Mission
Sunday 2019

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Mission: From Everywhere to Everywhere

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'The kingdom of heaven is like a net, that is caught up into the sea and gathered every kind of fish' (Matt. 13:47).

The mission is for everyone. It extends from everywhere to everywhere. Because the gospel is for everyone.

We are living in a time where our insights, gifts, and encouragement is necessary to work for the development of theology and strategy for mission and evangelism across the earth to re-invigorate the Church for mission. It is disciples' responsibility to go and also send disciples to villages, towns or cities in order to bear witness to God's love in Christ in every sphere of life. There is an emergency to preach and share all the good we can. By all the means we can. In all the ways we can. In all the places we can. At all the times we can. To all the people we can. As long as ever we can. Karl Barth, a theologian, said: 'Mission belongs to God' (Missio Dei = Mission belongs to God). 'God, the greatest missionary, sent His own Son into the world as a missionary to sacrifice Himself'.

God has a special plan through his Special and General Revelation preparing the church for the mission. The church has a reason to proclaim the qualities of God to all people. It was a thought in the Old Testament to proclaim the name of God among the Gentiles too. 'Shout in triumph, all you people' (Psalm 47: 1). Asaph says, 'God calls the earth from sunrise to sunset' (Psalm 50: 1). God's call for mission execution continues. The people who were superstitious and immoral were called to the light of wonder (John 8:12, Matt. 5:14). Those who were oppressed, marginalized and exploited for many reasons were made a chosen holy nation and God's own people, a royal priesthood. But the purpose of this election is very relevant. To, 'declare the virtues of the caller'.

We and our society were a non-people but the sacrificial missionaries taught us, gave us the church, and gave us a name. So we became a people. The lamp of the gospel is in our hands today. As torchbearers, we have a great calling to preach the gospel to millions of people in and around us who have not heard the good news.

Some thoughts on today's Scripture - Mt. 13: 47-52/1 Kin 17. 1-16/Gal 2.1-10

Jesus speaks in parables, a form of storytelling, to help his words come to life for his followers in everyday language. The image that Jesus uses of drawing the fishing net and separating the catch was one which many of his disciples would have been familiar within their role as fishermen. Putting the good fish into baskets and dispensing with the bad was part of their everyday duty. So Jesus was speaking to them in a language which they could relate to when describing the kingdom of heaven, His work, and disciples' engagement.

God's divine mission requires human participation. We must live for the Kingdom of God (representing all people) by being carriers of Good News everywhere to everyone we encounter. Through this portion of the text, God is reminding us that man's participation in God's plan for saving mankind is necessary.

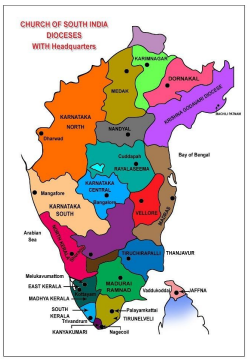
#The Difference One Person Can Make. Until you take that first step with God, there will not be any others. Elijah was concerned that Israel was drifting from God. Elijah understood that spiritual death was much worse than any physical discomfort. Elijah was a prophet, a preacher, a miracle-worker, and a political reformer. The life of the prophet Elijah and his passion for God stands as a stark contrast to our own lives. In Zarephath a woman (poor widow) chose to share her supplies. There is a real good chance that she had no idea who Elijah was. Yet, she chose to be generous. She chose to believe the promise. As a result both Elijah, the woman and her son never ran out of flour or oil during the entire time of the drought.

Dwight Moody was captivated one day when a speaker said, 'The world has yet to see what God can do through one man or woman who is completely devoted to Him.' Moody decided that that one committed man would be him. Dwight Moody was a simple man. Elijah was an unknown prophet. The widow of Zarephath isn't even known by her name. Yet they were greatly used by God. They had one thing in common: they were willing to be used for His mission. If you and I would be willing to be used by God in whatever way He wanted to use us, we would be surprised, astonished and ultimately delighted by what God could do through nobodies like you and me. one person can make a positive difference.

‘How can they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? How can they preach unless they are sent?’ (Romans 10: 14,15). That is, people must believe in order to be saved. They need to be heard to believe. **Someone has to preach to be heard. Someone has to go to preach. Someone has to be sent to go.**

The first-century church leaders meeting recorded in Galatians 2.1-10 is wonderful as the important delegates of the Gospel come to an understanding of fitting conclusion. James, Cephas, John, Barnabas, and Paul commit themselves to be missionaries who have come ‘from everywhere being sent to everywhere’ to take the whole Gospel to the whole world through the whole Church by all the varied means that are necessary for it to transform the lives of individuals and communities. There was an important proviso: 1. Issues that threatened to divide the church must be dealt with utmost care. Because The gospel provides freedom, not slavery. 2. To remember to give help to the ‘poor’, to heal the diseases, empower the weak and liberate the captive. something that we too should be happy to do.

We have to send. We need to send those who are going to help us with the gospel, not just in prayer, but also with the help of our hands. The Gospel of the Kingdom should be heard by all people. Then the Lord will come (Matt. 24:14).



Imagine for a second: What would happen if all men and women who are faithfully stewarding God’s call were to gather together to form God-inspired, catalytic connections within and across regions, denominations, generations, shared interests, and ideas? what is certain is that obedience to God’s call, matched by courage and creativity, can be used by God to transform individuals and whole communities with God’s powerful love.

Mission: The Church of South India affirms that the Church is the Servant of God to carry on the mission rooted in Jesus Christ based on the Scriptures. The Church through her mission expresses solidarity with the broken communities for a new hope to face the challenges of life. The Cross continuous to be the sign of hope for the witnessing Church, which strives towards Unity, Peace and Reconciliation as a vibrant Channel of God.