

Charles Thomas Studd (1860 - 1931)

GLEF 2021
Case Study

Role & Mission of Christian Leaders
for the New Millenium & our **Vision**

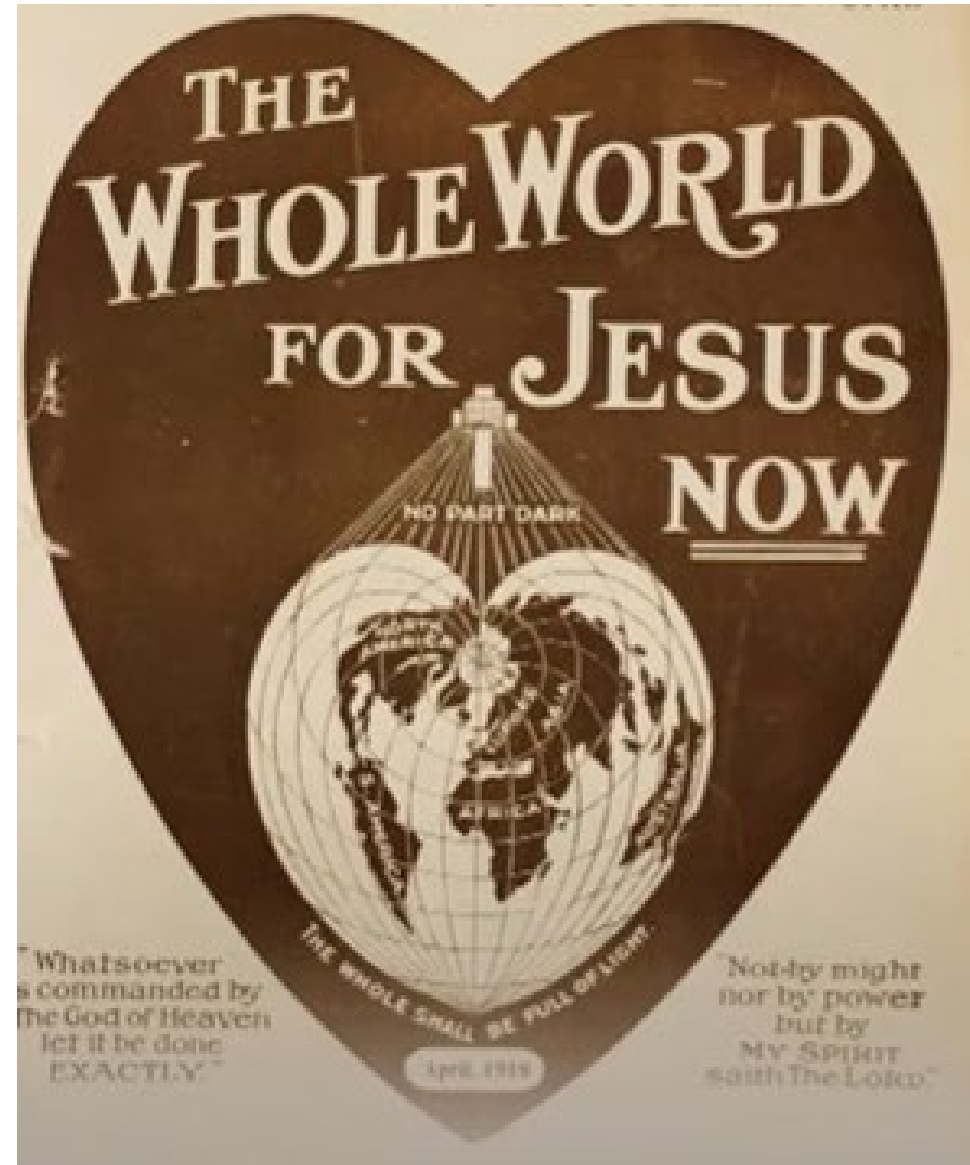
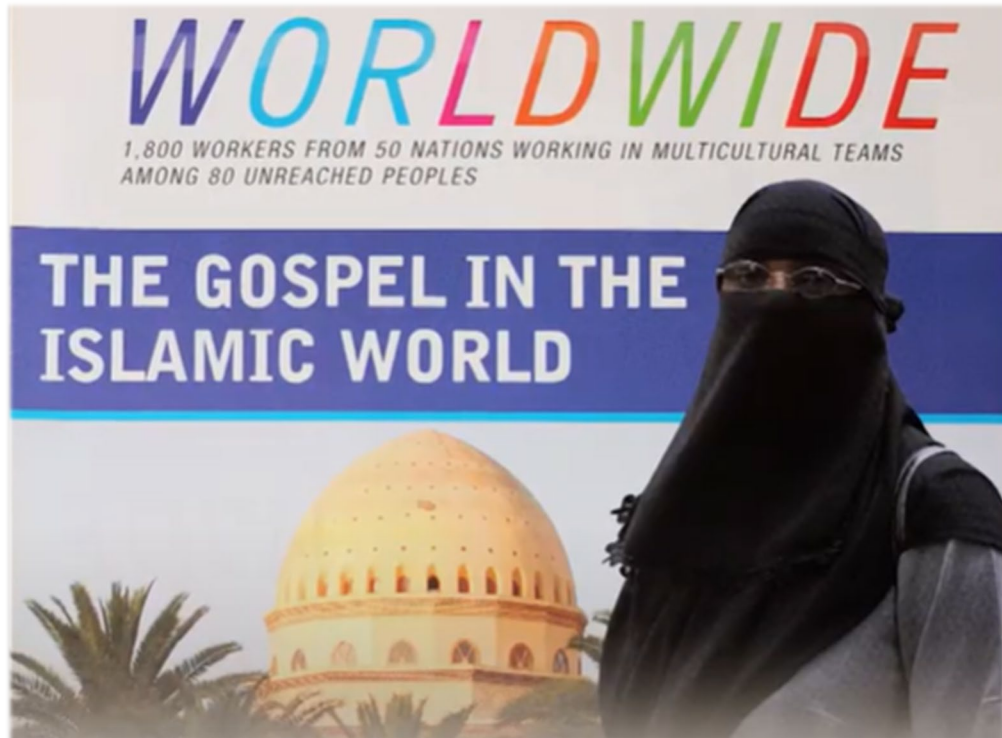
Stefan Elsholz, Bonn UBF

Role and Mission of Christian Leaders for the new Millennium

- “But **you will receive power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and **to the ends of the earth.**” (Acts 1:8)
- “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a **workman who does not need to be ashamed** and who correctly handles the word of truth.” (2 Tim 2:15)
- Self-Motivated Bible Teachers
- Global Leaders with spiritual authority
- Following **Jesus** and learning from the predecessors of faith

Our Vision

- To the ends of the earth



Family and Background

- **Charles Studd** born December 2nd, 1860
- Father Eduard
- Very wealthy
- Horse owner – Grand National
- Four brothers, one sister
- Tedworth House, Wiltshire
- House at Hyde Park, London



Conversion

- Students at Eton College
- Father converted by D. L. Moody
- Sold the horses, opened the house, witnessed to anybody
- John 3:16 – CT accepted Christ
- Also brothers Kynaston and George
- Father Eduard died age 58



Christ > Cricket

- Student at Cambridge (1880-1884)
- **Cricket** – his passion and priority
- Captain of the university team
- Brother George terminally ill
- Realized how fleeting gain, fame, glory are
- "Lord, I will live only for Thee!"
- **Christ** – his passion and priority



Grasping God's blessing

- June 1884 (age 24): end of studies – What next?
- An atheist pamphlet “Did I firmly believe, as millions say they do, ... religion would mean to me everything. I would esteem one soul gained for heaven worth a life of suffering. I would go forth to the world and preach it ...”
- Sees inconsistency. A blessed life is “giving”

Grasping God's blessing

- I had known about Jesus Christ's dying for me, but I had never understood that if he had died for me, then I didn't belong to myself. Redemption means "buying back" so that if I belonged to Him, either I had to be a thief and keep what wasn't mine, or else I had to give up everything to God. When I came to see that Jesus Christ had died for me, it didn't seem hard to give up all to Him. It seemed just common, ordinary honesty.

To China

- Hearing God's call to China (1884)
- Psalm 2:8: "Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession."
- "Cambridge Seven"
- High public attention
- Admitted by CIM (Hudson Taylor)



In China

- Hardships are Pruning
- Language studies, early rising, prayer, Bible reading
- Sense of loss: "O, how I wish I had consecrated my whole life to God and His Word from the beginning. How much I have missed through all these years of trying to please myself and running after the honors and pleasures of the world!"

In China

- Pray for God's Army
- "Pray that the Lord will stir us all awake to go forward in His power and take all things for Him. Pray that men will rise up who are like the Apostle Paul!"
- "Let us make the army of Christ strong, here where the devil's headquarters and his strongest troops are."
- *"Some want to live within the sound of church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop, within a yard of hell."*

In China

- Proposes to Priscilla (born 1864)
- Inherits £ 29,000 sterling (equals 3.5 Million USD)
- Gives away his fortune to D. L. Moody, George Müller, William Booth, Hudson Taylor ...
- Absolute trust in God
- "From now on our bank is in heaven"



In China

- Working in Lungan, Shanxi Province
- Working and living as “foreign devils”
- Spirit worship, ancestor worship, idols ...
- Wide-spread opium addiction
- New converts are beaten, imprisoned
- Building a Shelter, a Church, preaching, converting
- 4 daughters born. Asthma, 1894 Return to England

In UK, USA and India

In UK and USA

- Travelling, preaching, witnessing
- Influence on the Student Volunteer Movement

In India

- Pastorate in Ootacamund, India (1900)
- Work among British soldiers
- Return to England (1906)

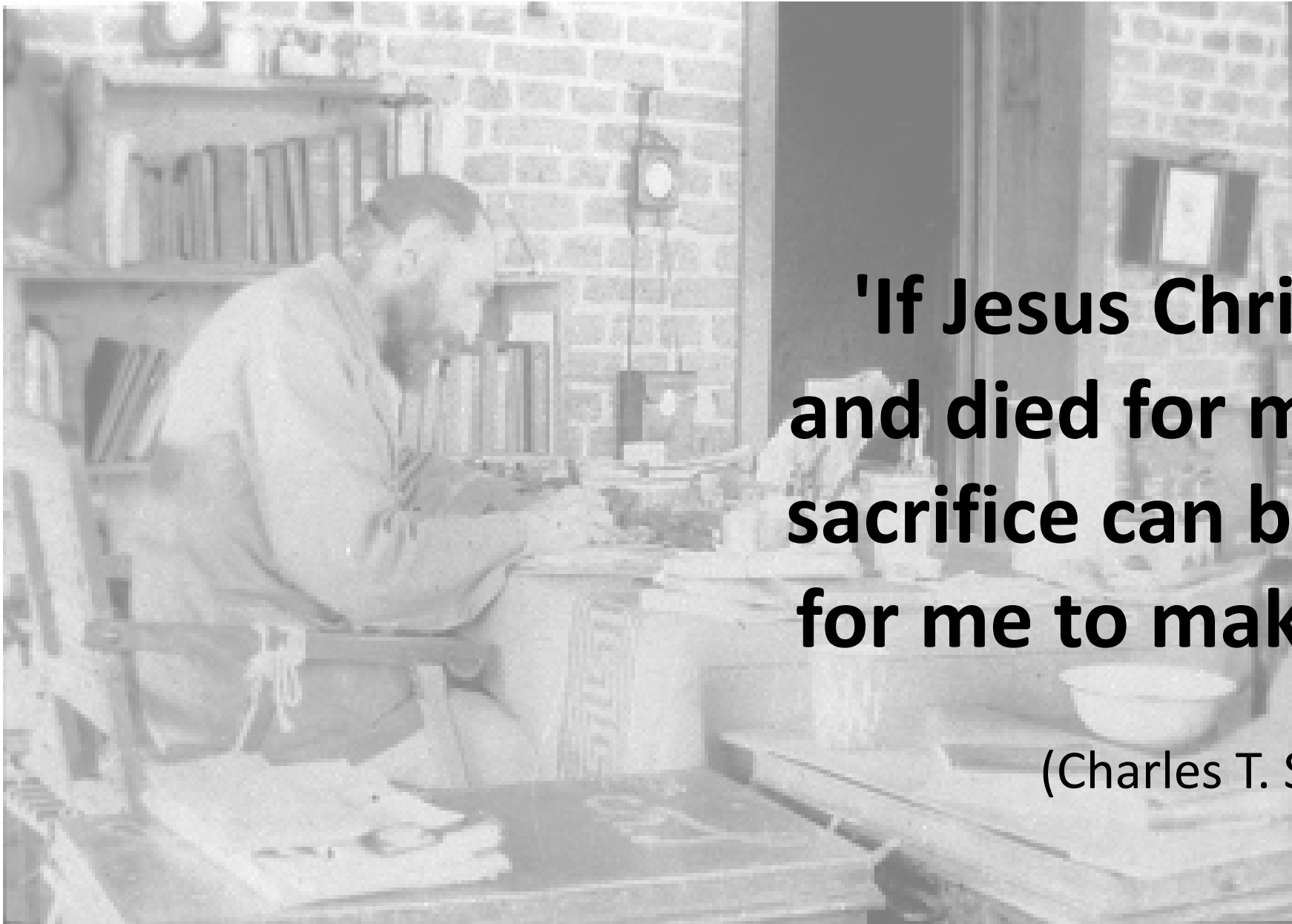


To Africa

- “Cannibals want missionaries” (1908, age 48)
- "Why should I not dare to do it again? Better to burn as a stinging flame than to go out slowly like a wick!"
- Poor health
- No support
- Resistance in the family
- “Gentlemen, God has called me to go, and I will go. I will blaze the trail and become a stepping stone that younger men may follow.”

Only one Life

- *Two little lines I heard one day, Traveling along life's busy way; bringing conviction to my heart, and from my mind would not depart; only one life, 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last.*
- *Only one life, yes only one, Now let me say, "Thy will be done"; and when at last I'll hear the call, I know I'll say 'twas worth it all"; only one life,' twill soon be past, only what's done for **Christ** will last."*



**'If Jesus Christ be God
and died for me, then no
sacrifice can be too great
for me to make for Him.'**

(Charles T. Studd)

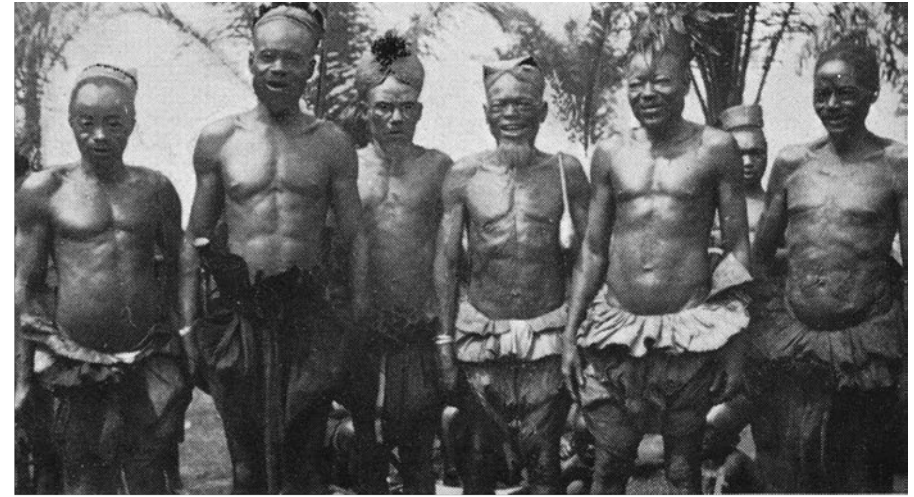
To Africa

- Trip to Sudan (1910)
- Learned about the chain strategy (mission organizations)
- Decision to go to the **Heart of Africa**
- 13 January 1913 (age 53) Departure to Belgian Congo
- One disciple: Alfred Buxton
- Hardships on the way; "God wants to test us like Gideon. When He has tested us to the last, we will come out of it like gold."



In Africa

- Niangara → Ibambi
- 1917 first baptisms
- Training of leaders
- 2 Bible schools, clinics
- Sending out of two by two
- Native missionaries
- 17 tribes reached



Principles of the mission

OUR DOCTRINAL BASIS.

Commonly called "The Five Smooth Stones."

- 1. Absolute Faith in the Deity of each Person of The Trinity.**
- 2. Absolute Belief in the full Inspiration of the Old and New Testament Scriptures.**
- 3. Vow to know and to preach none other save Jesus Christ and Him Crucified.**
- 4. Obedience to Christ's Command to love all who love the Lord Jesus sincerely without respect of persons, and to love all men.**
- 5. Absolute Faith in the Will, Power, and Providence of God to meet our every need in His service.**

In Africa

- Personal Life – *no regard for himself*
- Training of Leaders – *no compromise with sin*
- Coworking – *no chocolate soldiers*
- Spiritual heritage – *no organization*
- Finish the Race – *no turning back*

Personal Life – no regard for himself

- 4 – 5 hours sleep per night
- rising every morning at 2 a.m.
- pray, read; translating from 4 – 6 a.m.
- living a simple life in a bamboo hut
- travelling to villages by night to save teaching time
- wearing clean but old, simple clothing
- sewing pajama bottoms to shorts as it got colder



Training of Leaders – no compromise with sin

- 500 Africans at worship service
- Daily meetings with disciples and co-workers
- Dealing with sin (adultery) and lack of discipline
- “without holiness no man shall see the Lord”
- Maybe “a handful” will enter heaven
- Denial water baptisms for new converts, until they repent and become spiritually minded people

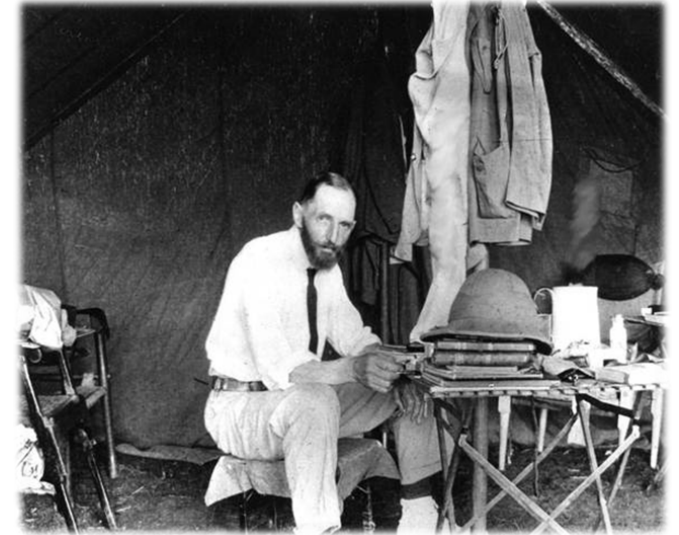
Coworking – no chocolate soldiers

- “Love so amazing, so divine, demands your life, your soul, your all.”
- “Wilt thou be to Christ the partner of His throne or an emetic; a Militant or a Chocolate Christian? Wilt thou fear or wilt thou fight? Shall your brethren go to war and shall ye sit here?”
- Missionary coworkers learned to humble themselves
- DCD – “We **don't** care a **damn** for anything but Jesus.”



Spiritual heritage – no organization

- My Pastor: Jesus Christ
- My Church: His Church
- “Studd didn’t make churches; he made Holy Ghost people— Christ in people. There was a fire that burned in Studd, a burning light.”
(Norman Grubb)





Spiritual heritage – no organization

- **FAITH** – God is worthy of our absolute trust. We are totally dependent on him as the supplier of every need in our lives and ministries. We trust him to fulfil his revealed purposes despite opposition, difficulty and apparent impossibility.
- **SACRIFICE** – Loving Christ is our core passion. The cross, with its principles of denying self and of losing one's life to bless others, is a defining symbol of life as a Christ-follower.

Finish the Race – no turning back

- Growing opposition back in London (“damn”)
- Rumors and accusations of “drug abuse”
- Accusations of “unbiblical theology”
- Accusations of “too strict handling of the natives”
- Internal dissent, Committee members leave, loss of reputation and funding, efforts to replace CT
- “The more the Lord plans to use an instrument, the fiercer the fire in which it is tempered.” (Norman Grubb)

Finish the Race – no turning back

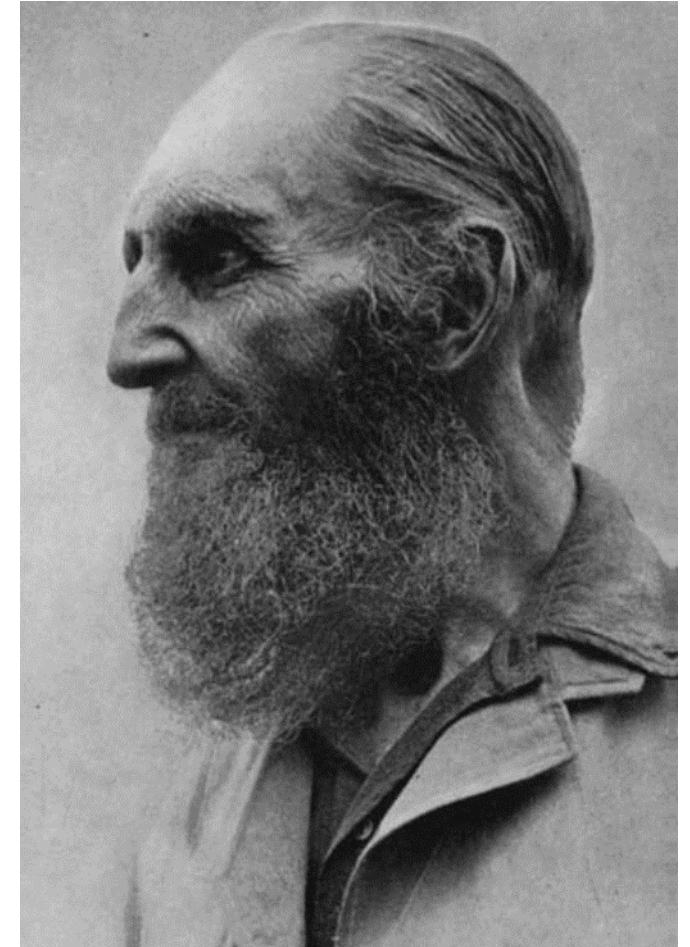
- In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple. (Lk 14:33)
- “A lost reputation is the best degree for Christ’s service. It is not so much the degree of arts that is needed, but that of hearts, loyal and true, that love not their lives to the death: large and loving hearts which seek to save the lost multitudes, rather than guard the ninety-nine well-fed sheep in the British pen.”

Finish the Race – no turning back

- Priscilla fights by praying and travelling
- Heart of Africa → Worldwide ministry
- After 11 years they met one final time in Ibambi
- 6 Missionaries remain with him
- “We have had all sorts of difficulties, but He has brought me through them all.”

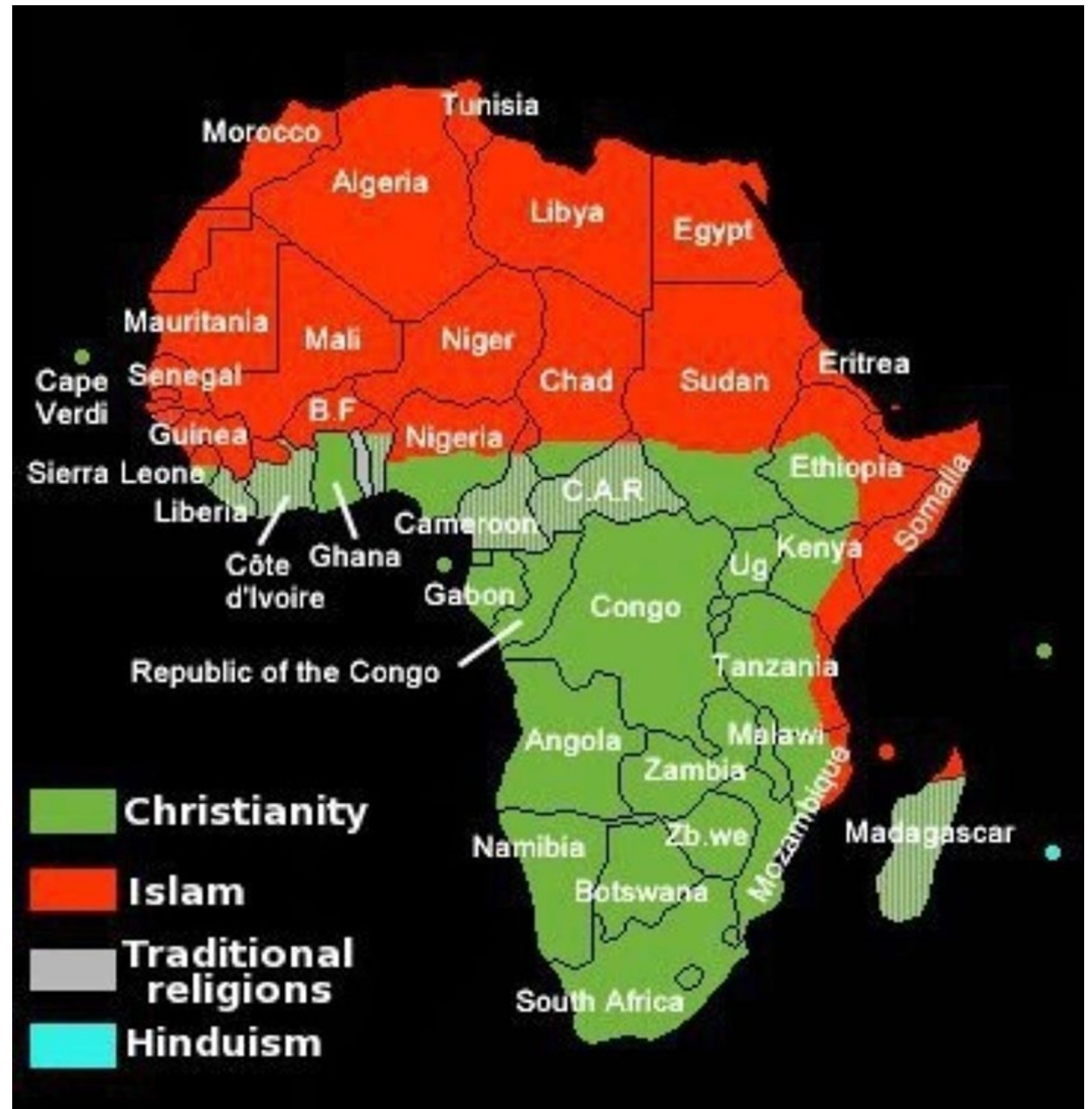


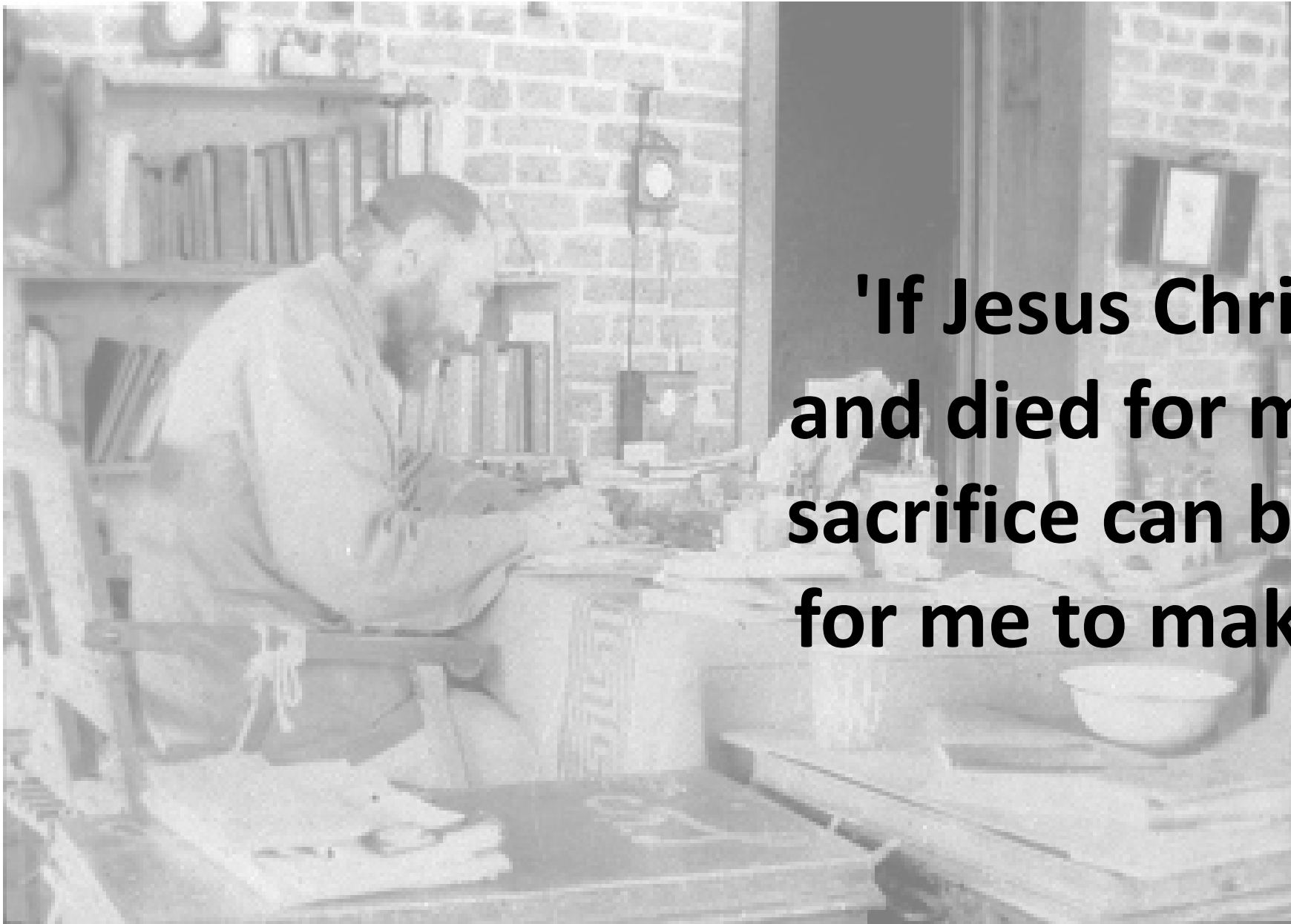
- "Bwana Mukubura - great white chief", Charles Thomas Studd, dies in Ibambi - July 16th, 1931 – age 70
- 2,000 Africans, including many chiefs, attend Studd's funeral in pouring rain
- "C.T.'s life will be for all time a sharp rebuke to all shallow Christianity. He modeled for us what it means to follow Christ without considering the cost or looking backward." (Alfred Buxton)



Impact

- No “chain of mission stations”
- But one Christian Leader





'If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.'

Legacy

- "Priscilla and Charles Studd were ordinary flesh and blood people, but through whom God's power could work - there is no reason why God cannot bring about the same thing again. All He wants is **the surrender of our lives.**" (Eileen Vincent, "No sacrifice too great")

Things to rejoice in (1930)

1. That God called me to China (1884) and I went in spite of utmost opposition from all my loved ones.
 2. That I joyfully acted as Christ told that rich young man to act (1886)
 3. That in 1910, before God, I deliberately at the call of God gave up my life for this work, not for the Sudan only, but for the whole unevangelized World.
- My only joys therefore are that when God has given me a work to do, I have not refused it.”

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