

MISSION SUNDAY

"The mission of the church is missions", says Oswald J. Smith. Henry Martin (missionary to India and Persia) said, "The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become." The word 'mission', comes from a Latin word that means "the act of sending." In fact, the mission of the church is a continuation of the ministry of Christ. Moreover, it is a notable fact that all the four Gospel writers have quoted Christ's mission statement.

1. Matthew 28:18-20 - "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always to the very end of the age."

2. Mark 16:15-16 - "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

3. Luke 24:46-48 - "The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

4. John 20:21-23 - "Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you. And with that he breathed on them and said, receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sin, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

The mission statement of our Christ comprises of five things:

1. **Going** - out to all nations
2. **Preaching** - announcement of the full Gospel positively
3. **Baptizing** - adding to the Church those who respond to the Gospel
4. **Making** - training them to follow Christ
5. **Teaching** - preparing them as Disciples of Christ.

The mission of the Christian church involves at least three things:

1) Going 2) Sending and 3) Supporting. Therefore, Mission Sunday is the day the church sets aside to promote the mission of the church either by going, sending or by supporting.

God bless you.

Rev. K. M. Varughese

(Senior Pastor)

THE MISSIONAL CHURCH

Denny Varughese, Worship Leader

Hudson Taylor said, "The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed." The mission statement of the church is clearly given by Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20 which states, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you." The task is clear and it calls for a conscious response.

Jesus said, "As the Father has sent me so I send you." It means that we are the people who are sent by Jesus to live everyday as missionaries with gospel intentionality. Oswald J. Smith very bluntly said, "Any church that is not seriously involved in helping fulfill the Great Commission has forfeited its biblical right to exist."

The aim of any church should be to become a "Missional Church." The basic premise is that all Christians should be involved in the Great Commission of Jesus. Being missional includes embracing the posture, the thinking, behaviors, and practices of a missionary in order to reach others with the message of the gospel. A missional church, in doing anything, ultimately cooperates and participates in the mission of God in the world. This idea can be best summed up with the words of Apostle Paul: "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God... and whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (1 Cor 10:31, Col 3:17). Missions is not a program that we do but it is who we are to become and how we live.

MISSION- THE REASON FOR EXISTENCE

Lijo Jose Mathew, Treasurer

Behind the existence of an individual or an organization, there is a reason or a definite purpose. 'Mission', in general is an assignment carried out for political, religious or commercial purpose that may or may not comprise a travel of some kind. Be it a religious or commercial mission, it will have a specific objective or a purpose to accomplish. However, the word 'mission', is mostly associated with Christians going out into the world to spread its faith. The basis or objective of a Christian mission is clearly stated in the Great Commission given by Jesus in Matthew 27:18-20. Christian mission involves sending individuals or groups known as missionaries submitted to God's calling and will to serve Him. James 2:15-17 says, "Faith without action is dead." If we are able to do our missions in the right way, then it becomes complete with Evangelism as core objective, supported by the act of divine love providing humanitarian work especially among poor and the disadvantaged. In fact, we can find all these examples from the life of Jesus himself as a missionary who sacrificed His life for the whole mankind.

Any mission, to accomplish its objective, should have sufficient resources such as committed individuals, continued spiritual and financial support. When an individual or a group is sent out for missions by an organization, mostly the organization itself provides for their financial support. However, missionaries are profoundly God dependent, and there may also be times when they have to support themselves. Even though Apostle Paul was supported by various churches during his missionary journey (1Cor. 16:1-3), at times, he had to support himself as well (Acts 18:3).

We should not forget the names of some great missionaries like Hudson Taylor, William Carey, David Livingstone, Sadhu Sunder Sing and many more who submitted their lives to God, sacrificed their materialistic blessings and the comfort of life in order to introduce Christ to gentiles. As a Christian and as a church we all are called to be the ambassadors of Christ. Let us continue our good work of spreading the Gospel by supporting a mission work in our prayers and financially, committing as a fulltime missionary or occasionally visiting and volunteering at a mission field.

As Apostle Paul says in Philippians 1:6, "Let us be confident of this, that He who began a good work in us will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

MISSIONARY JOURNEYS OF APOSTLE PAUL

