

From Pastor's Desk...

Reaching the World: A Realistic and Authentic Perspective

Christianity and mission are inextricably interwoven throughout their history. Lausanne covenant asserted, we believe the gospel is God's good news for the whole world, and we are determined by His grace to proclaim it to every person and make disciples of every nation. Commitment to the Word and the World is reflected in it. Under the influence of modernism, post modernism and technological revolution, the focus of churches has drifted from Jesus Christ and mission to institutions, finances, and programs. However, articulation on the holistic relationship between the verbal proclamation of gospel and the varieties of social engagement is welcomed everywhere.

'*Let us begin it with us*' includes self, family and the church. Every Christian is called out and separated to be a witness of Christ. A life transformed by Christ is a sign post in a community in chaos and conflict. It is a scriptural truth that salvation is a gift from God and everyone must realize the need of forgiveness from sins and relying on the redemptive act of Jesus Christ.

The house or family was the most fundamental social reality in the ancient world. Paul's missionary work led to the conversion not only of individuals, but sometimes of entire houses, that is, households or families. When the Gadarene demoniac was healed, Jesus denied his desire to accompany him, instead, He said to them, go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for him (Mark 5: 18-20). He obeyed Jesus Christ and determined to be a missionary to his own family. Once the gospel takes root in a home and among family members, it would eventually make an impact on the entire community (Acts 16: 15, 34; 1Cor 1:16).

There have been immense cultural shifts in Western culture which has brought to us a new situation for the life of the church. In major parts of the country, especially in the West-Coast and East are every bit as secular and post-Christian. Our approach will make the gospel either attractive or un-attractive. Our Christ-like communication demonstrating love, humility, openness, empathy, kindness, genuine interest in others revolutionize our witness in a society. A realistic and authentic effort to bridge the gap with people of other faiths and ideologies would bring greater results in reaching the world than mere defense mechanism employed by us out of fear which ends in pharisaic spirituality.

God bless you.

In His Glorious Ministry,

Rev. K. P. Mathew
(Senior Pastor, IPC Hebron, Los Angeles)

ETERNAL INVESTMENT

Sheril Varughese

As adults, "investment" is a term that come across our minds. We strive to invest our time, money and effort in securing our future in this earth. The question that MUST trouble our hearts should be, how can I invest for my eternity? To understand this concept, we need to understand God's mission.

GOD'S MISSION FOR THIS WORLD:

- ***Part 1- Redemption of mankind through Christ***
- ***Part 2- To restore the relationship between men and God and among one another.***

God entrusted his son, Jesus to carry out the first part of his divine mission while he entrusts us to carry out the second part.

HOW CAN WE FULFILL GOD'S MISSION IN OUR LIVES?

- **Speaking out our faith**

It is a believer's responsibility to share the gospel which includes the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and the significance of these events in connection to our eternity with God.

We must rid ourselves of the false ideation that one should know the answers to all questions before interacting with a non-believer. God is not looking for a man who is all-knowing; rather a man who has the willingness to carry out the will of an all-knowing God. Speak out your faith daily by sharing your testimonies, dreams, doubts and fears with others. Above all, be honest. Honesty in daily conversation will create a sense of validity and credibility in the things you say.

- **Live out your faith**

Living out the faith is achieved by reflecting Christ like image through our actions. It includes having good relation with others, speaking words of wisdom, giving constructive criticisms, proper disciplining of children, leading a Christ-centered lifestyle, meditating on the bible, praying for others, involvement in church and its activities, bearing the fruit of the spirit, conducting daily family prayer, and above all illustrating our dependency on God to others.

- **Use of available resources**

Social media is a great forum to introduce and make known about our God to others. Share stories and testimonies which reflect God love, blessings and miracles. Be a positive influence on others with your use of social media.

We must strive to use our personality, talents and spiritual gifts to fulfill God's mission through our lives. The more we are willing to invest our time, effort and resources for God and his mission, the more we are investing towards our eternity in heaven with God.