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Biblical Directives for Missions

Missions is the imperative of the Christian church. It is both a privilege and a duty. Missions is not an imposition upon the church for it belongs to her nature and should be as natural as breathing is to every human being. The mandate of

mission flows from her constitution, character, calling and design of the church. It belongs to a “called out people” (*ekklesia*) to convey the message of hope, life and redemption to those outside the kingdom of God. The specific task of the church can be spelt out as follows (George Peters, *A Biblical Theology of Missions*, 213):



The Christian church is placed under the solemn obligation to do the following.

1. **To present Christ vividly, intelligibly, attractively, effectively and persuasively to the world** and to the individual, as the Saviour of God, the sovereign Lord of the universe, and the coming Judge of mankind.
2. **To lead people into a faith relationship with Jesus Christ through repentance of sins**, in order that they might experience forgiveness of sins and newness of life. Man must be born again if he is to inherit eternal life and eternal fellowship with God.
3. **To congregate believers through the administration of baptism** and build them into functioning Christian churches. Christian fellowship constitutes a vital part of the Christian life.
4. **To establish the believers in Christian doctrine, principles and practices of Christian living**, Christian fellowship and Christian service, teaching them to observe all things. This is indoctrination and the making of Christian disciples.
5. **To train them in a life of walking in obedience to God and His Word and sanctification of the Holy Spirit.** Since the Christian life is charged with supernatural ideals and demands, it can only be lived in absolute reliance on the Holy Spirit and the Word. Unless the lessons are learned early, the Christian life becomes beset with frustrations and

numbness; apathy sets in, or people become conditioned to an abnormal and subnormal Christian life. This is the tragedy of countless believers who do not even expect to live up to the biblical ideals.

God Triune is the eternal author of all authentic missionary activity. The Trinity at work in the salvation of a soul is clearly delineated by the Apostle Peter in 1 Peter 1:2, *“Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.”* The Father conceived missions for eternity. He commissioned His Son to pay the pardon for the sins of many through His law-fulfilling life (active obedience), and his death on the cross (passive obedience) and the Holy Spirit to regenerate and dwell in the hearts of His chosen people. **The Bible given by God to us is a missionary book. It is about the “Unfolding Drama of Redemption” as Graham Scroggie fitly calls it in his book. We must probe and go deep in this book to gain a right perspective on missions.**

Three aspects are indispensable for proper biblical theology of missions. They are the:

1. Desperate Plight of Man
2. Gracious Purpose of God
3. Specific Mandate to the Church

Put together, these core concepts present the framework for the missionary endeavours of the church.

1. The Desperate Plight of Man

The whole approach of missions, according to scriptural injunctions, stems from the fact that man is totally depraved and is in a desperate condition of spiritual and moral despair. He is corrupted by sin and polluted to the extent that he can never save himself and will not seek God on his own accord. Biblical missiology acknowledges man's hopeless and helpless estate and asserts that only through Christ's atoning death and saving grace can a person ever be saved from the condemnation of sin, which is eternity in hell. It militates against universalism which is that all will be saved finally; and ecumenism which unites all faiths together in unity and peace at the expense of the truth of the gospel. Outside of Christ, perhaps the Apostle Paul can be accounted as the greatest missionary that ever lived. In his letter to the Romans, Paul's missionary perspective included a definitive treatment on the total depravity of man in Romans 1:12–3:20. A profound missionary perspective includes mankind's radical depravity and a passionate missionary vision of the salvation of lost sinners who are incapable of saving themselves.

Men are spiritually blind and dead in trespasses and sin, and are in spiritual bondage, caught in both original and actual guilt and pollution. The only answer for them is the Crucified Christ through the regeneration of the heart by the Holy Ghost, and a sincere repentance from sin. If the doctrine of total depravity of man is watered down, and man is seen as inherently good, missionary endeavours will be reduced to self-help schemes, social philanthropy,

economic assistance, external education and political liberty. The biblical doctrine of a sovereign God and His gracious salvation of a sinful generation will then be lost.

2. The Gracious Purpose of God

Salvation is sovereignly initiated and powerfully implemented by God in His gracious purpose and efficacious designs. Authentic missiology asserts that God will save men through the witness of His remnant, and those who are called by Him will definitely respond and be savingly redeemed. From God's mission call to Adam, "*Where art thou?*" (Gen 3:9) to the grateful worship of multitudes in Revelation 19, salvation is seen as the end of God's eternal plan and grace does everything for God's mission programme to succeed. It internally calls a person (Gal 1:13), regenerates (Rom 9:16), justifies (Rom 3:24) and sanctifies and preserves (Tit 3:7). **This perspective gives us two important elements in missions: confidence in God in the preaching of the gospel because of the authority given by God, and humility and the fear of God. If anyone is saved, it is not because of himself but by the gracious saving power of the Almighty God.**

3. The Specific Mandate to The Church

Finally, the divine end of biblical missions is made possible through the means of gospel promulgation (Rom 10:15–16; 1 Cor 1:21). The marching orders of the church is given unequivocally in Matthew 28:18–20, Acts 1:8, Mark 15:16 and Luke 24:46–47. The church is commanded to teach all nations or ethnic groups, to baptise, make disciples and indoctrinate them in the truths of the Christian faith. They are promised the power, and the presence of God to be with them till the end of the age. It is a commission backed by authority and responsibility. It is to be a perennial duty of the church, to save souls and nurture them in the Word.

Today, missions, to a large extent, has lost its scriptural emphasis and perspective. Many missionary organisations interpret missions as the changing of the social structures of society, to feed the hungry, educate the illiterate, eliminate segregation and help the poor and needy. I met a friend from the Salvation Army who told me that we can give to the homes and help them tangibly but no preaching of the gospel. **The absence of the proclamation of the gospel from today's evangelism has vitiated the distinctive commands of our Lord. The great need of the day is the recovery of the cross-centred biblical gospel back into the heart of missionary endeavours. The greatness of the commission lies in the pronouncement of a crucified and resurrected Saviour.**

Conclusion

We must not surrender this or substitute it for any other social, economic or political programme. As we strive to support various mission fields, may we ever be focused on this threefold fundamental biblical perspective: the desperate plight of man, the gracious purpose of God

and the special mandate of Christ to the church. This only will be the theocentric mission work worthy of our calling in our Lord. May the Lord give us a right perspective of missions, fervent zeal and a faithful spirit in the work of gospel propagation and missions till He returns.

Jack Sin

(Read John Piper, Let the Nations Be Glad ,IVP, 2003 and George Miley, Loving the Church, Blessing the Nations , Gabriel Publishing 2003)

A Burden for the Vast Harvest Fields

Sound the glorious gospel truths abroad;
Carry the Word of our Risen Lord;
Sing of His mercies and His grace;
Tell of His pardon to a sinful race.

Comforts resigned, and pleasures all
Forsaken, to heed the Master's call.
Finding real purpose and joy in life,
Amidst a world of terror and strife.

All praise to God who opens the door
To depraved, weak and penitent poor;
Rescuing sinners with gladdened sound,
Proclaiming liberty to lost sheep found.

Lord of the reapers, hear our plea,
While the harvest fields are ripe for Thee!
Thine is the Love through the night,
That those believing Christ shall have Light!

Jack Sin



To India With God's Love

MISSIONARY HYMN

JACK SIN

LOWELL MASON, 1792-1872

1. Good news from God a - bove, Is ours to share a - broad The
2. How shall they hear the gos - pel, un - less His truth is told? How
3. A - rouse the race of In - dians, Of Pro - phet, Priest and King And
4. To Ban - ga - lore in mis - sions, We are all one in call Now

Fa - ther's gra - cious sto - ry, In Christ, our ri sen Lord For
shall sin - ners be set free, re - pent with heart and soul? To
let the whole cre - a - tion, re - joice and shout and sing Pro -
let us be God's ves - sels, to save man from the fall. ike

neigh - bours near and far, The seed of life be sown. So
all who are in Je - sus, Im - part your life and soul Un -
claim his glo - rious po - wer, In na - ture and in grace Cre -
Sa - viour's great Com - mis - sion, Com - pels us from a - bove, To

spread the news to In - dia, And make tri - une God known.
til 'all hearts In - dia, have heard the gos - pel so.
a - tor and Cross Be - arer, The Lord of time and space.
pray and work to - ge - ther, That all may know God's love.

(composed this day, 1 Jul 2005 to the glory of God and for the sake of the gospel advance in Bangalore, India to the tune of 449).

Calvary Reformed Church Background & Ministries

Ps. Lazarus & Family

***As for Me and My House, we will serve the Lord.
Joshua 24: 2,15***

I am Ps. Lazarus pastoring the Calvary Reformed Church which is I am planting now. I have completed the Bachelor of degree, after college I have worked as an evangelist 11 years for Campus crusade for Christ. After sensing a call to church planting, I began to plant a calvary Reformed Church at Bangalore south India.



I am married in the year of 2004, my wife was an elementary school teacher, she worked 10 years in the school, but currently she works as homemaker as well as leads Sunday school and women's ministry in the church and serving the Lord along with me. God Has blessed with Kids, my son ASHIRVAD is 18 years old studying in Preuniversity college and my daughter ANGELIN is 13 years old studying 8th standard.

Church Background:

You are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Mathew 16:18

The Calvary Reformed Church planting work began by the providential guidance of the Lord for share the love of Christ people who never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. the work was begun in march 8th 2015 at Kalkere Bangalore south India. It was a very small beginning with one family and few children. The work started through children ministry.

As I look beginning of my church planting work on March 2015 at Bangalore, I have started church planting work with many sufferings and challenges, but the gospel of Jesus Christ has given me more courage to face all the challenges and it forced me to share his powerful word to people who are under the bondage of sin. so, **I have started to share the gospel with much burden and passion among uneducated and with completely unbelievers (Hindu- downtrodden peoples) at Kalkere, Bangalore.**

The spirit of God and light of the gospel began to work so powerfully in the hearts of people, then there are many peoples are repented for their sin and accepted Christ, baptised and God is adding his peoples in his church, people are growing in the knowledge of God through regular preaching & Bible study (every Sunday and other day). God is rising few peoples for the work of the Lord in the church and they are witnessing to Christ for his glory. So, this is the way God is enabled me to plant Calvary Reformed Church. Glory to God alone!

Present Ministry activities of Calvary Reformed Church as follows:

Let your light shine. Mathew 5;14-16, Proverbs 3:27, 19:17 & Mathew 23:11-12 & 24:40. **Son of Man did not come to be served** Mark 10: 42-45

1. Mercy ministries

- **Educational support to needy and poor children.**

The Calvary reformed church provides school bags, books, pen, pencil, and all other necessary items for school going children every year 100 children 5-7 villages to build relationship with community to share the love of Christ.

- **Educational and financial support to blind family and children.**

The Calvary reformed church provides financial help to blind family children and also all necessary items of education need of student.

- **Sewing machine provides to poor and widows women**

The Calvary reformed church provides sewing machines to poor and widows women to become self-support.

2. Sunday school ministries

- The Calvary reformed church conduct Sunday school Every Sunday morning 9:00 am to 10:15 before Sunday service to raise Godly children to raise Godly family, to raise Godly church and to raise Godly community by systematic teaching the Gods holy word, for the glory of God.

3. School of evangelism (Discipleship training)

- The Calvary reformed church conducting one year Evangelism training for 12 students for raising men and women for the work of the gospel and also to start prayer groups and plant Churches in the villages to reach the unreached groups for fulfil the great commission of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ.
- **Gospel outreach ministries by gospel tracts**
All the students with our church groups distribute the gospel tracts and book of John the gospel.

4. Literacy programmes

Through this programme we are educating the people who are uneducated in the villages.

To conduct literacy programme, we are selected 15 villages and trained 15 teachers. our vision is to educate 30 men and women who are uneducated to connect the community and witnessing for the Lord. (15 villages selected 15 teachers trained and reaching 30 peoples in each village.

Pray for the work of the Lord. Thanking you

With Kind regards.

Ps. Lazarus

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Memory Verse

Heb 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Lord's Day Sunday Worship Service! If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund.
2. Rev Tang Tuck Keong brings us God's Word this morning on "***The Body of Christ & Fellowship (Heb 10:19-25)***" continuing the quarterly series on "*The Nature and Duties of the Body of Christ*".
3. Next Sunday, Pastor will preach on "***The Body of Christ & Discipleship (Luke 9:18-27)***".
4. Sunday School classes after the worship service are as follows:
 - Combined Special Class on "Predestination" by Joseph.
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have systematic studies on Kingdoms, Covenants and Canon of the Old Testament and the Parables of Jesus. Join us for a time of profitable learning. [Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode:625551]
6. Pray for the **India Mission Team (Pastor, Angie, Dn Paul Tan, Eld Jeffrey, Sis Peng Ha)** as they minister at New Covenant BPCI (Ps Babu) and Calvary Reformed Church (Ps Lazarus) in **Bangalore** and CALM Church (Ps John Caleb) in **Hyderabad** from **31 Oct to 11 Nov 2023**.
7. While Pastor is away on India Mission Trip, Joseph will provide pastoral support. Do contact Joseph or Dn Yue Kay when assistance is needed.
8. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church. [Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode:218178]
9. We need willing hands and hearts to assist in the weekly cleaning of the premises. Do let Dn Yue Kay if you are available to serve in this area.
10. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**

Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.
