

COMMUNITY GROUPS

living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Sermon Notes – Jerry Shiver
20 November 2022

Mission Sikkim

Pastor Ted and Brother Keith provided a report on their recent mission to the Indian state of Sikkim. Sikkim is located in the northeastern part of India bordering the counties of Nepal (West), Tibet (North), and Bhutan (East). Ted and Keith spent the majority of their time in the city of Pakyong in the foothills of the Himalayas. The primary religions of the area are Buddhist and Hindu. There is a culture of hostility from the majority Hindu population towards Christian evangelism. Ted and Keith visited with three pastors from local churches and spent time worshipping with them at several home gatherings (similar to our Community Groups). You can watch their entire video report at <http://frbcd Dayton.org/sermons>

Please be in prayer for Pastors Andrew, Benjamin, and Dependra, their families, and congregations. Also, pray for the administrative staff that supports them, Uday and Jordan.

Pastor's primary message and vision – FRBC's Mission Strategy is to saturate the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in accordance with Matt 28:18-20 by planting healthy churches and growing disciples.

Discussion:

1. In your own words what does missions mean to you? There are many facets in the life of our church (teaching scripture, fellowship, etc.) where would you rank missions as a priority for FRBC? Read Gen 12:1-3, Exo 3:7-10, Jn 3:16-17. Where do you think missions rank with God the Father, Jesus?
2. Matt 28 tells us to go make disciples of all nations. Read Hab 2:14, Matt 28:19 and Rev 5:9. What do you see as the FRBC mission field? Rom 3:23 tells us "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." In a fallen world, needs are everywhere. How do we know which missions are the right ones to support? Pastor commented that good ideas are not necessarily God ideas. How should or could we discern the worthiness of a possible mission (consider mercy missions, poverty mediation, major crusade, open air evangelism, bible study)?
3. Read Acts 1:8. Jesus again encourages the apostles to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. As Pastor said "Best thing we can do is making disciples of Jesus Christ through preaching the gospel."

Discuss what is needed to grow and become a strong disciple of Christ. Ted stated a healthy church is key to discipleship and that a healthy church provides the following:

- Community where the word of God is central
- Where Pastors and Elders are there committed to preaching the Bible, obeying it, and establishing every ministry from it
- Where the sacraments (Baptism (Matt 28:19) & Communion (Lk 22:19) are done regularly
- Where each member is equipped for the work of the ministry and use their gifts to serve the body, prays, eats, fellowships together.

Discuss why church planting plus making and growing disciples are key to successful missions. Are we on mission to grow disciples here within FRBC? Where might we improve?

4. Pastor gave two main reasons why missions should matter to us:

1. Mission matters to us because worship matters. John Piper quote: *"missions exists because worship doesn't."* the point of mission is worship (to exalt) Christ and reconcile people to God. People can only worship God through Jesus (Jn 14:6). Where there is worship there will be life and where there is worship there will be missions. Read Jn 4:7-30. Reflect or share a moment when you experienced a similar desire to share the joy of Christ with others (family, friend, stranger).
2. Worship is the fuel of mission. Read Rom 9:2-3, 10:1, Eph 2:12-13. What motivation or encouragement do these passages give you with regards to missions?

Pastor's ask:

1. If you do not know Christ as your savior, that you accept his gift of grace and act as your advocate before the Holy Father who sent him to die for you while you were still a sinner. Rom 5:8
2. After the holidays, the members of FRBC, we will begin corporately praying and fasting on Mondays about being a part of God's mission to spread the Gospel. Specifically, about making Sikkim India a long-term mission location with dedicated resources (prayer, funding, and time). Other mission areas have also been identified that will be brought forward for consideration after the first of the year.
3. Following the period of prayer and fasting the congregation will vote on the mission opportunities presented.