

From Pastor's Desk...

## Seeking the harvest through His eyes

When Jesus ministered to the needs of the people around, He met their physical needs and beyond that he could see the deepest need of their hearts- the Spiritual need. Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, for they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a Shepherd. Then he said to the Disciples, the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few (Mt. 9:36). It is one of the most influential verses in the New Testament for Christian witness which is repeated on several occasions in relation with Jesus' instructions towards His disciples (Luke 10:2; Jn.4:35).

Churches and mission organizations are increased day by day for different reasons. Unless the driving factor behind a Church is Biblical, the health and growth of the Church will never be what God intended. Rick Warren raised the challenge in this generation, "what drives your church? Competition, denominational pride, the need for recognition by a leader, tradition, finances, programs, buildings, events, seekers or by some other unworthy motivation but the purpose of God.

When mission is at the essence of the church, the driving factor should be anointing of the Spirit as Jesus experienced (Acts 10:38). The love of God is poured in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Teaching, preaching and healing were the three characteristics of Jesus' ministry.

1. Jesus saw the people as they are in life. Large crowds followed Him in several places. Individuals were also seeking to get His favor in times of fear, frustrations, sickness etc.
2. Jesus was moved with compassion. They were without a God-given leader, leading a life without a clear goal which ends in destruction.
3. Jesus presented a remedy for the problem. "Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest field" Mt. 10:38). He never demanded anything from the disciples which is not practiced in life. Jesus was in constant communion with the Father while on earth.

Today the total population of the world is 7.3 billion. Among them there are about 2.2 billion Christians which leaves more than 5 billion people who do not have a personal relation with Christ. Our mission field need not be a distant place alone but a heart without Christ, possibly in our neighborhood, workplaces, schools and colleges or in our family and friend circles.

God bless you.

In His Glorious Ministry,

Rev. K. P. Mathew

(Senior Pastor, IPC Hebron, Los Angeles)

**HELP  
WANTED**

(Br. Ben Cherian)

The one reason God created life on this planet is to spend eternity with mankind in Heaven. He sends Jesus, His only son to fulfill His dream. Jesus invites all mankind to His kingdom, and tasks Christians to carry on the task of saving the lost. The message of the four gospels in a nutshell is the invitation to the kingdom of God and a directive to all Christians to spread the gospel – "The Great Commission".

In Mathew 9:37, Jesus tells his disciples that the harvest is plenty, but the laborers are few. Through the eyes of Jesus, He sees huge harvest of lost souls. He also sees a great need for workers. His desire is to fulfill His Father's dream but also concerned about the perishing souls.

### How can you help:

- A) Pray for the unsaved souls: Pray without ceasing (Phil 4: 7). Ask and it shall be given (Mat 6:35)
- B) Take responsibility of the field around you: Spread the Gospel to the folks around us. Always be ready to share the good news: "Be ready in season and out of season" (2 Tim 2:4). Abound in His work always (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 15:58)
- C) Love the unsaved unconditionally – just like Jesus did.

### Is your effort going to make any difference?

One day an old man, walking on a beach, noticed a young boy picking up starfish and tossing them into the sea. Stunned, the old man asked the boy, what was he doing? The boy replied, that these starfishes would die if left on the beach all day. Perplexed, the old man asked, "but the beach goes on for miles and there are millions of starfish washed on the sand, how can your effort make any difference?" The boy looked at the starfish in his hand and then threw it to safety in the waves and replied – "it makes a difference to this one".

You might not save the entire world but the one person in front of you will make a huge difference.

