

FAITHFUL TO THE MISSION

FOCUS ON THE MISSION

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Key synonyms of the word 'Mission': *Aim, Assignment, Commission, Duty, Purpose, Pursuit, Goal*

An outlined definition of the term 'Mission:' *"The task, together with the purpose, that clearly indicates the action to be taken and the reason therefore."*

What Was the Ultimate Earthly Mission of Jesus Christ?

The ultimate primary mission of Jesus himself whilst He was upon the earth was to reach and save the lost (Luke 5:32) (Luke 19:10) (John 10:16) (Mark 10:45) Jesus came to seek and to save those who were lost, to save all of us from Hell we deserve for the sins we have committed.

The Ultimate Mission of Every Church and Every Christian Should Be To _____

The greatest commandment from Jesus to His disciples was to evangelise to the lost. (Matt. 28:19-20; Luke 14:23; Mark 16:15)

'The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed.' Hudson Taylor

Soul-winning is a primary purpose for us to accomplish in the time that we have left to live upon the earth. (2 Corinthians 5:18)

"This is the very reason why His Church exists; for worshipers to reach out for the unsaved, so that they then become worshipers and reach more people and make them worshipers also, and so with geometric progression the whole world will eventually hear the gospel." (Colin Cooper, Building Church with Evangelism)

Sad but True:

Two abstract quotes taken from Colin Cooper, 'Building church with Evangelism'

- 95% of Christians never introduce anyone to Jesus, or see men and women saved.
- The greatest commandment from Jesus Himself is absent in the average church and churchgoer.

'Any church that is not seriously involved in helping fulfil the Great Commission has forfeited its biblical right to exist.'
Oswald J. Smith

The Urgency of Why Jesus Commands Us to Outreach and Enrich Souls for The Kingdom of God:

- Everyone needs to at least have the opportunity to hear the gospel and the chance to believe. (Mark 16:15; Matthew 11:15)
- People without repentance and faith in Jesus Christ will be eternally condemned. (John 3:16; Mark 16:16)
- The value of each and every soul in the sight of Jesus is precious and priceless. (Matthew 16:26)
- One repentant soul brings about much _____ in heaven. (Luke 15:10)
- The spreading of the gospel is a key criteria for ushering in the end of the age in taking place. (Matt. 24:14; 2 Peter 3:12)
- There will be a time where the door of opportunity for spreading the gospel will be closed. (John 9:4)

Jesus Likens Us in Spreading the Gospel to The Paradox of The Following:

1. _____ Matthew 4:19 *'Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men'*
2. Working in a Harvest Field. (Matthew 9:37-39; John 4:35-38)

A Good Harvester Will:

- Recognise and anticipate the harvest field God has set before us. (John 4:35) (We all individually know at least a few unsaved people who are without Christ)
- Sow the seeds (the word of God) for a harvest to come. (Luke 8:11)
- Harvests the produce/dividends of what has resulted through the seeds previously sowed.

Sometimes others will reap where we have laboured and sown and vice versa. (John 4:36-38)

That of a sheep, that will inevitably face hostility in the midst of taking the gospel out to the world. (Matthew 10:16)

We will face rejection, and even ridicule in sharing our faith to the unconverted. (Matthew 10:14; Luke 10:16; Acts 28:24)
(You will be rejected far more than your accepted.)

Things That Can Hinder and Cause Us to Lose Focus of Our Mission?

- Being too caught up with the pursuit of the cares and riches of this world. (To be unmoved in reaching the unsaved is a sign of spiritual apathy. (2 Corinthians 5:11)
- Feeling that other people are better placed to witness. (Evangelism is not just for a selected few in church to do, but rather it is for everyone to play their part) (Mark 16:19)
- Feeling unable to present the gospel message over eloquently. (Everyone has at the very least what it takes to invite people to the house of God. (Luke 14:23)
- Using procrastination as an excuse not to witness to the lost. (John 4:35; 2 Corinthians 6:2)
- Underestimating the power of sharing our own personal testimony. (John 9:25; Acts 26)
- Being unavailable to support the HCC outreach programmes.

What We Need to Be Effective in Sharing the Gospel to The Unsaved:

- Having an eternal perspective (Matthew 25:46). *'If our hearts and minds are fixed on eternity then taking souls with us into Heaven will be the most important things in our lives.'* Colin Cooper
- A love and compassion for the people. (2 Corinthians 5:14)
- Prayer. (2 Thessalonians 3:1; Matthew 9:38)
- The empowerment of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:4)
- Holy Boldness. (Ephesians 6:19; Acts 4:21; Acts 28:31)
- To live a life worthy of the gospel that supports our message. (1 Peter 2:12)
- We need to be unashamed/unapologetic of the gospel of Jesus Christ in which we stand. (Romans 1:16)
- To tell the people the whole gospel. (Acts 5:20) (i.e. Repentance, what they are saved from)
- To prepare ourselves with general gospel apologetics. (Proverbs 15:28)
- We must be ready at all times to do the following. (2 Timothy 4:1)
- To personally lead people to Christ, at any given time. (Acts 16:30-31)
- Make the most of _____ in making Christ known. (Ephesians 5:15-17) (Church services, Church groups, special events and occasions.)
- To share the hope that we have as followers of Christ during hard times. (1 Peter 3:15)
- To respond when needs/crises arise through our actions of love and charity, which can itself be a powerful witness as it displays the compassion, care, and love of Christ.
- The wisdom of God. (Proverbs 11:30)

Practical Steps to Apply the Wisdom of God in The Pursuit of Soul-Winning:

We must be tactical in our speech, timing, and style in the way we connect with people. (Acts 13:16-41; Acts 14:15)

- It is important to keep the good news of Jesus the main thing, and not get into demeaning other people's standpoints or side-tracked into meaningless debates. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)
- Relating to people first helps us to create openings for us to share about Jesus. (1 Corinthians 9:22)
- Work on your testimony adjust it accordingly, time bound and avoid using jargon so that it connects with a wide range of people. (Acts 22:2)

The Follow Up

- When people believe, we must then disciple them to belong and behave. (Matthew 28:19-20)
- We must be patient, encouraging and have realistic expectations with new converts.
- When you pray for rain and it arrives, then don't complain when the mud comes. (Proverbs 14:4)
- A sign of a very healthy and vibrant local church is one where new soul are continually added unto it through personal and corporate evangelism. (Acts 2:47) (Acts 9:31)