

Tools In The Master's Service

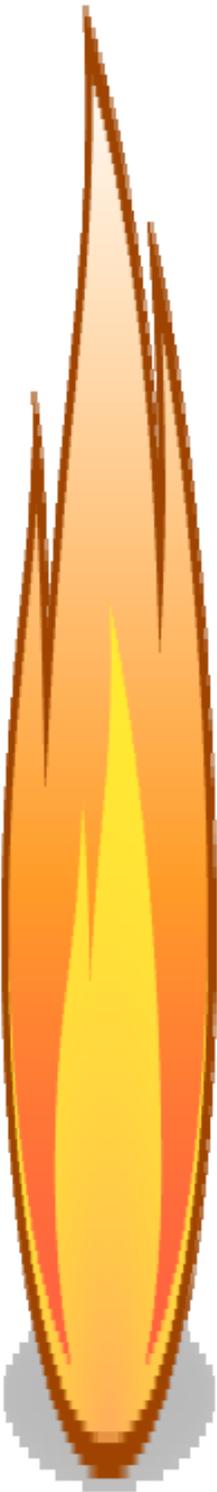
“Thou art my battle axe and weapons of war...” (Jeremiah 51:20)

Victorious Christian Ministry

Empowering Saints For The End Time Divine Harvest Of Souls

25 July 2010

“I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled?” (Luke 12:49)



CHRIST'S MISSION - MY AMBITION !

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5) is not just an advice but a divine mandate for all believers. Having the mind of Christ, and following closely IN HIS STEPS (I Peter 2:21) ought to be the life-time ambition of every believer worth his/her salt.

Speaking to His disciples, Jesus made it clear that **“It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his Lord...”** (Matthew 10:25). You may be asking “But what was the mind of Christ? What constituted his driving ambition while on earth?”

Jesus answered these questions - **“For the Son of man is come to seek and to serve that which was lost.”** Jesus' life and ministry was consumed in this one ambition. He avoided distraction of enforced kingship (a political appointment) so as to seek and save the lost (John 6:15). He suffered hunger, humiliation, shame, reproach and eventually laid down His life in order to accomplish His mission.

At the end of His life, He prayed to the Father **“As thou has sent**



“He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him” (Psalms 126:6).

me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world” (John 17:18). Ponder these: What did Christ send you into the world to do? Has His prayer been answered in your life? If the salvation of the whole world depended on you, how many would be saved through your effort by the time Christ returns? Is Christ's mission your life-time ambition?

Remember that **“For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake”** (Philippians 1:29).

Occupy Till I Come—A Mission I must Accomplish !

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“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:18-20).

When Jesus gave this Great Commission, He did not specify the methods for its accomplishment. It was therefore left for the individual disciples to work out the most effective methods for accomplishing the mission taking into consideration their peculiar circumstances and situations (e.g. people group, culture, generation, locality, etc). Over the years many have come up with various methods of accomplishing their Great Commission such as:

1. Personal / mass Evangelism
2. Friendship Evangelism
3. Media Evangelism (TV, Internet, Telephone, Publications, etc)
4. Specialist Evangelism (e.g. outreach to persecuted believers)
5. The Way of The Master
6. Prayer walk / Spiritual warfare
7. The Jesus Film
8. Spirit led, power packed evangelism, etc.

Though we can learn from others, yet a copycat approach often yields failure, frustration and mediocrity. God still expects you and me to use our brains and initiative to come up with innovative, Spirit led methods that will work best in your peculiar situations. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, explore and implement the methods that will yield abiding fruits in your situations.

Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling
(Psalm 2:11)

“IF YE KNOW THESE THINGS HAPPY (BLESED) ARE YE IF YE DO THEM”
(John 13:17)

Programme Schedule

- 13:15-13:30 Opening prayers and Song
- 13:30-13:45 Worship and Introduction (Christ's Mission)
- 13:45-14:00 Rising To The Challenge of Our Times
- 14:00-14:15 Tips for Successful Evangelism
- 14:15-14:30 Worship and Testimonies
- 14:30-14:45 The Reward of Sowing The seed
- 14:45-15:00 Rescue The Perishing
- 15:00-15:30 Occupy Till I Come
- 15:30-15:45 Sharing The Vision
- 15:45-16:00 Summary, Questions and Answers
- 16:00-16:05 Song and Close.

Teddy Roosevelt's Challenge

It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes up short again and again, who knows the great enthusiasms,

the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.



All power is given unto me... GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD, and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and of the Holy Ghost. (Matthew 28:17-18)

A Name In The Sand

Alone I walked the ocean strand
A pearly white shell was in my hand,
I stopped and wrote upon the sand,
My name, the year and the day.

As onward from the spot I passed,
One lingering look behind I cast
A wave came rolling high and fast,
And washed my lines away.

And I thought, 'twill shortly be,
With every mark on the earth from me,
A wave of dark oblivious sea,
Will sweep across the place.

Where I have trod the sandy shore,
Of time, and been to be no more,
Of me, my day, and the name I bore,
To leave no track, no trace.

And with God who counts the sands,
And holds the water in His hands,
I know a lasting record stands,
Inscribed against my name.

Of all this mortal part has wrought
Of all these thinking my soul has sought
And from these fleeting moments caught
For Glory or for shame.

Melted And Put Into Circulation

The emperor, Cromwell, found his empire so short of silver that they could not make coins. So, he sent out men to search for any available silver anywhere; The men returned to the emperor, explaining that the statutes of the saints in the great cathedrals were made of silver. It was then Cromwell issued this order: "Let us melt down the saints and put them into circulation". Melt down the saints and put them into circulation! O LORD, MELT US DOWN AND PUT US INTO CIRCULATION.

The Lord gave the word, great was the company of those that published it! (Psalms 68:11)



... Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 28:20).

William Booth's Challenge

At a graduation address to Christian workers leaving a training college, William Booth said, "Young men, If I had my way, I would never have had you here for years in this training college; but I would have put you in hell for twenty-four hours, so that you might have heard their weeping and wailing and their gnashing of teeth, and seen some of their torments. Then I would have let you out and

sent you into the world, to warn men and women to flee from the wrath to come. I would be sure of this, you would never take the work easy, or treat it negligently while you were in it."

We do not need to wait (like Jonah) for God to pass us through flame and flood, before preaching. **ARISE, GO AND PREACH.**



It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God
(Hebrews 10:31)

Teach Us, Good Lord...

**To serve Thee more faithfully;
To give and not to count the cost;
To fight and not to heed the wounds;
To toil and not to seek for rest;
To labour and not to ask for any reward
Save that of knowing that we do Thy will,
O Lord, our God.
Amen.**

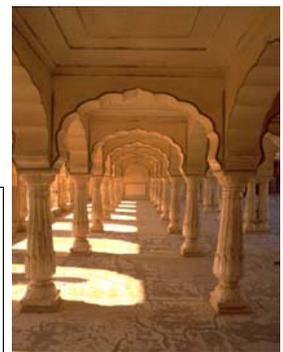
And they that be wise shall shine ... as stars for ever...
(Daniel 12:3)

A Challenge From C. Merrill Johnson

Five minutes after I am in heaven everything will appear in new perspective. Suddenly the things I thought important - tomorrow's tasks, my success or failure - these will not matter at all. Five minutes after I'm in heaven I'll be overwhelmed by the truths I've known but some I've never grasped. I'll sense that it was not just how much I had but how I gave - and how I withheld. I'll wish with all my heart that I could reclaim a thousand part of

the time I've let slip through my fingers which could have glorified my Lord. Five minutes after I'm in heaven, I'll wonder at my aimless earthly life. I'll wish - but it will be too late!

Remember, heaven and hell are real, and eternity is but a breath away!
"The Things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18)



What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and lose his soul? (Mark 8:36)

Whose Art Thou?

“It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his Lord” (Matthew 10:25) **“The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master’s crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider”** (Isaiah 1:3)

Recognition and acceptance of who we are and to whom we belong influences attitudes, behaviours and values in life. For instance, royalties and celebrities tend to act and behave in certain ways they consider befits the image they intend to portray. The Bible describes believers as ‘Royal Priesthood’. According to the scriptures, God owns all the earth and the fullness thereof by creation. Therefore, God has the right of ownership to the believer’s life, time, and possessions. Except we allow God to rule without a rival in our lives, we are not yielded enough to God. And except our time, money, and talents are spent as His Word, Will and Work demand, we are not in perfect, harmonious fellowship with Him.

I. GOD’S CREATIVE AND REDEMPTIVE RIGHTS

(a) ***Divine Ownership of All Things.*** The earth, the fullness thereof and the people therein belong to God by creation. Satan the usurper has subtly deceived people into believing his lies concerning who owns the earth. The believer must not remain in ignorance. All things belong to your Father (Deuteronomy 10:14; Leviticus 25:23; I Chronicles 29:14-16; Psalms 24:1; 50:10; Haggai 2:8; I Corinthians 10:26).

(b) ***Divine Ownership of all souls.*** “Behold All Souls Are Mine!” (Deuteronomy 32:6; Psalm 24:1; Ezekiel 18:4; Acts 17:28). All who have refuse to give themselves to God through Jesus Christ are robbing God of what rightfully belongs to Him. If he who robs God of ‘earthly dust’ is cursed, what is the lot of those who rob God of their souls? (Malachi 3:8,9; Revelations 20:15).

(c) ***Double Right of Divine Ownership On Believers.*** We belong to God, for He created us. We belong to God, for He redeemed us. We belong to God, for He watches over us. We belong to God, for He preserves us alive (Deuteronomy 32:6; Psalms 4:3; Song 2:16; Isaiah 43:7,21; Romans 14:8; I Corinthians 6:19,20).

God’s claims over us come first. I Kings 17:8-16; Matthew 6:33; I Peter 2:9.

II. APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO THE TRUTH OF DIVINE OWNERSHIP

What is truth? The believer belongs to God specially and completely. He does not belong to himself or to anyone else. In the light of the scriptures in the previous section, our life, time, money, possession and talents all belong to God. (Romans 14:7-9,12; 2 Corinthians 5:15; Luke 16:1,2,10-13). Happy is the believer who recognises and responds appropriately to this truth as he will not be ashamed or condemned on the day of reckoning.

The guiding principle we should live by and maintain throughout our lives is ‘to do all things to the glory of God’ and ‘spend all for the spread of the gospel’ (Isaiah 43:21; I Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17; I Peter 2:9; I John 2:9).

The most appropriately response of a believer to this truth is to give himself wholly to God. (Exodus 32:26; Numbers 8:14-18; Psalms 4:3; Proverbs 23:26; Romans 12:1,2; I Corinthians 8:3-5). God demands it. God deserves it. Love compels you. Unbelievers spend their time in night clubs, film houses, boxing or wrestling clubs. They waste time in playing games of all sorts; reading worldly novels, watching worldly movies, gossiping and dancing. Believers on the other hand are required to spend their time, money and energy wisely (Romans 13:13,14; I Corinthians 10:31; Ephesians 5:15,16; Mark 16:15; 2 Timothy 2:15; I Thessalonians 5:17; James 1:27; Hebrews 10:25; Galatians 6:9).

REWARDS FOR SOWING THE SEED

God has put in place universal principles that govern rewards for sowing. The Bible speaks about two types of seeds that believers can sow. The first is the word of God and the second is our treasures (time, finances, skills, etc). We have to make good use of the opportunities God gives us to sow both types of seeds in order to receive God's blessings. This message focuses on how you can prosper in life by giving to God.

There are simply no short cuts to the blessings that the bible talks of. Sadly many Christians want the blessings of the Bible but do not want to fulfil the conditions for them (e.g. regularly giving into the work of God).

God will never ask for what you cannot afford but He can ask for what you would have wanted to keep. Abraham would have preferred to Keep his Son Isaac at the time God asked for him to be offered as a sacrifice. Abraham's prompt obedience, not only spared the life of Isaac but also opened the door for divine favour and blessings (Genesis 22).

Some people claim that they cannot afford to give tithes. Such excuses hinders Christians from obedience to God, and deprive them of the divine means to financial well being. It is not lack of finances that keeps one from giving but the lack of faith and misplaced priorities regarding making God the number one in our life and treasures.

In 2 Chronicles 31:12, we learn that "... **they brought in the offerings and the tithes and the dedicated things faithfully**". Regularity (weekly or monthly) in tithing demonstrates to God the believers faithfulness. Like seed planted in the soil, it has the potential to fight its way up, face the winds, rain, snow, blazing sun and the world, year after year to eventually become a beautiful, magnificent and fruitful tree.

"And as soon as the commandment came abroad, the children of Israel brought in abundance the first fruits of corn, wine and oil, and honey and of all the increase of the field; and the tithe of all things brought they in abundantly" (2 Chronicles 31:5). The Israelites brought in abundance from their first fruits of their harvests. In the same vein, God will only ask from what you have, and the more you plant the more you will reap.

Your faith may be tested when the answer does not come instantly. God's delays are not His denials and it doesn't mean He is not going to answer. If you sow seed in the house of God, He will bless you abundantly. **"Whosoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whosoever sows generously will also reap generously"** (2 Corinthians 9:6). In return for faithful sowing, God grants abundance harvest, therefore you need to always wrap your "seeds" with faith.



Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, which is new Jerusalem... (Revelations 3:12)



"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit" (John 12:24).

“God loveth a faithful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7). Give your seed with faith for Satan is tormented when you give to God. God promises in Malachi 3:10-12 that if we are faithful in tithes and offerings, He will open the windows of heaven and pour out abundant blessings. Believe me, if you start sowing seeds today, you will be financially better in six months time. Most people are in a worse situation now than they were six months ago because of holding back. You should sow seeds in God’s work for divine results with specific responses.

Through the word of God sown into our hearts, we gain knowledge about sowing and reaping, seedtime and harvest, and giving and receiving. **“My son forget not my law, but let thine heart keep my commandments. For length of days, and long life and peace, shall they add to thee”** (Proverbs 3:1). If we want prosperity, success and blessings in our finances then we must base our financial dealings on what the Bible says. Note that:

Today is the seed for tomorrow,
My words are the seed for siblings,
Time and conversation are the seeds for understanding,
Confession is the seed for forgiveness,
Listening is the seed for knowledge,
Knowledge is the seed for changes.

The knowledge in my life has always been proportional to change. Pain never produces change. It only produces a desire for change. Money is the seed for financial harvest, because when you pay God’s bills, He pays yours. Every harvest is connected to seed and whenever you sow your seed, cover it with faith because God responds to faith. We need to sow both types of seeds so we can overcome any fear or doubts and we can confidently expect God’s many forms of blessings as He honours us for honouring Him.

You can not sow one type of seed and expect fullness of divine blessings. For example, you might know all that the bible teaches about giving and receiving as well as sowing and reaping but if you don’t actually step up in faith and start to give then the promises of the Bible will not start to work for you. It is impossible to please God without faith. **“But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him”** (Hebrews 11:6). Without faith you will not receive from God. Start sowing both seeds today and start reaping / receiving from God.

EVANGELISTIC CHRISTIANITY

Evangelism is defined as spreading the good news of salvation with the purpose of converting unbelievers into Christianity. *‘Evangelistes’*, the Greek word for evangelism means a *‘bringer of good tidings’*, and it occurred thrice in scriptures (Acts 21:8; Ephesians 4:11; and 2 Timothy 4:5). Evangelism can also be defined as God’s act of working through believers empowered by the Holy Spirit to communicate the good news of Jesus Christ to every person and people groups with the purpose to persuade the lost to come to salvation.

Evangelism is not the mere testimony of a good, consistent life. The quiet, pervasive influence of the Christian life is necessary, but it is not evangelism. Being friendly, helpful, and neighbourly may be necessary *preparations* for evangelism, but it is no *substitute* for evangelism. Christianity cannot be radiated; truths about God and his Son have to be communicated. Good deeds do not convey the actual content of the gospel; the good news must be expressed in words.

Evangelism Christianity (continued)

Evangelism, then, is the specific, articulate presentation of the message that Christ's death upon the cross propitiates (turns away) God's wrath which abides upon man in his unregenerate state (Romans 3:25; John 3:36). Evangelism is the presenting of Jesus Christ, so that men will accept Him as their Savior from the guilt and power of sin, and declare Him Lord as they seek to follow Him in their daily lives.

Euangelistes "a messenger of good", denotes a "preacher of the gospel," (Acts 21:8; Ephesians 4:11), **which makes clear the distinctiveness of the function in the churches;** (2 Timothy 4:5). *Euangelizo*, "to proclaim glad tidings," and *euangelion*, "good news, gospel." Missionaries are "evangelists," as being essentially preachers of the gospel.

"Jesus evangelized. He preached the "glad tidings of the kingdom of God" (Luke 8:1). Paul evangelized. He said, "I have preached to you the gospel" (2 Corinthians 11:7). Philip evangelized. He "preached unto him Jesus" (Acts 8:35). Evangelism in the Bible, then, was a ministry of the spoken word.

Evangelism means "to make known the message of the gospel." Since the only good news around is 'Jesus news' an Evan-

gelist can therefore be safely defined as a Public speaker on the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The task of soul winning should be the preoccupation of every Christian since we are saved by grace in order to reach out to others. Every Christian is therefore meant to be an Evangelist, and no Christian should wait to be ordained to do the work of Evangelism. Once a person becomes born again, he automatically becomes an Evangelist and is expected to carry out the work of Evangelism.

Evangelism is more Than a Commandment. The sharing the Word of God with others isn't an exclusive job of the "Evangelists". As part of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19), evangelism is a calling on all Christians. However, it is more than a commandment. It is an honor, a joy, and a pleasure! It is also important to show God's love. Our actions shout louder than our voices. We are living examples of the grace of God, and our attitude towards others should impact their lives for good.

Sometimes it seems that we enjoy talking more about an awesome movie than God's awesome love. It seems that we prefer to have a conversation about a good drink, and not about His living water (John 7:38). Why do we spend more time talking about our economic resources than the source of eternal salva-



"He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap" (Ecclesiastes 11:4).



"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit" (John 15:1,2).

Evangelism Christianity (Continued)

tion (Hebrews 5:9)?

How can we remain silent about God's perfect love? Jesus affirmed that we are the salt and light of the earth (Matthew 5:13-14). It's because of us that others can come to experience the enduring love of God. It's you and me who can reach out and touch the lives of our neighbors, families and friends. We can't change the hearts of people, but God promises to do that (Ezekiel 36:26). That's the actual miracle that doesn't belong to us. However, we can do what's in our hands and hearts, by sharing God's perfect love with others and letting that love be expressed in our behavior.

Evangelism is not a commandment-driven exercise for me - it is a God-given privilege from the heart! The reason I want everybody to feel the love of God is because I experience it. Because I know His love, I want everybody to know it. It's all for love! The same love that Jesus expressed for us on the Cross is the same love that flows through you and me. If we love our neighbors like ourselves (Mark 12:33), we should want them to have a relationship with the Ultimate Source of Love.

Those who performed the work of evangelism in the Bible had many different names: Ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20); Fishers of men (Matthew 4:19; Mark 1:17); Messengers of the Church (2 Corinthians 8:23), Defenders of the faith (Philippians 1:7; 1 Peter 3:15), etc. Those who were called by these names weren't just the "Bible greats," but also the church people, the "average Christians" (as many who aren't in vocational ministry call themselves).

The evangelism process isn't just something to talk about or leave for someone else to do. The Bible says very clearly that evangelism must be intentional in the life of every believer. From the Old Testament, before Christ had come, the expectation was that God would do as He had promised and send a Savior. Through the lives and commitment of the Israelites, they were intentionally proclaiming the name of the coming Christ. Many times in the Psalms the authors say that the Lord and His works are to be declared among "all people" and "all nations." Nowhere does it say that only those who have a specific title can evangelize, or that it only takes place by chance (see Psalm 18:49; 96:3, 10; 1 Chronicles 16:24).

In the New Testament, Jesus Himself tells His disciples to make disciples in all nations (Matthew 28:19, 20), so we can in no way excuse the command which requires us to evangelize. Paul the apostle also commands through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that "what you have heard from me... commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." (2 Timothy 2:2). So we see that evangelism is also to be taught to those you evangelize. It is not something that should be ignored or put off if you have a true heart for God. It is God's command.

Evangelism is conversational. What do you find most easy to talk about with friends or strangers? Sometimes topics can vary based on our understanding of people, but if we are to evangelize with our conversation, we need to be very open in our reference to God and our relationship with Him. There should be no shame or embarrassment in speaking of the one we claim to love.

Some may find it very easy to speak of God in any conversation, even to total strangers, but find it very difficult to live the life of a Christian that will motivate others to emulate. One thing is sure, that people tend to watch the lifestyle, attitude, and actions of those who share the Gospel with them in order to evaluate their sincerity. Therefore, evangelism is also a lifestyle.

Evangelism is love! Beyond talking about God and living our lives according to the Bible so that

others can see, if we are not sharing the love of God, we have missed an important part of evangelism. The Bible records many times that Jesus had compassion on the multitudes. He specifically told His disciples to show love to one another (which would attract the attention of the unbelievers), and to the lost. This love isn't an artificial, temporary love, but is the expression of God's genuine, eternal love.

Since we now understand the definition of evangelism as spoken of in the Bible, and a few of the ways it should appear in our lives, we need to begin implementing it into our daily lives. When evangelism ceases:

1. Christians wither, and are cut off for not bearing fruit (John 15:1-8)
2. Churches are removed from their relationship with the Lord, and die (Revelation 2: 1-5; 3:1-2).

Thus, evangelism is the Spirit of the Church. Just as the body without the spirit is dead (James 2:24), so Christians (and churches) without evangelism are dead!

Evangelism is therefore essential, not just for the saving of souls who need the gospel of Jesus Christ, but also for the saving of souls who have the gospel of Jesus Christ. Every believer has a role in evangelism, by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and / or support others who are doing so locally and internationally. Whether at home or abroad, let's make sure that both as individual Christians and as congregations that we never lose our heart for evangelism in all its forms!



“In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:2,3).



“He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame” (Proverbs 10:5).

EQUIPPING SAINTS FOR THE END TIME DIVINE HARVEST OF SOULS FOR CHRIST

As Christian believers one of the mandates of our Lord Jesus Christ at the climax of His life and ministry was for us to go and fulfil the great commission. In Matthew 28:18-20, “... Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

This is a commandment from Jesus Christ to his faithful and committed disciples, not only for His disciples of that time but for every believer of today. We need to respond by reaching out to people who are not in the faith or those who are in the faith but are confused or troubled; and share the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ with them. John 3:16 says for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Before we can effectively fulfil the great commission we need to equip ourselves for the task and challenges ahead, by building up our faith, commitment and zeal in the service of the Lord. We build up our faith by knowing God personally through faith in

Equipping Saints for End Time Harvest of Souls for Christ (continued)

Jesus Christ. Mark 11:22 says "Have faith in God". Our faith must be strong and unshaken whatever situation or obstacles that may come between us and the winning of souls for Christ. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen without faith it is impossible to please Him for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:1). Hebrews 11:4-13 tells us about men of God who were faithful and committed to their God-chosen causes. Enoch pleased God and was translated so that he should not see death.

We build up our faith through reading the word of God and growing in our personal relationships with God. Abraham's blessing came through personal relationship with God. Isaac inherited his father's blessing. After the Philistines attacked him he went on and dug again the wells of his father Abraham and build an altar to the Lord. Jacob, the third generation, came along and tried schemes and shortcuts to obtain God's blessing. Only when he had a life changing encounter with God at Peniel, did he re-establish his life on the foundation laid by Abraham and Isaac. Satan cannot penetrate a heart that is pure, saturated in the scripture and fortified by faith. It is by upgrading our selves with the word of God. Hebrew 4:12 commands us to 'Preach the word, be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine'. So, to be effective in reaching people for Christ, we must be well equipped with the word of God

We build up our faith through commitment and zeal in the service of the Lord. Commitment is devoting oneself unconditionally to a particular cause. Matthew 6:21 tells us that "for where your treasure is there will your heart be also." We must make total commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ, by making Him the number one in our lives as well as our compass for direction like Paul said in Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me". In our contemporary world an individual in any field or profession must be committed and zealous to be successful career-wise. Thomas Edison who invented electricity was dedicated and committed. After repeated failures, he didn't lose hope or give up, but kept trying until he finally succeeded and turned on the current. Professionals like doctors, nurses, musicians, business men and women who are successful are zealous and committed to their chosen causes before they are rewarded with medals or awards. The same is required of believers.

Finally, believers should pray for God to equip them with His power of the Holy Spirit so that they will be fruitful and effective in fulfilling the great commission of our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE COSTLY ALTERNATIVE OF UNWILLING SERVICE

"Because thou **servedst not the Lord thy God with **joyfulness**, and with **gladness** of heart, for the abundance of all things; Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the Lord shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things; and He shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee" (Deuteronomy 28:47,48).**

Tips For Successful Evangelism

Text: Matthew 10:16

1. Be yourself and natural when speaking. Do not try to imitate the accent, methods or styles of others. Jesus always spoke in His natural tone.
2. Focus on the salvation of the soul and not in making him or her a church member. Avoid criticising or condemning other churches, the government or their beliefs, but concentrate on the Word of God (Matthew 15:6,9). You can however warn them of cults and dangers of spiritual blindness (Matthew 16:6,12; John 3:16-21; 4:19-24).
3. First things first! Concentrate on priorities. Sinners first need the saviour, and once saved they will be ready for doctrines. Therefore, first get them to Christ before teaching doctrines (Isaiah 28:9; Acts 2:41, 42).
4. Do not fear to talk to anybody. Fear of man brings a snare (Proverbs 29:25). It is not laziness or indifference that causes many to fall, it is fear.
5. Do not wait for an impulse, a feeling, an impressions or even opportunity. If there is no opportunity, make one. Be like Jesus. 'Put on Christ' (II Timothy 4:2).
6. Do not create problems for people either in their lives or mind. Your Christian responsibility is to bring solution to their existing problems.
7. Avoid arguments, unnecessary questions and promotion of yourself. Sinners are sensitive of their ego and can be easily put off by what appears to be an ego-trip or self exaltation. (Titus 3:9; John 4:7-29).
8. Answer their realistic questions where possible. Philip started from the Ethiopian eunuch's question and led him to Christ. Understand however that it may not always be prudent to try to prove or explain spiritual things (John 3:1-10). Some Spiritual principles just have to be received, taken, accepted or believed by faith.
9. Be in control of the discussions and do not allow sinners to lead you from one subject to another for the sake of argument (John 4:19-21, 25,26).
10. Get the sinner to a DECISION FOR CHRIST. Do not always insist on a long process of conviction, confession and conversion. Let the Spirit work out the details. Learn from the conversions in the New Testament (Luke 5:4-11; Acts 2:37-41; 8:27-39).
11. As much as possible, labour to bring them to a decision at once (2 Corinthians 6:2), rather than leave them to think over it.
12. Do not act victorious or proud when you score a point. It humiliates the sinner and makes you lose the soul (John 4:15-19; Matthew 11:29). Your goal is to win souls not score points.
13. Never give up. Speak with faith, authority, love and compel them to come to Christ. Pray before, during and after the preaching. The devil's power and influence on the soul can only be broken by prayer.
14. "... He that believeth shall not make haste" (Isaiah 28:16). Do not lose temper, be impatient or in a hurry; and at the same time do not minimise what is involved. TELL THE TRUTH AS IT IS, AND LET THE HOLY SPIRIT DO THE REST.
15. Do not interrupt another Christian who is witnessing to a person. Wait for your turn, or if necessary, politely request for an opportunity to make your contribution.
16. Do not tell sad stories. Point the sinner to Christ (John 3:16; 2 Peter 3:9).
17. Do not have bad breath or noticeable body odour or other distraction. It repels sensible sinners whom you are trying to win (I Corinthians 11:32).
18. Do not insist on keeping sinners on their knees (Luke 11:9-14).
19. Do not emphasise emotions, dispositions are different. Faith first, feeling later (Ephesians 3:8,9).
20. Do not act familiar with the opposite sex (I Thessalonians 5:22).
21. Do not fail to instruct new converts regarding how to live the Christian life (John 8:31).

"He that winneth souls is wise" (Proverbs 11:30). "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him... ASK IN FAITH." (James 1:5,6).

A Vision Of The Perishing (A true Story)

About four months after his death, I had a dream that featured my late father. I kept this to myself for several years wondering whether it was a reflection of reality or just one of those inevitable nocturnal occurrences. If it was a reflection of reality, then it is loaded with pungent messages for the living.

In the dream, I greeted him and informed him of my further studies. He wished me well and enquired of my source of funding. He then advised me not to bother sending anything (from abroad) to him as he had already died and gone (from the world).

I then enquired of his well-being since departure from the earth, and he told me that his sufferings and torments are indescribable in words. He said that while still alive, he thought that his good works would be counted for him to enter heaven. He requested that I should pray for him as he hopes to spend the rest of his time with God after the sufferings. I then asked him how long the sufferings would last. He answered that he did not know as they were not told - that they were just brought into the "iron place" and the torments started.

As he attempted a description of the place, I woke up, thought about the dream for a while, then got up and looked at the time and it was 05.45 a.m. I then prayed for God to give me the grace and courage to rescue the perishing (who are still alive in the world).

As this dream was so vivid, I spent some time reflecting on what it really meant. Was God showing me what is happening in reality? Is God trying to get my attention on what I ought to focus on while I have opportunity in life? Is God trying to send a message to the religious people that are still alive and priding in their religiosity, good works and accomplishments?

While reflecting on these, I remembered that on the very day that my father died, he went to early morning prayer meeting at his local church. Immediately after the prayer meeting, he went straight from the church to visit and pray with the sick who could not attend that morning's prayer meeting. Every thing was normal for the rest of the day. In the evening he said that he was tired

and decided to rest in an adjacent room before eventually going to bed. At about 03.00 a.m. he was found dead on the bed. His death therefore came as a surprise as nobody expected such a sudden death from a person who was not at the time known to be sick. As I pondered over this several thoughts came to my mind:

- a. It is possible to be active on "the Lord's work" and get right down to hell? (Matthew 7:21-28)
- b. God is more interested in who we are than on what we do (activity).
- c. Every Christian should examine himself: where do you stand on the basis of God's work and not just on that of church activity?
- d. Soul winners and gospel ministers can be deceived to ignore the Spiritual needs of an active church "member" thinking that s/he is a candidate for heaven.
- e. The worst set of sinners are the religiously active "minister / worker" because s/he does not know that s/he is treading on slippery grounds. An average sinner on the street can easily / frankly confess sins when confronted with scriptures; but the average sinner inside the church easily pretends to save face!
- f. It is only when you know that you are sick that you can seek for medical assistance. Often new comers respond quickly to alter calls for salvation but the older generation (like the Israelites at the time of Moses) are as it were in a spiritual wilderness, wandering on their way to death and destruction, and never respond to alter calls. Their hearts are hard and the word of God no longer make impact upon their lives. They are out of touch with the living God and their convictions in God are now replaced with rationalisations in the head.
- g. Once in hell, any hope of an end to the sufferings is a hopeless end! For **"... it is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment"** (Hebrews 9:27)
- h. Make hay while the sun shines.

Whatever you make out of this vision, would you join me in this prayer? **"O God, deliver me from perdition and plant my feet on higher ground. Enable me to live a quality Christian life all the days of my life. Help me also, while I have breathe to spend and be spent to rescue the perishing. In Jesus precious name I ask. Amen."**

An Atheist's Challenge

"If I firmly believed, as millions say they do, that the knowledge and practice of religion in this life influences destiny in another, then religion would mean everything. I would cast away earthly thoughts and feelings as vanity. Religion would be my first waking thought, and my last image before sleep sank me into unconsciousness. I should labour in its course alone. I would esteem one soul gained for heaven worth a life of suffering. Earthly consequences would never stay my hand, nor

seal my lips. Earth, its joys and its grieves, would occupy no moment of my thoughts. I would strive to look upon eternity alone, and on the immortal souls around me, soon to be everlastingly happy or everlastingly miserable. I would go forth to the world and preach to it in season and out of season, and my text would be, **WHAT SHALL IT PROFIT A MAN IF HE GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD AND LOSE HIS OWN SOUL?**



Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12)

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A Believer's Challenge

When the Standard Oil Company was looking in the Far East for a man, they chose a missionary to be their representative. They offered him ten thousand and he turned it down. They offered him fifty thousand, and he turned it down. They said, "What's wrong?" He said, **"Your price is alright, but your job is too small. God has called me to be a missionary."**

No one can play an hypocrite in hell!

webmaster@victoriouschristianministry.org

A Preacher's Challenge

"Give me a hundred men who love God with all their hearts, and fear nothing but sin, and I will move the world."
(John Wesley)

God's Challenge

- **"Whom shall I send, and who shall go for us? Here am I; send me" (Isaiah 6:8)**
- **"The Lord gave the word; great was the company of those that published it" (Psalms 68:11)**



Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God (John 3:16)

VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Cardigan Centre, 145-149 Cardigan Road, Leeds, LS6 1LJ
(Worship services: 13:15 hours every Sunday)

A Communist Challenge

“We communists have a philosophy of life which no amount of money could buy. We have a cause to fight for, a definite purpose in life.

We subordinate our petty, personal selves into a great movement of humanity, and if our personal lives seem hard, or our egos appear to suffer through subordination to the party, then we are adequately compensated by the thought that each of us in his small way is contributing something new and true and better for mankind.

There is one thing which I am dead earnest and that is the communist cause.

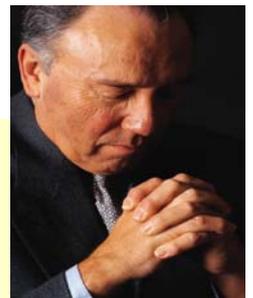
It is my life, my business, my religion, my hobby, my sweetheart, my wife, my mistress, my bread and meat. I work at it in the daytime, and dream of it at night.

I cannot carry on a friendship, a love affair, or even a conversation without relating it to this force which both drives and guides my life.

I evaluate people, books, ideas, and actions according to how they affect the communist cause and by their attitude towards it. I've already been in jail because of my ideas and if necessary, I'm ready to go before a firing squad”.

LEAD ME

**Lead me to some soul today
O teach me, Lord, Just what to say;
Friends of mine are lost in sin,
And cannot find their way
Few there are who would pray;
Melt my heart and fill my life.
To win some soul today.**



The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth labourers into his harvest. (Luke 10:2).