

A Publication by Shield of Faith

MISSIONS DEVOTIONAL 宣教灵修

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 PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

 Editor:
 Foong Daw Ching

 Editorial Team:
 Jasmine Ho, Daniel Foo, Rachel Koh, Regina Chao, Samuel Yeong, Becky Ong, Serene Ng

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Missions Ministry Head's Message

The theme "Missions 20/20 – Proclaim His Glory" was chosen as entering a new decade of 2020 seems to hit a positive note and we wanted to revisit the vision that was cast for missions since the beginning. The underlying verse for the theme is Isaiah 61:1-2. Isaiah wrote these words to give hope to the people of Israel that a Messiah would come to save them. Since Jesus appeared more than 2000 years ago, He has been proclaiming this good news and freedom to those who are trapped. It is our task to proclaim His Glory to all who need the good news!

But 2020 did not start on a right note! The Covid-19 pandemic started at the end of 2019 and brought chaos and fear into 2020, changing the way we live. While managing our lives in uncharted waters, how do we now view missions in its right perspective? How should we see missions in light of the world we live in right now? Certainly, a 20/20 vision is very much needed for such a time like this.

Most people have this understanding that 20/20 vision means having perfect vision. But this is not true. In the visual acuity test, 20/20 means normal vision. If you have 20/20 vision, "you can see clearly at 20 feet what should normally be seen at that distance. If you have 20/100 vision, it means that you must be as close as 20 feet to see what a person with normal vision can see at 100 feet. Not all of us have 20/20 vision. But this can be corrected by wearing glasses or contact lenses or undergoing surgery.

Similarly, not all of us have 20/20 vision for missions. And it is our hope that through Missions 20/20, our spiritual vision will be sharpened so that we can see with clarity the task that God has for us.

Seven sub-themes are chosen as the lenses to help us zoom in to capture God's vision for *missions*. Each of the 7 keywords starts with "Re". "Re" is a prefix with 2 meanings: to indicate return to a previous condition or to indicate repetition of an action. Missions has been a key thrust since COS began, hence we want to take a step back and **refocus** on God's vision for us, to **remember** the task of the Great Commission given to the church, and asking the Holy Spirit to **rekindle** our zeal for this kingdom work. Generally, there are 2 kinds of vision disorder, one is myopia which is short-sightedness in which the effect is not being able to see distant objects clearly. Therefore, refocus, remember and rekindle will help correct our spiritual myopia so that we can see far into God's vision. The other common vision disorder is hyperopia (long-sightedness) which is not being able to see nearby objects clearly. This can happen to people of all ages but there is an age-related long-sightedness which is known as presbyopia. This too can be corrected by wearing glasses or contact lenses.

The world has changed significantly since COS started missions work more than 50 years ago. To stay relevant to the times and culture, so as to effectively communicate the unchanging Gospel, we need to see far as well as near. If we have spiritual long-sightedness and keep using old methods, our way of doing missions may not be effective. To help correct this, we want to **realign** our priorities to fit into God's vision, and **reimagine** how we can be creative and adaptive to **reach out** and proclaim His glory to all peoples and all generations. Lastly, we need to **respond** on a personal level to God's calling to missions which applies to all.

To adapt to the new trends of communication, this year's Mission News comes in the form of a 7-day devotional. It is based on the 7 sub-themes. We encourage you to take a few minutes each day for a week and to explore the meaning of "Missions 20/20 – Proclaim His Glory."

Sight is a precious gift from God and since young, we are told to care for it. We need to do the same for our spiritual vision. We challenge you to use this devotional as a guide to maintain a 20/20 vision for His mission.

Bro Henry Yeo

Head, Missions Ministry

Revelation 7:9-10

⁹ After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice:

> "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

Refocus



DAY

1

REV 7:9-10 Revelation 7:9-10 gives us a view of God's vision for His church. "I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb... and crying out with a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" What a magnificent picture of our Heavenly Father's focus – gathering folk from every ethnic group from anywhere to the grace throne of the Lamb, Jesus. Every believer has a part to play in that heavenly mandate. We are called to refocus our vision to be in unity with His vision.

WE ARE CALLED TO REFOCUS OUR VISION TO BE IN UNITY WITH HIS VISION.

If that is to happen, then every Christian needs to have a specific mindset. Simply put, we should embrace the marching orders that the Lord Jesus gave to His church, His last words just before He ascended into heaven in Acts 1:8: "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you

Writer: PASTOR ROSS PATERSON

shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." That means that we do not stop in Jerusalem and Judea (which to Singaporeans means reaching our nation-city only), nor do we stop in Samaria (which means the nations around us with somewhat similar cultures), but rather, we fix our vision on the ends of the earth, nations with different cultures, histories, climates, languages, and even food! Whether we go, pray, give or support, each one has a part.

If we consider that to be a challenge, how much more it was for the early church when they heard the Acts 1:8 command of Jesus. They did not have Singapore Airlines to sweep them to any part of the world in a matter of hours, nor did they have the convenience of the internet to help them research political situations or visa requirements. They simply embraced the vision of the ends of the earth and went.

There is a way of working out how seriously God takes His "family business". Some leaders in the early church were slow to embrace the Father's vision, so the Lord stepped in (Acts 9) and fast-tracked His vision through Paul. If ever we want to understand how passionate God is about His vision for nations, tribes,

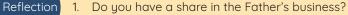


THE QUESTION IS WHETHER EACH OF US WILL USE THIS TIME TO REFOCUS ON THAT HEAVENLY VISION AND BE A PART OF IT.

peoples, and tongues, then we should consider that He was prepared to take a blaspheming persecutor, save him, and put in his profoundly Jewish heart a passionate vision for the nations, for the previously despised Gentiles. That is what God did in the life of Paul.

God is doing that today. Singapore churches can embrace that vision afresh. Of course, Covid-19 seems to have put a "circuit breaker" on that call. A close reading of Paul would suggest that he faced 'circuit breakers' for much of his life too. But Paul remained passionate for the vision of the Father's business and convinced of the Father's vision so that he could boldly state at the end of his life that he was "not disobedient to the Heavenly vision" (Acts 26:19).

The pause caused by Covid-19 poses to us a simple question: What is my vision? Do I need to refocus my vision to align with my Heavenly Father's vision, with Paul's vision? God's vision is greater than any lockdown or any obstruction. We know that because we have read the end of the book in Revelation and know that Father will have His way. He will have His gathering of "all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne." The question is whether each of us will use this time to refocus on that heavenly vision and be a part of it.



2. How would you describe your refocused Covid-19 vision for the future of your role in COS?

ISSUING & RECEIVING THE GREAT COMMISSIO

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DAY Remember

2

MATT 7:9-10

MARK 16:15-16

LUKE 24:46-49

JOHN 20:21

ACTS 1:8

In these verses, Jesus commanded his disciples to preach the Gospel and make disciples of all nations. We call this "The Great Commission". These five passages clearly tell us about the Great Commission:

• Where to go: To all nations, to the ends of the earth

• What to preach: Repentance for the forgiveness of sins in His name

- · How to go: Go with the authority of Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit
- What to do: Make disciples and baptize them
- What comes after believing: Teach them to obey everything that the Lord has commanded
- Who ought to go: You and I
- The promise of Jesus: With us always, to the very end of the age

We know and understand that it is a mission, yet we do not do it. Why is it easier said than done? It is because we:

• Do not realize that it is a command from Jesus and fail to grasp the importance, Writer: BRO DANIEL FOO

urgency and necessity of the Great Commission

- Do not receive it whole-heartedly we fail to love Jesus with all our heart, soul, strength and mind, and we fail to fully understand the heart of Jesus
- Do not have any motivation for the mission and therefore we do not sow in tears, nor pray unceasingly, nor remain fervent, and we have no sense of urgency
- Are disconnected with Christ, not crucified with Him and hence the one who lives is still MF.

Paul preached the Gospel even when he was in prison. Because of his love for God, he took on the mission of witnessing that Jesus Christ is Lord, regardless of all the dangers in his life. How do we Christians look at The Great Commission today? Do we understand





The Great Commission? The mission of the Gospel is the sense of responsibility and obligation to the Gospel. The one thing we need to know is love and perseverance for the Gospel. "For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." (1 Corinthians 2:2)

Wake up, believers! We must know that after being saved, we are to let go of our old selves and be witnesses of Christ. Jesus' command is to Go... and make disciples of all nations, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you... And make them go...

Missions is like serving as the ambassador of the country. The ambassador carries the appointment of the country, protects her rights and interests at all times, speaks on behalf of the country, and most importantly has a patriotic heart to undertake the mission and trust of the country.

The achievement of The Great Commission yields one thing – to see the glory of God.

PROCLAIM HIS GLORY 11

Do you know that Jesus has a mission for you? Do you understand how The Great Commission relates to you? The Great Commission is very important indeed andonce we believe, we are to become messengers of the Gospel. Therefore, we should receive and understand it thoroughly, and work hard to sow the seed of the Gospel. In season and out of season, we will go, because this is the way of the Cross. This is the mission of love. The Lord will be with us.

2 Corinthians 5:19 shows that God is reconciling the world to Himself in Christ (the Gospel), not counting people's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation (the Great Commission). We are therefore



DO YOU KNOW THAT JESUS HAS A MISSION FOR YOU?

Christ's ambassadors (the messengers) to the world. Be reconciled to God.

To go or to stay? Do not forget God's great love for us! (Oh God! Here I am. Please send me). It is ME.

Reflection 1.

Do you know The Great Commission Jesus has for you? If so, what are you doing about it? If you don't feel it, why so?

2. Do you really love Jesus? Are you willing to let go of your desires (money, family, status, power, etc) and follow Jesus with all your heart?

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST PRESENTED HIMSELF AS ONE WHO HAS EYES LIKE A FLAME OF FIRE.

^{DAY} **Rekindle**



REV 2-3 Chapters 2 and 3 in the book of Revelation record for us the messages of our Lord for the seven churches in Asia Minor. All of them were facing persecution. There were pressures to worship the emperor as well as the various deities of the trade guilds. Therefore, the letters were dealing with the issue of witnessing for Christ in the midst of a pagan culture.



Writer: BRO LOW EE MENG ISAAC

Generally, the letters follow a literary structure. The Risen Christ presents Himself with certain attributes particularly suitable to the situation of each church. The problems or situations faced by each church were then presented and the churches were commended for their good works but were also accused of sin within. Those who have fallen short were warned to repent. Every letter ends with a promise of reward for those who overcome.

On closer observation, the churches may be divided into 3 groups. The first, Ephesus, and the last, Laodicea, were in danger of losing their identity. The second and sixth were faithful in their time of trial and were exhorted to endure to the end. The churches in the middle section, the third, fourth and fifth churches were a mixed group – remaining faithful in some areas while compromising in others.

The significance of this structure is that as a whole, it may be said that a majority of the churches, five out of seven, did not maintain their witness in the face of persecution and hardship. These churches form the boundary and the core of this presentation. IT IS TIME TO REKINDLE THE FIRE WITHIN US, SO THAT WE MAY STAND FIRM AS FAITHFUL WITNESSES AND OVERCOMERS. In fact, in the middle of the fourth letter, there is a general statement at verse 23, found only in this letter that "<u>all the churches will know</u>" that Christ is the judge of their faithfulness.

It seems that the most serious judgment was reserved for the church at Thyatira.

It is interesting that in the introduction of this letter, the Lord Jesus Christ presented Himself as one who has eyes like a flame of fire. Fire is frequently pictured as the agent that will test our work. "But on the judgement day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value." (1 Corinthians 3:13. NLT) So it is that in the final analysis, all our life's work will be judged by fire.

It is time to rekindle the fire within us, so that we may stand firm as faithful witnesses and overcomers, as we see the Day approaching.

IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, ALL OUR LIFE'S WORK WILL BE JUDGED BY FIRE.

Reflection 1. Are you faithfully witnessing for Christ? (2 Timothy 4:2)

2. Is there anything in the way you live that may hinder the gospel? (John 8:12)

3. How will you fare on that Day? (1 Corinthians 3:13; 2 Timothy 4:7)

Ezekiel 22:30

³⁰ "I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one.



Writer: SIS JUDY SIAH



DAY

4

EZEK

22:30

It is now the final stage of the harvest. Satan is losing ground and all he can do is launch a last counter attack. Thus, we will see more evil, lawlessness and depraved things happening in the world. Christians should consider how to survive in such an environment, because we will most likely suffer persecution and even lose our lives. (Isaiah 59:19)

Before Pentecost, the disciples were unable to fulfill The Great Commission. On the day of Pentecost, the church was formed as a result of evangelism. What is "Church"? Do we fully understand its traits and purpose? The Church is to spread the mercy of Christ, to comfort, heal and do good to people. (Acts 10:38) This is what we should be doing! The power of God is manifested through the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:7) The world will see how God reveals His power to transform lives and glorify Himself, because His power will be manifested through us.

Amongst all the prophets in the old Testament, Jonah was the only one who left Israel to

THE CHURCH IS TO SPREAD THE MERCY OF CHRIST, TO COMFORT, HEAL AND DO GOOD TO PEOPLE.



spread God's word. He was also the only one whom Jesus associated with Himself. Jesus called Jonah "a miraculous sign for Israel". (Matthew 12:39) God's care for His people extends to all the world, "not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance". (2 Peter 3:9b) However, Jonah did not feel the same way towards the sinners of Nineveh. God wanted to save the city Nineveh and told Jonah to go there and preach. But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish instead. As such, God sent a great wind on the sea to obstruct him. Through that storm, God showed Jonah His disapproval of Jonah's lack of mercy for the people of Nineveh.

What kind of place is Tarshish? Scholars' research found that Tarshish was related to gold, silver and tin refining. Tarshish's merchant ships were famous for transporting expensive cargo, hence she symbolised authority and pride. Facing the mission that God had entrusted him, Jonah's dilemma was: to go to the rich city of Tarshish or to the dangerous and brutal city of Nineveh? Matthew 6:24 says that "no one can serve two masters". Some people answer God's call regardless of cost,

IF WE REALIGN OUR WILL AND SEE THE WORLD WITH GOD'S EYES, WE WILL SEE LOST SOULS THAT ARE PERISHING. while some are over calculative. Are we hired hands who seek high pay? Can money be the deciding factor of our decision to answer God's call? If we live for the sake of money, personal desires and other selfish motives, we will experience stress and struggles and defy God's will. If we realign our will and see the world with God's eyes, we will see lost souls that are perishing. The Gospel is eternal. God loves to call and send us.

Luke 4:18 tells us what the Lord is doing in these times. In making this mission the purpose of our lives, we will be sent by the fire on the altar to witness for the risen Christ. The late evangelist Reinhard Bonnke was filled with the Holy Spirit and brought a great revival in Africa. He said, "I have only a pure goal and that is to fill Heaven and empty hell!" Bonnke did not have any special power, he merely said to God, "I am willing to be used by You."

A candle can be lit by another burning candle and the fire and light of God can be passed on continuously. The purpose of us living in this world is to pass on the light and fire of God and realign the relationship between men and God. May we experience the Holy Spirit's fire daily, let it burn away the coldness of our hearts and fill us with a passion for souls.

Amen!



Reflection

1. In this perverted and preposterous generation, how do you shine for God?

2. Why does God use a particular evangelist more than another? When you have two stoves, one cold and the other hot, which will you use to make tea?

Isaiah 61:1-2

¹ The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, ² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,

^{DAY} Seach Out



ISA 61:1-2 God is at work redeeming and restoring the world and He calls us to be with Him in this work. Isaiah 61:1-2 is a part of this call. Biblical scholars remind us that these verses are a prophetic reference to the coming Messiah, but they also reveal much about the heart of God. What kind of work will the Messiah do? What needs will He respond to? His work will be holistic and it will respond to different kinds of suffering. This Spirit-initiated and God-anointed work includes proclaiming, binding up, releasing, and comforting. The "brokenhearted" and "all who mourn" describe those who suffer mentally and emotionally. "Captives" and "prisoners" can be those who suffer spiritually through separation from God but also physically through abusive situations and oppressive systems. The Messiah will reach out to a lost and broken world in many ways.

JESUS WAS ALERT TO THE NEEDS AROUND HIM.

This prophecy was fulfilled in the coming of Jesus, the long-awaited One. In fact, Jesus used elements of this very passage to declare publicly that the Messiah had come (Luke 4:18-20). Jesus not only spoke these words, however; He lived them. Concern for the poor, advocacy for the oppressed, acts of mercy and demonstrations of God's power defined His life. Jesus was alert to the needs around Him and His solutions to meet these needs were not always what people expected. Sometimes He spontaneously initiated a ministry opportunity, such as when He met Zacchaeus and invited Himself to dinner (Luke 19:1-10). Writer: SIS SUSAN SUTTON







REACHING OUT IS OFTEN SIMPLY A MATTER OF LOOKING AROUND US, SEEING A NEED, AND THEN ASKING GOD WHAT CAN BE DONE TO HELP.



Sometimes His ideas were questioned, such as beginning a food-for-the-hungry program with meagre resources (Matthew 14:13-21). Sometimes His ministry focus was questioned, such as when He spent time with children when others thought it wasn't the best use of His time (Mark 10:13-16). Always, Jesus revealed the heart of God and the truth of God as He reached out through His words and actions.

Isaiah spoke of a coming Messiah, but Jesus took these words beyond a reference to Himself. He called His disciples to the same active involvement in God's work (e.g. Luke 9:2, 10:1-9 and Matthew 28:19-20). His parting words before returning to the Father were a call to be involved in God's redemptive work in the world: *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"* (Acts 1:8).

As followers of Christ, this is our call from our Lord. We are to participate in what God is doing in our lifetime while on earth. Louis and I heard this call as university students. The year was 1976 and we were in a crowd of students listening to John Stott speak on the mission of God. His words still ring in our ears today: "God is a missionary God, the Spirit is a missionary Spirit, Christ is a missionary Christ, the church is a missionary church." God spoke to us personally and powerfully in those days. He seemed to be saying, "You've done a good job of involving me in your world. Now I want you to be involved in Mine. Are you with Me?"

When we answered God's call to be involved in His world, He sent us to a place that was bound by poverty and captive to its dominant religion. Wanting to bring the grace and truth of Christ, we looked around us to see how we could do this. In response to the poor health and educational systems, we ministered through medical and educational ministries. Others on our team found other ways to reach out – through economic projects helping disabled women earn money and through athletic programs for village children. One team member noticed that students had no books for their studies. She opened up a library in her home, giving students a place to read and an opportunity to advance in their studies. Always, in everything, we looked for opportunities to proclaim the gospel. As John Piper once said, "We care about all suffering, and we care most about eternal suffering."

Reaching out is often simply a matter of looking around us, seeing a need, and then asking God what can be done to help. He may lead us to spend time with someone who is sick or lonely, or He may lead us to spend time in an impoverished community in another part of His world. The key is what God asks us to do. What is our response to His question: *"Are you with Me as I work?"*

Reflection 1. Covid-19 is an opportunity to reflect on your partnership with God in His work. If you're involved in a ministry, think of ways to 'refresh' your involvement. What new ideas can you bring to the ministry?

2. If you're not involved now, what will help you find ways to be involved? Spend some time researching ways to be involved in local, regional and global missions.

Acts 16:6-10

⁶ Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia.

⁷ When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.

⁸ So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas.

⁹ During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

¹⁰ After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

^{DAY} Reimagine

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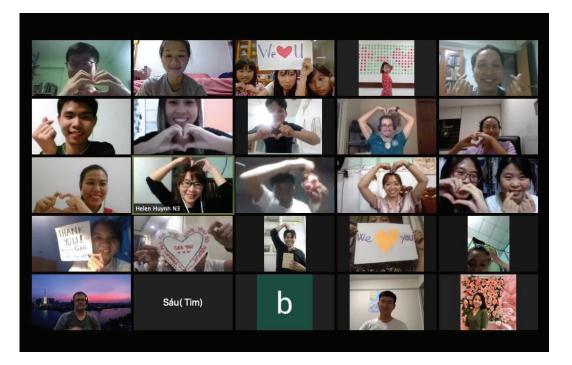
ACTS 16:6-10

After strengthening the churches in the region, Paul and his missionary party attempted to go to the western province of Asia whose leading city was Ephesus. But Paul was forbidden by the Holy Spirit to enter. In those days, Asia refers to the Roman province of Asia Minor, which is modern day Turkey. Next, they tried to go to Bithynia but were again prevented by the Holy Spirit. So, they went to Troas instead. Paul did not set out to go to Troas, but it was the Holy Spirit's plan to lead him there. While at Troas, God gave Paul a vision of the Macedonia man asking for help. Paul immediately recognized that that was God's plan for them to go to Macedonia to preach the Gospel.

Writers: SIS MICHELLE CHUA & SIS RACHEL KOH

When Paul was hindered from going to Asia Minor, he did not respond negatively but was willing to let God direct him to another location. In a way, Paul had to "reimagine" another place to go. The world we live in now changes much more rapidly than in Paul's time. Words like globalisation, urbanisation, megacities,

HOW CAN THE CHURCH ENGAGE IN MISSIONS IN THE WORLD AS SUCH?



REIMAGINING MISSIONS HAS TO BE PART OF OUR 20/20 VISION FOR THE CHURCH TODAY.

global warming, sexual orientation describe our world today. How can the church engage in missions in the world as such? Just as Paul was redirected by the Holy Spirit to go to another place, we do need to seek the Holy Spirit's guidance to "reimagine" where, what and how missions can be done in our world today.

Earlier this year with the Covid-19 pandemic, our Vietnam mission point (Govap New Life) "reimagined" the way they do evangelism. Their English club, a platform for their outreach, could not continue at their church premise due to the "lockdown". Govap New Life tapped on technology and continued to conduct English classes online via "Zoom", which is an online meeting application. In this way, not only were they able to continue to engage those who attended their classes regularly, but also those who were unable to attend due to distance, time factor and work schedules. Since people had to stay at home, they had time to join the online classes from their home.

Because of this Covid-19 situation, all our short-term mission trips to Vietnam have been cancelled. Govap New Life church asked our church members to help out as facilitators in their online English club. Even though our church members cannot travel to Vietnam, with such an arrangement, they can participate in missions right from their home. When such a crisis that does not permit us to travel happens, does it mean we stop doing missions? Just like Paul who yielded to the Holy Spirit and moved on to another place, we see how Govap New Life Church in Vietnam explored another form of doing outreach. They reimagined how missions can be done in a whole new way.

This episode of Paul being hindered from going to Asia but instead went to Macedonian is known as "The Macedonian Call". It is a common expression to describe an important moment when God redirected Paul to do something that changed the history of Christianity. Paul was guided by hindrance. In the situation of the Covid-19, there is also a hindrance in our outreach but this may turn out to be another pivotal moment if we learn to reimagine how missions can be done.

Reimagining missions has to be part of our 20/20 vision for the Church today.

Reflection

 If you are involved in some way in missions, besides going for short-term trips, praying for missionaries and missions work, or giving financially, is there something you can "reimagine" doing differently to support the ministry?

2. If you are not involved in missions, try to "imagine" how you can use your gifting to support missions.

Luke 4:16-21

16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read,

17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,

19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue ,were fastened on him.

21 He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Writer: BRO CHAO TIAN KONG





LUKE 4:16-21 In this passage, Jesus had turned thirty and had started preaching around Galilee and in Nazareth. He entered a synagogue, as was His custom, and stood up to read from Isaiah 61:1-2.

The Lord had gone to the synagogue "as was His custom" (Luke 4:16). In those days, synagogues were not perfect places, yet the Lord of holiness would visit one every Sabbath to worship. Likewise, we too should attend church and LG meetings regularly to worship and serve God.

After reading from Isaiah 61:1-2, the Lord said, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." Jesus had been called and sent by God to fulfill the scriptures about Him. He recognised from an early age His mission and assignment for coming to this world.

In the next three and a half years, He faithfully carried out the mission that the Father had sent Him for, accomplishing God's plan of redemption for mankind and securing for us this great salvation. How then should we view God's Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)? Are we responding in obedience to Him? Are we faithfully bearing witness for the Lord, preaching the gospel, bringing people to Him and getting involved in world missions?

We have to respond and act in obedience to God's calling.



ARE WE RESPONDING IN OBEDIENCE TO HIM?

ARE WE FAITHFULLY BEARING WITNESS FOR THE LORD, PREACHING THE GOSPEL, BRINGING PEOPLE TO HIM AND GETTING INVOLVED IN WORLD MISSIONS?

WE HAVE TO RESPOND AND ACT IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S CALLING.

When Paul was brought before King Agrippa to be tried, he said to the king, "I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven" (Acts 26:19). Previously in a vision, the Lord had told Paul "to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me" (Acts 26:18). Paul said to the elders of the church in Ephesus, "However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace" (Acts 20:24).

May the Lord help us to be imitators of the Lord Jesus and Paul, that we respond in obedience to God's calling and fulfill the mission which the Lord has entrusted us!

Reflection 1. At a personal level, what significance does God's Great Commission for the Church have for you? How has the Great Commission shaped your view and direction of your life?

2. In what ways have you responded and acted in obedience to God's calling and His Great Commission? Which areas do you need to work on more? Missions 20/20: Proclaim His Glory 透视宣教20/20:宣告祂的荣耀



145 Marine Parade Road Singapore 449274 📞 6345 5575 🛛 📇 6345 7651 🔗 cosmp@cos.org.sg 🌐 www.cos.org.sg

