

# What is It Going to Take?

By Ken McLemore

In the missions world there is a word that I love. That word is WIGTAKE. I came across it reading David Garrison and Kevin Gresson's books. While not really a word in the English language, WIGTAKE has a lot of meaning. WIGTAKE stands for, "**What Is it Going to TAKE**" to reach our neighbors, our community, and the nations with the gospel.

In missions we are always looking at the cultures we work within to see how we can communicate the gospel to that culture. For example, we do not walk into our people group, the Chadian Arabs, speaking English, wearing shorts, and handing out tracts. For one thing shorts are offensive, and most Chadians do not read. They would look at us like we were idiots, which we would be if we tried this.

This same principle holds true here in America. While some would argue that we are one unified culture, I would say we are a conglomerate of many subcultures. We have the subculture of bicycle riders who value fitness, or the subculture of eco-friendly people for whom the environment is important, or those whose subculture is defined by their ethnic background. One strong subculture in this area is the military sub-culture. Each subculture has its own language, values, and traditions. That is why WIGTAKE is so important. If we desire to reach people we must ask ourselves what it will take to reach them.

Christians also have a subculture of their own. We have our own dress styles, language, music, and other things that separate us from the surrounding subcultures. There is some degree of separation that is necessary and good. We do not desire to be of the world, but we are in the world. Many times that separation becomes so predominant that we forget how to communicate to other subcultures and we do not care.

That is why WIGTAKE is an important question to continually ask ourselves. WIGTAKE takes us away from our own world into the world of others for the express purpose of communicating the gospel in a language they understand.

## ***Scripture says it like this:***

**1 Corinthians 9:20-22** "And to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law, though not being myself under the Law, that I might win those who are under the Law; <sup>21</sup>

to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, that I might win those who are without law. <sup>22</sup> To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men that I may by all means save some."

Recently a missiologist friend made this statement and then asked me a question:

"Christianity in America is primarily white collar. Most Southern Baptist churches are seeking to reach the white collar world. Those who are lost in America reside primarily in the blue collar world. What are you going to do to reach those in the blue collar world with the gospel?" WOW, great

question for which I had no answer at the time.

Under the idea of WIGTAKE, what is it going to take to take the gospel to the blue collar world, I would begin to understand the culture and the language of that culture. Maybe my clothes change a bit and some other things in order to fit the crowd I am seeking to reach .

We see youth pastors doing this all the time. Seeking to “relate” to the youth, they wear blue jeans and listen to loud music and do crazy things all to relate to the youth subculture.

The main problem in the adult world is that adults do not like change. We get set in our ways and many times sanctify our methods and our subculture. We raise it to the level of scripture and to change our ways is like being disobedient to the bible.

Here is the challenge for all of us: Are we willing to WIGTAKE? Are we willing to ask “what will it take to reach the lost around me?” How about among the Navajo people? Among the unreached peoples of the earth? My hope is that we will all ask that question of ourselves and follow God to wherever it leads us.