

# Tentmaking

## Business as Mission

TEMBAM

1. In the Bible, History & Today
2. The greatest need in missions today
3. Preparation & Vision
4. Advantages & Challenges
5. Resources & Opportunities

## Old Testament Tentmakers

Abraham <i>Sheep farmer of Canaan</i>	Joseph <i>Steward in Egypt</i>
Daniel <i>Senior civil servant of Persia</i>	Mordecai <i>Prime minister of Persia</i>
Deborah <i>Judge in Canaan</i>	Joshua <i>Military commander in Canaan</i>
Esther <i>Queen of Persia</i>	Moses <i>Prince of Egypt</i>
Ezra <i>Secretary of state in Persia</i>	Naomi <i>Homemaker in Moab</i>
Gideon <i>Judge in Midian</i>	Nehemiah <i>Cupbearer in Persia</i>
Job <i>Nobleman of Bashan</i>	

## Apostle Paul

### the tentmaker of Tarsus

...and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them...

### Did Paul work part time or full time?

we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you

You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my needs and the needs of my companions

Acts 18:3    1 Thess 2:9    Acts 20:33

## Apostle Paul

### the tentmaker of Tarsus

so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out.

### Where do you think they got Paul's clothes?

Acts 19:12 NAS

## Apostle Paul

### His legacy to today's tentmakers

Paul lived for two years in his rented house. He welcomed everyone who came to visit. He urgently presented all matters of the kingdom of God. He explained everything about Jesus Christ. His door was always open.

### The simplified version

2 years, rented home, welcomed all, told them about Jesus & was hospitable

Acts 28:30-31 MSG

## William Carey

### Tentmaker Pioneer 1761 - 1834

father of modern missions  
 one of the first missionaries to India  
 translated parts of the Bible into 35 languages  
 leading authority on botany in India  
 wrote for Encyclopaedia Britannica  
 professor at Fort William College  
 businessman – Indigo factory, publishing  
 saved the Sanskrit language

*"Every missionary should maintain a trade"*

## Tentmaker Definition *Simplified*

Marketplace Christians Living the Great Commission

Christians in the Global Workplace *Aztem*

## The Tentmaker Today

TENTMAKERS SPEAK  
SURVEY BY *Don Hamilton*

- ü Led a Bible study before going
- ü Main reason for going - to share Gospel
- ü Believed God called them to be tentmakers
- ü Had actively shared their faith at home
- ü Healthy relationship with home church
- ü Recruited others to be tentmakers

## Tentmaking Business as Mission

2. The greatest need in missions today

## The 10/40 Window

■ Hindu ■ Muslim ■ Buddhist ■ Non-religious

65 nations – 4 billion people  
2/3 of the world's population  
97% of those who have not heard  
30-70% unemployment  
85% of the poorest of the poor  
3% of mission workers

## 10/40 window *Simplified*

Islamistan  
Hindustan  
Buddhistan  
Folk religion  
Animism

Fastest growing "religion" in the window?

Materiali\$m

## Church Spending Worldwide

■ Local Church 82.6% ■ Home Missions 12 %  
■ Foreign Missions 5.4 % ■ Unevangelized .02 %

# Tentmaking

## Business as Mission

### 3. Preparation & Vision



## Who can be a tentmaker?

- Singles
- Couples
- Professionals & laymen
- Families
- Students
- Retirees



## 3 types of tentmakers


- Job takers
- Job makers
- ~~Job takers~~



## Our work – Our witness

*whatever ye may do in word or in work, do all things in the name of the Lord Jesus*

Col 3:17 YLT



## Spiritual Preparation

- Get home church onboard
- Learn daily disciplines
- Learn discipleship
- Learn intentional, lifestyle evangelism
- Learn the Bible
- Learn how to lead Bible studies
- Learn to pray



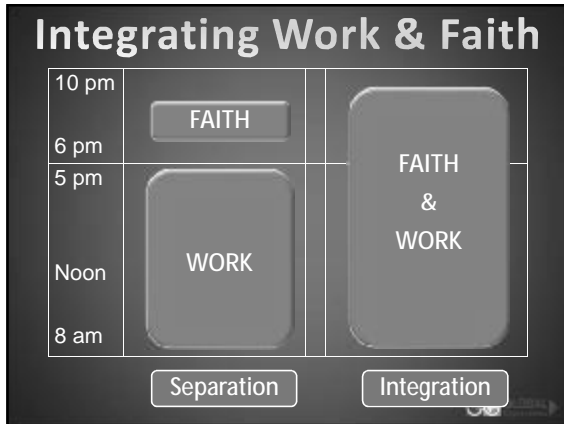
## Professional Preparation

- Strive for excellence & integrity
- Update your skills
- Develop networks
- Create & update your resume (CV)
- Take a TESL course
- Learn to integrate work & faith

It is not the professional challenges that make some expatriates long for greener pastures in their native country; instead, it's the unexpected difficulty of living in between cultures that gives them pause.

Brookfields Global Relocation Survey





# Tentmaking

## Business as Mission

### 4. Advantages & Challenges

### Myths about tentmaking

It's an easy option  
 It's only part time ministry  
 Home church blessing & sending is optional  
 Any Christian working overseas is a tentmaker

"Christian professionals with overseas jobs are not tentmakers unless they intentionally seek to make Jesus known to the local people of the host country"  
*Ruth Siemens*

- ### Challenges of today's tentmakers
9. Finding & keeping housing
  8. Getting & renewing visas
  7. Difficulties with bosses & coworkers
  6. Working too many hours
  5. Cultural frustrations
  4. Maintaining focus on ministry
  3. Team conflicts/fellow tentmakers
  2. Materialism
  1. Expatriate trap
- © 2010- GLOBAL Opportunities Research

- ### Joys of tentmaking
9. Learning the new culture
  8. Making friends with nationals
  7. Tasting new foods, fruits & drinks
  6. Trips inside the country
  5. Being invited to weddings & parties
  4. Having people ask you about your faith
  3. Seeing prayers answered
  2. Knowing you are where God wants you
  1. Introducing Jesus for the first time
- © 2010- GLOBAL Opportunities Research

- ### Advantages of tentmaking
- Job satisfaction
  - No closed countries
  - Natural relationships with nationals
  - Talking about your faith is welcomed
  - Praying for people by name
  - Modelling for national believers
  - Most tentmakers receive good salaries
  - Tithing can help train new tentmakers
- © 2010- GLOBAL Opportunities Research

# Tentmaking Business as Mission


5. Resources & Opportunities



**GLOBAL Opportunities** Empowering Tentmakers to Reach the World

- Educates the Church
- Produces training materials
- Mobilizes, mentors & trains
- Free Tentmaking seminars
- Tentmaking courses - USA, Canada, Europe & Africa
- Puts the M into BAM
- Personal job search assistance to course graduates
- Connects tentmakers in the field (if possible)
- Tentmaking *Briefs* - free newsletter via email

Trained tentmakers from 33 countries who have gone to 86 countries – 95% closed countries



## Business & Tentmaking

*“businesses in other cultures that have the potential to revolutionize nations economically and provide platforms for spiritual revival.”* [www.templateinstitute.com](http://www.templateinstitute.com)

“A business plan that does not integrate a ministry component is not business as mission”  
*Ari J. Rocklin*





## Books on Business as Mission




Subscribe to Business as Mission eNewsletter  
[www.businessasmission.com](http://www.businessasmission.com)



## Books on Tentmaking





[www.workingyourwayonline.com](http://www.workingyourwayonline.com)



## Free Tentmaking eBook

Working Abroad Today's Tentmaking Challenge  
*Philip Nunn*

[www.philipnunn.com](http://www.philipnunn.com)

### Jesus Prayer

He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. *Luke 10:2*

### Our Prayer

"The jobs are plentiful, but the tentmakers who will take them are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest therefore, to send out tentmakers into his harvest field" *Ari J. Rocklin*

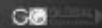


### My Prayer

That you will live wisely and well shining brilliantly, like the cloudless, star-strewn night skies.

And put others on the right path to life and thus glow like stars forever.

Dan12:3




**What's Next?**  
*Do the workbook!*  
[www.workingyourwayonline.com](http://www.workingyourwayonline.com)

**Tentmaking Briefs** Empowering Tentmakers to Reach the World



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