol War</b>	<b>YUAN DYNASTY</b>
	<b>Northern SUNG</b> (cap. Kaifeng)	<b>Southern SUNG</b> (cap. Hangchou)	(cap. Nanking) <b>MING DYNASTY</b>
	Appeasing the Mongols by surrendering territory	Flowering of drama, painting and philosophy	In reaction to Mongol rule restoration of old tradition
			Naval expeditions to India and East Africa
			Naval attack on Japan
<b>Japan</b>	<b>Heian Period</b> (Kyoto) develop. of hereditary Shogunate	Zen Buddhism	<b>Kamakura Shogunate</b>
			<b>Ashikara Shogunate</b> (cap. Kyoto)
			Warring Countries
<b>Africa</b>	<b>Hausa</b> Kdms evolve	Stone structures in Zimbabwe in East Africa	Mali Kdm under king <b>Mansa Musa</b> (Timbuktu)
			Songhai Kdm
			Benin Kdm

# Mission Highlights 1000-1500AD

**1054- Eastern and Western Schism** – Power battles over iconoclasm, philology (Spirit from the Father and/or Son, Language as Latin or Greek, Political controversy of church leadership power, use of unleavened bread in the West, celibacy of clergy resulted in greater alienation and eventual split. hindrance to spread of gospel- split between East and west, schism of Orthodox Church and R

**1095- 1291 The Crusades** – Order of Teutonic Knights: mission by military power.

The contributing Factors for the Crusades were: the union of church/state which gave the Pope political power. The Catholic church wanted to bring Eastern church back under the Western influence and reclaim the Holy Land possessed by the Muslims. The holy conquest legitimized “cleansing”-seeking purity at the cost of human life. There was an underlying desire to gain wealth of the “occupied” lands in the Mediterranean. As a result, there was an increase in academic learning (Aristotelian thought introduced) which led to the Renaissance (the end of the Medieval period), an increase in thought and medicine, the Enlightenment and the Reformation. In addition the Break up of feudalism and rise of capitalism, set the stage for the modern European state.

**1225-1274** Aquinas as missionary to Islam. The rise of Islam had been seen as a hindrance to the gospel and a direct result of Satanic attack against the church.

**Late 1400's Early renewal movements:** Wycliffe/ Hus/ Savonarola/ Erasmus. Their cutting edge Christian thought combated both the rise in humanism and the depraved state of the Catholic Church

**1493 Pope Alexander** split of the mission field between Portugal and Spain opened the door to colonialism under the guise of mission which would describe much of the period to follow.

# Contemporaries of Las Casas 1000-1500AD

**1076 Henry IV** of the Holy Roman Empire convokes a Germany council to dispose of Pope Gregory VII. The Pope excommunicates Henry IV and he is forced to beg for absolution -- but conflict between empire and Papacy continues into 12th century.

**1099-1244 Crusaders** – knights went to Holy Land and proceeded to colonize/convert the world forcibly.

c. **1200's - Raymond Lull** – A Franciscan who forsook his own wealth and took vows. He rejected the crusades and introduced idea of Arabic studies – language & culture as means of mission - used first systematic approach to mission - apologetic, education, evangelism. Ranks as one of the greatest missionaries. Tried to understand the Muslim language and worldview. Martyred by the Muslims of North Africa in 1315.

**1270 Marco Polo** – went to China, Italians stayed until 15<sup>th</sup> century – Later Ricci would find a remnant.

**1451-1506 Christopher Columbus** – Spanish exploration/ colonization including “mission” efforts.

## **Uniqueness of this mission period**

What was best discovered from mission work in this period is “what not to do”!

As a result of power and force based mission work whose intentions was land expansion based and not kingdom based, splits occurred between the East and the West and eventually between Protestants and Catholics.



## **Thread through the Macro mission story**

This period of Mass Conversions, institutionalized expansions and internal conflict set the stage for reform and refocus of mission in the periods to come. The conquests led to further enlightenment for culture and Christian thinking as well as more strategic mission approaches on the upside and colonialism on the downside.

## Scriptural Foundations for Las Casas' approach

And he will answer, 'I assure you, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.' **Matthew 25:45 (NLT)**

For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true. And you know that the way we lived among you was further proof of the truth of our message. **1 Thes. 1:5 (NLT)**

We loved you so much that we gave you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too. **1 Thes. 2:8 (NLT)**

## Further Research highlights

Just as twentieth-century America had its angry voices to denounce these human failings, so Spain in the sixteenth century had Bartolome de Las Casas, a man whose obsession to end the Spanish tyranny in the New World evolved into a scathing attack against imperialism. Although Las Casas was among the first Europeans to understand the implications of the discovery of America and to praise Columbus for his extraordinary courage and intelligence, he saw that, on the human level, the discoverer and all who followed after him were selfish and greedy operators: the most cherished institution, the encomienda, destroys the humanity of the Indian when it does not destroy his life altogether, and their most cherished concept, that Indians are 'tools of the devil' (page ix)

(From "Bartolome de Las Casas - History of the Indies", Translated and edited by Andre Collard, 1971 Harper and Row, NYC, NY)

# Mission Innovations of Las Casas

- 1) Salvation through meeting physical needs: Focus on power, equality and rights of a culture seen through the Christian faith. He started with the Gospel mandate and when it did not appear to work, he focused on the social mandate.
- 2) Advocacy and Activism in mission (It blends that he was involved in something he was passionate about. He was not afraid of getting involved. He was always talking on behalf of those who had needs)
- 3) Cultural/Social mandate before gospel mandate (one cannot compartmentalize the Gospel)
- 4) Systemic intervention for human justice.
- 5) Defender of the defenseless.
- 6) Holistic gospel (Life issues and theology are connected however he did not get that involved)
- 8) The great equalizer between humanity and culture. (allowed respect for culture)
- 9) Conversion by creating community

- 10) Moving religious powers for justice and mercy.
- 12) Attacking of injustices for the sake of the Gospel.
- 13) Transformation through changing the cultural norm.
- 14) A voice to the voiceless.
- 15) Addressing social justice issues to communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- 16) Social justice as mission
- 17) Defender of masses human justice
- 18) Rights and religion
- 19) The impossible dream
- 20) “Religion is a matter of free choice” (he had to make the argument that these people were human, don’t just feed and tell them that they are Christian. He felt like they were able to made as Christians and avoid hypocritical conversions).

# Movie clip Illustrating the principle

Show the scene from Amistad, where Matthew McConaughey's character has his moral switch turned on and decides to represent the cause of the slaves in Boston, unfolding a powerful advocacy relationship.



# **How can Las Casas' Principles be applied to the YoungLife Mission today?**

We need to earn the right to be heard among teenagers today.

Kids will not care how much we know until they know how much we care?

“Kumbaya is not enough!” – Dean Borgmann

What is your strategy to reach out to Mexican migrant teens in your community? How can you advocate for their physical needs before you address their spiritual needs?

## **So What and Now What?**

How will we get to know kids well enough that we know their physical needs and are able to advocate for them as well as addressing their spiritual needs.

What are the list of local child advocacy contacts, crisis hotlines and counselors

Who are local crisis counselors we can seek counsel from to point out signs of problems kids are facing that we are not yet aware of?



## Recommended Reading:

Gutierrez, Gustavo

(1993) *Las Casas: in search of the poor of Jesus Christ*", Maryknoll, N.Y., Orbis Books

Borgmann, Dean

(2003), *Hear My Story*, Peabody, MA, Hendrickson Publishers