

From Pastor's Desk...

IT'S ALWAYS MISSIONS SUNDAY!

For many Churches in USA, Missions Sunday is an annual event designed to connect their entire congregation to the Christian mission. It will remind all that we are to see the world as God sees the world (Jn. 3:16).

We, as a congregation, have the first Sunday of every month as the mission Sunday, a combined worship service followed with Potluck in the fellowship hall. It's a great time of renewing our fellowship with each other recognizing the power of the gospel in our life. As we count every Sunday as a resurrection Sunday, so as a Missions Sunday too to confess before others that Jesus Christ is risen and truth will triumph over all gossips of political, religious, and demonic powers. If our mission efforts lose touch with that story, we must ask: whose mission are we on? Whose agenda are we pursuing? Is Missions Sunday offering exceeding other Sundays?

As a community of worship and witness, we need to have right direction from the Scripture and from the experience of those who devoted for mission. Preaching on themes related to mission is significant to ignite passion and burden for the perishing souls. Songs are to be selected to impact the congregation for motivating everyone to witness Christ in word and deed. Spirit-anointed prayer will move the mountains in life for the advancement of the gospel and make us victorious in our spiritual warfare too.

Henry Ford says, ***"coming together is a beginning, keeping together is a progress and working together is success"***.

A B Simpson writes, ***"Prayer is the mighty engine that is to move the missionary work"***.

Hudson Taylor believed, ***"God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply"***.

Emil Brunner said, ***"The Church exists by mission just as fire exists by burning"***.

Saji Lukos, founder of RIMI prayed, ***"Give me India or let me die"***.

Every Sunday has to be a Missions Sunday for the church not only to celebrate the day in worship but to be anointed in the Holy Spirit and power to participate with the mission of Jesus Christ. I have come across an inscription over the inside of the door that people used to leave the Church, ***"you are now entering the mission field"***. This awareness makes Missions Sunday meaningful and relevant.

God bless you.

In His Glorious Ministry,

Rev. K. P. Mathew

(Senior Pastor, IPC Hebron, Los Angeles)

OUR MISSION RESPONSIBILITY

Mini Noel, Sunday School Teacher

The concept of mission was originally conceived in the mind of God. We see God the Father sending His only begotten Son to the lost world. That is the prime missionary activity. Then we see the Father and the Son sending the Holy Spirit to us. Then we are invited and commanded to participate in the completion of God's mission.

In other words, Christian mission is the mission of God. It is not our mission. However, as soon as we accept Jesus as our saviour and become part of the body of Christ (the Church), we also come under the same missionary obligation of Christ. Then, Christ's mission becomes our mission too. Many a time we are unaware of our mission responsibility or we wilfully ignore it or try to avoid it. We tend to think that it is the responsibility of a few selected individuals only. It is not so. The command is to everyone.

The mission of God is to save the lost world. Millions are heading towards Christ less eternity in every generation. They must be snatched out of eternal hell fire by the saved ones of the same generation. Therefore, we have a great responsibility to win as many souls as possible, in this generation. For sure, we will be held responsible for the lost souls of our generation. The gospel remains Good News only if it gets to a person on time.

As individuals or as a corporate body, we can touch the world starting wherever we are now. The world is the field. Whether through medical missions or through educational missions or through social concern missions or through evangelistic missions, the core aim should be to bring souls out of the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of God.

We can get involved with the mission either by going or sending or praying or by all these three. Prayer is the mighty moving force behind the mission work. Prayer doesn't need passport or visa. There are no closed countries for prayer. According to Wesley Duewel, ***"We can reach the world if we will"***.

The greatest lack of today is not people or funds but prayer."

That is true. Shall we begin to set apart some time each day, in order to pray for the lost souls of our generation? Then, for sure, our prayers will witness powerful actions.

Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father sent me, so I am sending you."
(John 20:21)