Take heart – the Kingdom is Growing!

Zechariah 14:9 – The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name.

1. Kingdom growth is happening as God _____.

Mt 13:31-33 – He told them another parable: "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 seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches." 33 He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds[b] of flour until it worked all through the dough."

Missiologist Ralph Winter's 5 epochs of Christian mission:

1) The gospel and its attendant blessings enter a **cultural basin**.
2) It spreads along natural **kinship** and **friendship** lines.
3) It continues to spread through the culture until it meets **significant barriers**.
4) Special organization and planning must take place for the Gospel to **breach** these barriers.
5) The history of that epoch and that basin are deeply influenced by this: Is the blessing **hoarded** or is it **shared**?

Major lesson from the history of missions:

The Gospel advances in _____.

2. Kingdom growth is happening in _____ places!

Matt. 8:10-13 When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. 11 I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. 12 But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." 13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that moment.

3. Kingdom growth is happening despite _____ and _____.

Luke 18:7-9 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? 8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

4. Kingdom growth is happening with a _____ _____.

Matt. 9:35-38 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

5. Kingdom growth will result in _____ _____.

Rev 21:1-5 Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." 5 He who was seated on

the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."