



Missions: To the Nations

Acts 1:8

Introduction

- A summer series
 - To explain how we take the Scriptures and turn them into ministry
 - To lay out clearly practical implementations at the Chapel
- Tonight's teaching
 - To make plain the ministry of missions

Practical Ministry at the Chapel

Introduction

A summer series

- Practical Ministry at the Chapel

Tonight I will continue our series titled *Practical Ministry at Clearcreek Chapel*. As a reminder, what we aim to do in this series is to explain how we take the Scriptures and turn them into the ministry we do here at the Chapel. My assignment tonight has to do with the ministry of missions.

Tonight's teaching

- To make plain the ministry of missions

Biblical Foundations

- Acts 1:8 as a pattern for missions
 - Biblical basis – why send and support missionaries
 - Biblical criteria – how to choose missionaries to send and support

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Biblical Foundations

Acts 1:8 will be the text for this evening. This verse (and the book of Acts as a whole), provides a pattern (i.e. paradigm, blueprint) for missions at Clearcreek Chapel. Acts 1:8 will function for us as this pattern and this pattern will provide for us two things.

- Biblical basis for missions – why send and support missionaries
- Biblical criteria for missionaries – how to choose missionaries to send and support

This blueprint for missions can be seen clearly as we take a moment and look at its three aspects of missions.

3 Aspects of missions

- ↳ Its Essence: What is its task?
- ↳ Its Extent: How far must this mission stretch?
- ↳ Its Empowerment: How can this seemingly impossible task be accomplished?

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3 Aspects of missions

Its Essence: What is its task?

Its Extent: How far must this mission stretch?

Its Empowerment: How can this seemingly impossible task be accomplished?

Its Essence: What is the task?

- “You will be My witnesses”
 - Content – Missionaries know the basics of the gospel.
 - Call – Missionaries call people to repentance and belief in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
 - Cost – Missionaries choose to win the lost at any cost.

Its Essence: What is its task?

“You will be my witnesses”

The essence of the mission for the Church is found in Jesus’ words, **“you will be my witnesses”**. This theme of being Christ’s witness is found around 40 times in the book of Acts. It is my conviction that the book of Acts develops no less than three categories in which we can organize information on what witnessing is. These three categories help us to recognize who should be supported or sent as missionaries from Clearcreek Chapel. The first category is content.

•CONTENT – Missionaries know the basics of the gospel.

We notice in passages talking about witnessing from Luke’s writings that with the 1st century followers of Christ there was a settled understanding of what they were to testify about. Objective propositional truth mattered to these disciples. And it matters to our 21st century missionaries. We send and support only those who manifestly embrace the true gospel (Our missionaries must be in essential agreement with The Truths We Treasure).

•CALL – Missionaries call people to repentance and belief in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

The second category we find in what it takes to be a witness of the Christ can be summarized in one word: CALL. Our missionaries are people who call people to repentance and belief in the person and work of Jesus Christ. They must follow the pattern of Paul who when talking with Agrippa said, “I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me [would be persuaded to be a Christian] as I am” (Acts 26:28-29) We send and support missionaries who understand what is good about the good news. It’s not just being forgiven. The gospel is good because it brings people free of guilt to God who is great (1Pet.3:18)! When missionaries understand the gospel like this, they delight to tell others to believe like this.



Its Essence: What is its task?

“You will be my witnesses”

- **CONTENT** – *Missionaries know the basics of the gospel.*
- **CALL** – *Missionaries call people to repentance and belief in the person and work of Jesus Christ.*
- **COST** – *Missionaries choose to win the lost and any cost.*

Lastly, to be a missionary you not only need to know and believe the content of the gospel; you not only need to call others to believe the gospel, you need to be willing to pay the price.

As I was tracing this pattern of Luke’s message by noticing what it means to be a witness of Christ, I could not escape the repetition of suffering. As people believed in and bowed to Christ they began calling out to others to do the same. And this led to the predicted persecution. Missionaries must be people who choose to win the lost at any cost. Our missionaries are to echo the voices of the past missionaries; missionaries like...

- Lottie Moon who said, “Surely there is no greater joy than saving souls”
- Of Amy Carmichael “Her life was the most fragrant, the most joyfully sacrificial that I ever knew”.
- Hudson Taylor & David Livingstone at the end of their lives said, “I never made a sacrifice”.

Giving up the lesser things in order to enjoy the greater things is what our missionaries believe.

Its Extent: How far must it go?

- “In Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth”

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Its Extent: How far must this mission stretch?

“In Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth”

The second aspect of missions that we notice in Acts 1:8 has to do with extent. Where are our missionaries to be this type of witness? The verse says, “In Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth”. Christ’s missionaries know the basics of the gospel, are being changed into the image of Christ by this gospel and know that declaring it is costly. They long to see all people groups have a biblical local church. They want the gospel to be where it has not been (cf. Rom.15). The risen and exalted Christ moves His witnesses to the end of the earth. This geographic scope of the mission is clear. But how can this possibly happen? What do missionaries need? This leads us to the third and final aspect of missions.

Its Empowerment: How can this occur?

- “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you”

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Its Empowerment: How can this occur?

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you”

The demand to be a missionary in the way we’ve seen in the book of Acts is unattainable apart from the last element to the mission outlined in Acts 1:8. Notice the phrase “receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you”. This empowerment of the Spirit from the risen Christ is essential to the mission. From the book of Acts we could say that being a missionary empowered by the Spirit is being so full of the Spirit that they overflow with joy and peace in hard times and in hard places, have victory over cowardly living and are bold for witnessing (2:4,13; 13:52; 4:31; 7:54-60).

This is what we look for and this is what we pray for in our missionaries sent or supported at Clearcreek Chapel.

Mission and Purpose

- ♦ Mission
 - ♦ To make disciples and multiply churches among all people groups
- ♦ Purpose
 - ♦ To see the nations be glad and God be glorified
 - ♦ To see the lost rescued and the Christ revered
 - ♦ To see all the elect saved and the LORD honored

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Mission and Purpose

In light of Acts 1:8 and the biblical teaching on missions, let's look now at how this teaching shapes and steers our missions at Clearcreek Chapel.

Mission

To start let's answer the question: What has God called Clearcreek Chapel to accomplish in relation to missions. Our answer to this question is **To make disciples and multiply churches among all people groups.** This is the mission of CC missions' ministry.

The reason why we are to engage ourselves in the mission is plain.

Purpose

- To see the nations be glad and God be glorified
- To see the lost rescued and the Christ revered
- To see all the elect saved and the LORD honored

To labor at upholding and accomplishing the mission is to have a heart for the lost and a hunger for God's reputation.

How we are to help accomplish the mission in order that the purpose will be realized is set out for us in our objectives and goals.

Objectives and Goals

- ♦ To establish and support the mission committee
 - ♦ By providing elder oversight
 - ♦ By finding and appointing qualified members
 - ♦ By clarifying concrete duties
 - ♦ By heartily carrying out the duties
 - ♦ By meeting together prayerfully and regularly
- ♦ To be, send or support representatives of CC that will be motivated by the mission.
 - ♦ By fostering or finding qualified missionaries
 - ♦ By sending or supporting these emissaries in a manner worthy of God

Objectives and Goals

Our objectives and goals for our missions ministry are shaped by the mission which is shaped by the scriptures.

Objective #1: To establish and support the mission committee (The Missions' Team)

- By providing elder oversight
- By finding and appointing qualified members
- By clarifying concrete duties
- By heartily carrying out the duties
- By meeting together prayerfully and regularly

Objective #2: To be, send or support representatives of CC that will be motivated by the mission (The missionary/agency)

- By fostering or finding qualified missionaries
- By sending or supporting these emissaries in a way manner worthy of God.

Agenda and Development

- ♦ In April of 2005 revising the Missions Policy
 - ♦ To clarify roles and responsibilities
 - ♦ To provide better aid to our missionaries
 - ♦ To assist in casting the vision of missions for CC
- ♦ In March of 2006 revisiting the missions ministries
 - ♦ To see how missionaries are representing us
 - ♦ To unpack implications of our mission
 - ♦ To help the congregation (re)engage in missions

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Practical Implementation

- Materials
 - Lobby literature & Chapel Bookstore
 - The Persecuted Church Sunday
 - The 16-week training curriculum
 - 8-week evangelism training
 - 8-week missions training
- Scheduling
 - Mid-January Sunday School teaching
 - 3rd Sunday each month
 - Periodic speakers
- Training
 - Committing to the mission
 - Using CC's web site
 - Becoming a member of the Missions' Team
 - Participating in short-term missions

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Practical Implementation

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Conclusion

Great and amazing are your deeds,

O Lord God the Almighty!

Just and true are your ways,

O King of the nations!

Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name?

For you alone are holy.

All nations will come and worship you,

for your righteous acts have been revealed.

(Revelation 15:3b-4)

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Conclusion

Let us with one voice and one accord recite the words on the screen. These inspired words capture what missions is all about.

Great and amazing are your deeds,

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(Revelation 15:3b-4)

For us to witness missions ministry at CC increase in order to realize the mission...

This will require teamwork in developing a world vision and heart hunger.

This will require all of us providing help and hope for change.

This will require changing in values, attitudes, actions and activities.

This will require repentance.

This will require prayer.

This will require doctrine-induced, Spirit-enabled awaking to Christ's global cause.

Let's team up to make disciples and multiply churches among all people groups

And all this to the praise of His glory