
CBC WEEKLY RESOURCES



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OCTOBER 4, 2026
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
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SERMON RECAP

Pastor Gary opened October Mission Month by reminding us that CBC is not simply a church on a hill with a Sunday service time. We are part of the ekklesia (the “called-out ones”) called by God to preach the Word, do the Word, and help others do the same. CBC’s mission strategy is wonderfully simple: preach Scripture faithfully, invest in ministries and churches that are faithful, and steward God’s resources for kingdom multiplication.

A major emphasis of the message was CBC’s role in partnering with and parenting churches locally, regionally, and globally. Pastor Gary shared how our church has helped strengthen churches and ministries in places like India, Nepal, Ukraine, Scotland, Cullowhee, Sky Valley, and beyond. The heart behind this is not institutional pride, but kingdom stewardship. We do not merely “spend” money on missions; we invest in gospel work that bears fruit for the glory of God.

The pastoral center of the sermon came from Matthew 9:35-38. Jesus saw harassed and helpless people, and He had compassion on them. Pastor Gary warned that if the church loses compassion, we lose the fuel of Christ’s ministry. The harvest is still plentiful, but workers are still few. So, we must ask: Where is God adding to us? What is He subtracting from us? Where is He dividing us out and multiplying us for His mission? Every believer has a place in the harvest—through prayer, giving, serving, going, training, discipling, and compassionately entering the needs of the world.

STUDY GUIDE

Key Points

- CBC's mission strategy is Word-centered. We preach the Word, do the Word, and support ministries that do likewise.
- God's kingdom work is multiplication, not merely addition. CBC invests in churches and ministries so that gospel impact expands far beyond one location.
- Compassion is essential to mission. Jesus' ministry flowed from compassion for the harassed, helpless, brokenhearted, and hopeless.
- The harvest requires workers. Every believer has a role: praying, giving, serving, going, training, encouraging, discipling, or leading.

Key Scripture

Primary Sermon Text

- Matthew 9:35-38 — Jesus proclaims the kingdom, heals the sick, has compassion on the crowds, and calls His disciples to pray for workers for the harvest.

Scriptures Mentioned or Directly Alluded to by Pastor Gary

- 2 Timothy 4:2 — “Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season...”

Pastor Gary referenced this as the church's simple ministry strategy: preach the Word.

- Acts 2:47 — “And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

Alluded to when Pastor Gary described God adding to the early church before persecution scattered and multiplied them.

- Psalm 34:18 — “The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.”

Mentioned in connection with ministry to the hurting, hopeless, traumatized, and crushed.

- Matthew 28:18-19 – “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...”

Referenced in connection with reaching people groups—panta ethne—not merely political nations.

- 2 Timothy 3:16 – Scripture is useful for “teaching... and training in righteousness.”

Alluded to when Pastor Gary distinguished education from training.

- Ephesians 4:12 – Church leaders equip the saints “for the work of ministry.”

Alluded to when Pastor Gary described his role as equipping God’s people for works of service.

- 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 – The generosity of the Macedonian churches.

Alluded to through the “Macedonian miracle,” describing sacrificial giving to strengthen gospel work.

Other Relevant Verses

- Luke 10:2 – “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few...”

This is a direct parallel to Matthew 9 and reinforces the call to pray for workers.

- Acts 13:2-3 – The church in Antioch worshiped, fasted, prayed, and sent Barnabas and Saul.

This passage gives a biblical model for a local church sending workers into mission.

- Romans 10:14-15 – “How are they to hear without someone preaching?”

This passage expounds the necessity of sending gospel messengers to the nations.



DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL

Day 1 — The Called-Out Ones

Reflection Question

Where is God calling you to live differently? Not simply as a church attender, but as one of His “called-out ones”?

Reading

- Matthew 9:35
- 2 Timothy 4:2

Thought

The word often translated “church” comes from the Greek *ekklesia*, meaning an assembly of called-out people. In the New Testament world, an *ekklesia* could refer to a gathered civic assembly, but Jesus gave the word a new covenant significance. His people are gathered by Him, under His authority, for His mission.

Pastor Gary reminded us that CBC is not defined primarily by a building, a sign, a denomination, or a service time. The church is a people called out by God to proclaim His Word and embody His compassion. This is why Paul’s charge to Timothy matters so much: “Preach the word.” In a world full of distractions, the church’s first calling remains wonderfully plain: Faithfully proclaim what God has spoken.

Matthew 9:35 shows Jesus Himself doing this. He went through towns and villages “teaching,” “proclaiming,” and “healing.” His ministry was not abstract. He brought truth to real people in real places with real needs. CBC’s mission must follow that same pattern: Word and deed, truth and compassion, proclamation and presence.

Challenge

Ask God to show you one practical way this week to live as part of His called-out people—through Scripture, compassion, service, or witness.

Day 2 – Compassion Is the Fuel of Mission

Reflection Question

Has anything in your heart grown cold toward hurting people? Where do you need Jesus to renew compassion?

Reading

- Matthew 9:36
- Psalm 34:18

Thought

Matthew tells us that when Jesus saw the crowds, “he had compassion for them.” The Greek word used for compassion points to something deep and visceral, an inward movement of mercy. Jesus was not casually sympathetic. He was deeply moved by the pain, confusion, vulnerability, and spiritual danger of the people before Him.

In the first-century world, shepherd imagery was familiar. Sheep without a shepherd were exposed, directionless, and vulnerable to predators. When Jesus saw Israel’s crowds, He saw more than numbers. He saw people harassed, helpless, and spiritually uncared for. That is still how Jesus sees the world today.

Pastor Gary pressed this deeply into our cultural moment. We live in a time where anger, suspicion, prejudice, mockery, and outrage can erode compassion. Simply put the church cannot afford to lose the compassion of Christ. Psalm 34:18 tells us that the Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. If God draws near to the broken, His people must not pull away.

Mission begins when we see people the way Jesus sees them, as image-bearers in need of rescue.

Challenge

Pray for God to restore tenderness where your heart has become guarded or cynical. Then intentionally show compassion to one person this week.

Day 3 – The Harvest Is Plentiful

Reflection Question

Do you tend to see the world more through the lens of problems or through the lens of harvest?

Reading

- Matthew 9:37
- Romans 10:14

Thought

Jesus' statement is striking: "The harvest is plentiful." He does not say the harvest is scarce. He sees need, but He also sees readiness. The crowds are harassed and helpless, yet Jesus describes them as a harvest field.

In an agricultural society, harvest language carried urgency. When crops were ready, workers had to move. Delay could mean loss. Jesus used this image to awaken His disciples to the spiritual moment before them. There were people ready to receive the kingdom, but workers were lacking.

Pastor Gary described a "gospel famine" in parts of the world. Some places have very little access to biblical teaching, healthy churches, trained leaders, or gospel resources. Romans 10 asks a series of urgent questions: How will people call on Christ if they have not believed? How will they believe if they have not heard? How will they hear without preaching? How will preachers go unless they are sent?

The harvest is not merely "out there." It is also in families, schools, neighborhoods, workplaces, college campuses, and cities. Jesus calls us to lift our eyes and see people as He sees them: ready fields in need of faithful workers.

Challenge

Make a short list of three people, places, or ministries that represent "harvest fields" around you. Begin praying for workers and open doors.

Day 4 – Pray for Workers

Reflection Question

When you pray for missions, do you mostly pray for needs to be met, or do you also pray for workers to be sent?

Reading

- Matthew 9:38
- Acts 13:2-3

Thought

Jesus' first command after identifying the harvest is not "go," but "ask." "Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." This matters. Mission does not begin with human energy. It begins with dependence on the Lord who owns the field.

The phrase "Lord of the harvest" reminds us that the mission belongs to God. The church does not create the harvest, own the harvest, or control the harvest. We serve under the authority of the One who sees every people group, every city, every church plant, every unreached person, and every broken heart.

Acts 13 gives us a beautiful picture of this. The church in Antioch was worshiping and fasting when the Holy Spirit set apart Barnabas and Saul for missionary work. The church responded with prayer, fasting, laying on of hands, and sending. They did not merely admire mission; they participated in it.

Pastor Gary's call was practical: there is a place for every believer in kingdom work. Some will go. Some will give. Some will train. Some will pray. Some will disciple. Some will organize, encourage, or lead. But none of us are called to be passive.

Challenge

Set aside time this week to pray specifically for God to raise up workers from CBC—children, students, adults, leaders, senders, and goers.

Day 5 – From Addition to Multiplication

Reflection Question

Where might God be adding, subtracting, dividing, or multiplying in your life right now?

Reading

- Acts 2:47
- Ephesians 4:12

Thought

Pastor Gary used the language of “God’s math”: God adds, subtracts, divides, and multiplies. In Acts, the Lord added daily to the number of those being saved. But soon after, persecution scattered the church. What looked like subtraction or disruption became multiplication as believers carried the gospel outward.

This is one of the great patterns of Scripture. God often adds blessing, understanding, opportunity, and people. Then He may subtract comforts, assumptions, distractions, or self-reliance. He may divide His people geographically or vocationally, sending them into new fields. Then He multiplies fruit in ways no single congregation could manufacture.

Ephesians 4:12 teaches that leaders equip the saints for the work of ministry. The goal is not a church where a few people do everything while others watch. The goal is a trained, mature, mobilized body of believers. Pastor Gary emphasized the difference between education and training. Teaching helps us know. Training helps us obey and serve.

This applies personally and corporately. CBC is not merely trying to add attendance. This church longs to see disciples made, churches strengthened, leaders trained, compassion deepened, and the gospel multiplied locally, regionally, and globally.

Challenge

Identify one area where you need to move from being informed to being trained. Ask a leader, group member, or mentor how you can take a next step in service.

IV.

SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

Opening

Welcome everyone warmly. Begin by reminding the group that October Mission Month is an invitation to see the world through the eyes of Jesus—the Lord of the harvest.

Open with a time of prayer using prompts such as:

- Ask God to give the group compassion like Christ.
- Ask the Lord to make His Word central in your lives.
- Ask Him to show each person their place in the harvest.
- Pray for humility, openness, and courage during the discussion.

Thematic Recap

Pastor Gary reminded CBC that we are part of Christ's called-out people, gathered around the Word and sent into the world. Our church has the privilege of investing in faithful ministries and churches so that gospel fruit multiplies locally, regionally, and globally. The center of the message was Jesus' compassion for the harassed and helpless, and His command to pray for workers for the harvest.

Core Message Highlights

- CBC's strategy is simple: preach the Word and support those who do likewise.
- The church exists not only for itself, but for the blessing of those who are not yet part of it.
- Jesus saw the crowds with compassion, not irritation or indifference.
- The harvest is plentiful, but workers are few.
- Every believer has a role in mission.
- God may add, subtract, divide, and multiply in order to mature us and send us.

Icebreaker

5-15 Minute Discussion Question

Think of a time when someone showed you unexpected compassion or went out of their way to help you. What did that do in your heart, and how might that experience help you understand the mission of Jesus?

Scripture Exploration

Passage 1: Matthew 9:35-38

Read the Passage

Jesus travels, teaches, proclaims, heals, sees the crowds, has compassion, and tells His disciples to pray for workers.

Discussion Prompts

1. What stands out to you about the combination of Jesus' teaching, preaching, healing, and compassion?
2. What does it mean that the people were "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd"?
3. Why do you think Jesus tells the disciples to pray before anything else?
4. Where do you see "plentiful harvest" around you right now? This can be in your family, workplace, school, neighborhood, or the world?

Passage 2: Psalm 34:18

Read the Passage

"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit."

Discussion Prompts

1. What does this verse reveal about the character of God?
2. Why is it important that God is not distant from the brokenhearted?
3. How can churches unintentionally overlook the crushed in spirit?

4. What would it look like for our group to reflect God's nearness to hurting people?

Passage 3: Acts 13:2-3

Read the Passage

The church in Antioch worships, fasts, hears from the Holy Spirit, and sends Barnabas and Saul.

Discussion Prompts

1. What does this passage teach us about the relationship between worship and mission?
2. Why is prayer and fasting important before sending people into ministry?
3. What role did the local church play in the mission of Barnabas and Saul?
4. How can CBC and our small groups become more intentional about sending and supporting workers?

Grand Synthesis Prompt

Looking at Matthew 9, Psalm 34, and Acts 13 together, how do compassion, prayer, and sending work together in the mission of God?

Application: Growing in Personal and Communal Prayer

Practical Steps for Personal Prayer

- Pray Matthew 9:38 regularly: ask the Lord to send workers.
- Pray for one unreached or underserved people group.
- Pray for one CBC mission partner, church plant, or ministry.
- Pray for compassion toward people you naturally avoid or overlook.
- Ask God, "What is my place in the harvest?"

Practical Steps for Group Prayer

- Choose one mission focus to pray for together over the next month.
- Keep a shared list of people who need hope, healing, salvation, or care.
- Pray for CBC students to be discipled and trained through mission opportunities.
- Pray for church leaders, missionaries, pastors, and church planters by name when possible.
- Include regular prayer for the brokenhearted, abused, harassed, and hopeless.

Closing

Before ending, leave space for group members to share prayer needs.

Closing Prayer Prompts

Invite the group to pray along these themes:

- Thank God that He is Lord of the harvest.
- Ask Jesus to give the group His compassion.
- Pray for workers to be raised up from CBC.
- Pray for courage to move from awareness to obedience.
- Pray for gospel multiplication through CBC's mission partnerships.

Leader Notes

- Create a safe environment. Discussions around compassion, hopelessness, trauma, and mission may touch personal pain. Encourage honesty without forcing anyone to share.
- Keep the focus on Jesus. The goal is not guilt-driven activism, but Christ-centered obedience.
- Draw out quieter voices. Some group members may have deep compassion but hesitate to speak.
- Avoid political detours. Pastor Gary warned against anything that kills compassion. Keep the group focused on Scripture and mission.
- Be practical. Help the group name specific next steps: praying, giving, serving, learning, going, or encouraging.
- Honor different callings. Not everyone serves the same way, but every believer has a place in the harvest.
- End with hope. The harvest belongs to the Lord, and He is still sending workers.

