

View from the Summit

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A village chief lay dying. He called his three sons and told them, "I know I'll soon die. I must first choose one of you to be the next chief of this village. I want you to go to the mountain, climb it, and bring me something from there. Hurry!"

The three boys hurried off to the mountain. After a couple of days the first came and stood before the aged chief. "Father, I have climbed high on the mountain and I have brought you a tree limb." The chief asked him to wait for the return of the other two sons. Several days passed and the second son returned to the father. "Father, I have climbed high on the mountain and have gone above where the trees are. I have brought you a rock from the mountain."

After a long time the final son came before his father. "Father," he began, "I have climbed high on the mountain. I have gone above where the trees are, and have climbed to the top. From the summit I could see far into the distance. I could see the river flowing, and smoke rising from distant huts. I saw the beauty of God's creation. However, I have nothing in my hand to bring you." The old chief whispered, "You, my third son will lead my people because even though you have nothing in your hand to bring me, you do have something in your heart."

I can relate to that. God has placed a desire in my heart—and yours too—to reach our lost world. From the summit, we refocus our attention on the need, envisioning what can be done to make an impact for eternity. Lately, I've been to the summit; actually several of them. The summit-cycle began with the Comparative Religions Summit, followed by a French

(Planning) Summit, a Chinese Summit, and most recently the Spanish Summit. What did we see? At each summit we looked vigilantly at the need for evangelism, training, literature, and Internet/radio outreach possibilities among the various world language and religious groups.

Recently, at the Spanish Summit, I looked carefully at my heart (and preached on the subject too). God does not usually work through us, unless He first does His work in us. I looked at dozens of heart types in God's Word. I'll spare you the agony of dragging you through 830 references to the heart found there. I want to keep my readers! The question comes down to, "What type of heart do I have?" The heart of the church is missions. It is reaching the lost. That is the view from the summit!