

Growing a heart for global mission



**A resource from CEM
for the Armidale Diocese
Year of Global Mission 2023**

Dear fellow workers,

I want you, for a moment, to come with me, in your minds, to that mountain in Galilee where the risen Lord Jesus met with his disciples (Matthew 28:16-20). Here Jesus sets the agenda for his church. It is clear – He wants his disciples to make disciples. Allow me a little poetic license and ask, is he looking down from the mountain to the surrounding towns and villages, or is he looking out further afield, as he sets this agenda? Yes, he wants his church to make disciples in the surrounding towns and villages, but his view is much more expansive than that, isn't it? In many ways Jesus' vision here is the same vision he graciously gives to the apostle John in Revelation 7 – a gathered church, worshipping the Lamb, from every nation, tribe, people and language. These bookends of the church's mission – Matthew 28 & Revelation 7 – are global.

In the Year of Global Mission, we hope to encourage you as you encourage your people in this global mission. Like the year of pastoral care, the year of discipleship, and the year of evangelism, the year of global mission isn't meant to be a year where we solely focus on global mission and nothing else, and then, in 2024, move on to something else. These are prompts to what is at the heart of local church ministry.

What follows are resources that might be helpful to you as you cast this global mission before your people. They aren't meant to be a burden, but an aid to dove-tail what you are already doing in your parish, as you seek to reach the lost in your towns, as you seek to grow disciples, as you seek to pastorally care for them, and, as you seek to partner with others who, under God, are seeking to reach the lost in many, many parts of the world.

For His cause,

Rev Nick Stone
CEM member

Parish Council Global Mission Review

As our Year of Global Mission approaches in 2023, we'd like parishes to spend time considering how effectively they are supporting global mission. These questions will aid your conversation:

- What would a healthy parish that is supporting global mission look like?
- Do a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis on where your parish is at with global mission.
- How could you promote global mission better in your services?
- What would help your parish's giving to mission?
- How is global mission reflected in your parish finances?
- Who is responsible for driving mission in your parish? What support do they need?
- If you are a small to medium size parish, could you move towards having a Mission Representative (if you don't already have one)?
- If you are a larger parish, could you move towards having a Mission Committee (if there isn't one already)?
- How helpfully do you communicate with your church as to the missions you support?
- What place would you like global mission to have in your parish? What steps do you need to take to make this happen? Who will do these, when, how and what resources are needed?

Growing a heart for global mission in individuals

Podcasts

CMS SANT “Heart for Mission”

“Salt – Conversations with Jenny”

Books

J.D. Greear. *Gaining by losing: Why the future belongs to churches that send.*

Andreas J. Kostenberger and Peter T. O’Brien. *Salvation to the Ends of the Earth: A Biblical Theology of Mission.* Edited by D.A. Carson. New Studies in Biblical Theology. Volume 11. Downers Grove, Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 2001. Reprinted 2006.

Bruce Dipple. *Becoming Global: Integrating Global Mission and your Local Church: A Practical Approach.* Sydney Missionary and Bible College, 2011.

John Piper. *Let the Nations Be Glad! The Supremacy of God in Missions.* Baker Academic, 2010.

Operation World/Pray for the world – Jason Mandryk, Patrick Johnstone – <https://www.koorong.com/search/results?w=operation+world&ref=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.koorong.com%2F>

Duane Elmer. *Cross-cultural connections: stepping out and fitting in around the world.* Downers Grove IVP, 2002.

David A. Livermore. *Cultural Intelligence: Improving your CQ to Engage our Multicultural World*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2009.

Mark Collins. *How can I support international missions* https://www.koorong.com/product/how-can-i-support-international-missions-9marks-church_9781433572319

Articles

Peter Adam – <https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/gods-global-mission-pray-go-pray-support-disobey>

Peter Adam – <https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/growing-gospel-workers>

Sam McGeown – <https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/no-youre-not-really-missional>

Conferences

CMS Summer School, Mt Tamborine, QLD

CMS Mission Encounter, Tamworth, NSW

Activities for kids

<https://www.cms.org.au/qnnswh/church-connect/kids/>

Window on the world – Molly Wall – https://www.koorong.com/product/window-on-the-world-an-operation-world-prayer-resource-molly_9780830857838?ref=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.koorong.com%2Fsearch%2Fresults%3Fw%3Dwindow%2Bon%2Bthe%2Bworld

Sermon series

The Book of Acts

1. The Acts of the apostles risen Christ – Acts 1:1-2:41
2. Apostles behaving bravely – Acts 3-5
3. The voice of the martyr – Acts 6-7
4. The unstoppable king – Acts 8:1-9:31
5. Favouritism-free zone – Acts 10-12
6. Road trip – Acts 13:1-15:35
7. Postcards from Paul – Acts 16:11-18:22
8. On the road again – Acts 18:23-21:16
9. Big trouble in Jerusalem – Acts 21:17-26:32
10. Rome or bust – Acts 27-28

(based on Matthias Media ‘Mission Unstoppable’ Acts bible studies)

“Global mission – Bible overview”

Genesis 12:1-3

2 Samuel 7:1-17

Psalms 96

Matthew 28:16-20

Revelation 7:9-17

“God of the Nations”

1 The Goal of History Isaiah 45:18-25 & Revelation 7:9-12

Big Idea: God’s ultimate goal for the world is the gathering of the nations around his throne in worship – that sets the agenda for his people.

2 The Gospel and History Genesis 11:27-12:5 & Romans 16:25-27

Big Idea: It has always been God’s plan to gather people from all nations to himself. (A sweep of the OT re the outworking of this promise)

Other passages to consider: Exodus 19:5-6; Psalms 86:9-10, 22:27-28, 67:3-4; Isaiah 2:1-5

3 The Key to History Isaiah 49:1-7, Luke 2:25-32 & Luke 24:44

Big Idea: From the beginning, God’s plans and purposes for the world have always centred on, and been brought to fruition through, Jesus. (Jesus as the nation, the temple, the king, the Son, the Servant.)

Other passages to consider: Psalm 110:1; Exodus 4:22-23a; 2 Corinthians 1:20

4 The Church Today Luke 24:36-53 & 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2

Big Idea: To believe in Jesus is to be caught up in his great purpose – the salvation of the nations. Other passages to consider: Acts 9:15; Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 10:33; Ephesians 3 (esp. v6); 1 Peter 2:9-12

Talks given by Malcolm Richards (CMS Tas Summer View)

Talk 1 – <https://www.cms.org.au/product/summerview-2022-talk-1-malcolm-richards-tas/>

Talk 2 – <https://www.cms.org.au/product/summerview-2022-talk-2-malcolm-richards-tas/>

Talk 3 – <https://www.cms.org.au/product/summerview-2022-talk-3-malcolm-richards-tas/>

Outlines

Talk 1 Acts 2:42-47; 4: 32-5: 16 (for the Bible reading at the conf we can leave out 5: 1-11)

Title: Taken over by Jesus

1. Introduction and Context- From the Known to the Unknown
2. Gathering and reaching out
3. Taken over by Jesus
4. Scattered by the Holy Spirit
5. Application – The cultural gulf of conversion

Talk 2 Acts 10: 1-48

Is the church mission ready?

1. Introduction – cross cultural training
2. Scene 1: Meeting Cornelius 10: 1-7
3. Scene 2: Peter’s Cross cultural training course 10: 8-23a
4. Scene 3: Cornelius believes the Gospel 10: 23b-48
5. Application – Is your church mission ready

Talk 3 Acts 11: 19-26; 13: 1-3

The Antioch Model – a Platform for Mission

1. Introduction – To the ends of the earth
2. How Antioch was established 11: 19-26
3. Antioch – the new Jerusalem 11: 21-26
4. Paul & Barnabas sent out 13: 1-3
5. Application – the repeatable pattern

Bible studies

“CMS – Pray, Care, Give, Go” 4 – part Bible study

“St Peter’s South Tamworth – Global Mission” 4-part Bible study

The Good Book Company: Alan Purser. Mission: Your Place in God’s plan for the Nations, <https://www.thegoodbook.com.au/bible-study/topical/mission-your-place-in-gods-plan-for-the-nations>

CMS: 1 Cor 9-10 – <https://www.cms.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Gods-mission-and-ours-Bible-study.pdf>

Mission in motion (thetravellingteam.org) 4-week series (video and free study guide) – <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/739104>

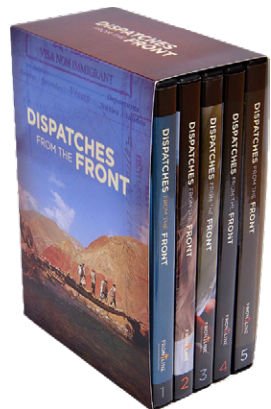
Mission in a changing world 6 studies (OMF) – <https://omf.org/en/web/au/post/-/custom/2021/6/22/mission-in-a-changing-world-bible-studies>

Missions (Navigators.org.au) – <https://navigators.org.au/lead-me/grow/missions/>

Matthias Media – ‘Mission Unstoppable’ – <https://matthiasmedia.com.au/collections/bible-studies/products/mission-unstoppable>

“Dispatches from the Front” video series – <https://www.dispatchesfromthefront.org/about-1>

<https://reformers.com.au/products/884501802956-dispatches-from-the-front-episodes-01-05-box-set-keesee-tim>



Parish mission representative resources

‘City Guesser’ <https://virtualvacation.us/guess> (a game where you’re given footage of somewhere around the world and you have to guess the place)

geotastic.net/home (Similar to the previous one, but with many different variations)

‘The Capitals Game’ – https://www.gameology.com.au/products/the-capitals-game?currency=AUD&variant=39612750037107&utm_medium=cpc&utm_source=google&utm_campaign=Google%20Shopping&gclid=CjwKCAiA9tyQBhAIEiwA6tdCrMM7CnbWLazAXoAOJoubklzNG0CR_56ZT0ojW6o8uWuY_-45TIhzNRoC7nIQAvD_BwE (A good game because it gets you off the screen – each card provides a picture of a flag and you need to guess the country and the capital, and it provides helpful information about that country too)

Trivia about your missionaries or their region (try True or False with everyone standing up and answering question using hands on head for true and hands on bottom for false, wrong answer sits down, last person standing wins!)

Have a dinner to raise awareness and fundraise for your missionaries... eat the local cuisine from their country, play games to educate your people

Put CMS Lasting Hope Sunday in your church diary

Have a world map in your church with a photo locating your missionary/s (if it's not a secure location!)

Write a letter to your missionary (get your church kids to write a letter to your missionary kids!)

Have a monthly mission spot in church

Have the church kids draw chalk pictures of global mission outside the entrance

Show your missionary's latest video at church

<https://missionsinterlink.org.au/resources/guide-for-churches-on-forming-a-church-missions-committee>

<https://www.abwe.org/blog/how-build-unstoppable-missions-committee-your-church-10-time-tested-fundamentals>

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58b7odb8d2b85748a0a0bf8/t/5fo4d853566b1fd57d8b53b/1594153043828/Missions+Committee+Download.pdf>

<https://globalmissionstoolbox.com/pastor-resource/how-to-start-a-missions-committee/>

Tips for establishing a mission committee

Some of our churches will be large enough to have a Missions Committee, other churches only a Missions Representative. In these Tips we refer to starting a Missions Committee, but similar principles apply for a Missions Rep.

The aim of a church Missions Committee is to promote mission within the church. This responsibility includes:

- raising people's awareness of what God is doing in the world,
- supporting link missionaries
- encouraging others to be active participants to "Pray, care, give, go."
- reporting to Parish Council and at the AGM

It is an exciting thing to be part of because what God is doing is exciting. A Missions Committee is more than a Missions Prayer Group because its focus is not just on prayer, but on promoting mission.

A good place to start is defining missions. For example, mission is any evangelistic endeavour outside our local congregation to fulfill the Great Commission by proclaiming the gospel of Christ, making disciples and gathering these disciples into local congregations, while relating to the needs of the total person (spiritual, physical, emotional and social).

Choosing People for the Committee

The committee is a group of people from church – whether a mixture of people from different congregations or an established Home Group – working together to achieve these aims.

The group may include:

- people who are interested in becoming missionaries,
- retired missionaries,
- the church minister,
- people on parish council,
- youth group leaders,
- or anyone generally enthusiastic for God's great plan for His world.

Before You Begin

Before starting a Missions Committee first speak with the Minister at church and see who they would think would be good people to help you in this. People who are already involved as leaders are good to have a part of the committee because of their ability to influence others.

As a group it is important to decide:

- what is the purpose of this Committee?
- For example: The goal of our missions effort is to win individuals to the Lord, equip them in the faith and establish churches that have the same aim in every tribe, tongue, people and nation (Acts 14:21-23; Rev.5:9). The Missions Committee will seek to guide our church toward the fulfillment of this purpose.
- how regularly you want to meet
- which missionaries and mission agencies you would like to support (maybe the church already has a link missionary).
- Write a policy to guide how the Missions Committee prioritises support – this is helpful to avoid making emotional or haphazard decisions; and to help the Committee to keep making good decisions as membership changes (see Appendix 1 for an example of Priorities)
- how as a church community you will support their missionaries – writing letters, communicating with other link churches, organising phone link-ups during a service, assist with home assignments etc ?
- write job descriptions for a Missions Rep, Chairperson of Missions Committee, and member of Missions Committee (include term of office)

The Task of the Committee

The Committee may want to work with the Minister to:

- committing to a financial target for giving to mission
- developing a church missions policy
- developing a Missionary Selection Policy (see Appendix 2 for example)
- promoting mission within the church service (giving updates about missionaries, developing a prayer roster etc)
- promoting CMS events such as Mission Encounter and Summer School
- complete a “Church self-assessment” worksheet to see how well the church currently supports mission (See Bruce Dipple’s book, *Becoming Global*)
- provide regular updates to Parish Council and a report for the AGM

It is important to keep in regular communication with your Minister so that you are working together and helping each other rather than doubling up.

Expectations of Committee Members

Agree on expectations for each member of the Mission Committee. For example, members are expected to:

- Attend the meetings.
- Assist on projects as necessary.
- Take an active role in the decision-making process.
- Continue to learn about global outreach by reading books and attending conferences.
- Pray consistently for God to guide our efforts.
- Devote much of their energy to furthering the missions program at our church.

Responsibilities of Committee Members

- Pray—Encourage intercession from the congregation for global outreach and for our missionaries.

- Strategize—Develop a missions philosophy with short- and long-range goals.
- Educate—Assist in providing a comprehensive missions education program for our entire congregation and the missions team. This will include information about the world and our missionaries.
- Mobilize—Utilize all the resources of the church (people, finances, contacts, facilities, etc.) to further the gospel. This includes offering short-term and other global outreach opportunities.
- Recruit/Train—Select and assist in the equipping individuals from within our congregation to become missionaries.
- Send—Support missionaries and nationals spiritually, financially and emotionally.
- Care—Provide practical assistance to missionaries while they are on their field and home assignments.
- Support—Prepare a missions budget and oversee the allocation of the funds throughout the year.
- Represent—Serve as a liaison between the church, our missionaries and mission agencies.
- Evaluate—Review the missions program of the church and make changes as necessary. This includes evaluating the missions policy statement as well as the ongoing support for missionaries, organizations and projects.

If you do write a policy or purpose statement, ensure it is reviewed every year or two, and discuss changes with your minister.

Appendix 1: Example of Priorities in Mission Support

Recognizing that there will always be more needs than we can fill, the following is meant to assist us in our decision-making. We have a two-fold missions strategy: mobilization and global evangelization. Mobilization includes our efforts to help our people become more missions active. This is primarily accomplished through cross-cultural ministry. Global/local evangelization includes our efforts to help complete the Great Commission. While there is overlap between the two, we have different goals for each category.

1. Mobilization Priorities

- a. Ministries sponsored by our church. This includes church short-term teams or any other cross-cultural ministries we initiate.
- b. Ministries sponsored by individuals from our church and endorsed by us.
- c. Other.

2. Global/Local Evangelization Priorities

- a. Missionary support: Priority will be given to members of our church.
- b. Strategic Partnerships: These ministries are more encompassing than merely giving funds. In these cases, our church commits to be an active partner in a particular ministry. This may involve sending short-term teams, hosting or attending conferences, sending our Minister to a site on a yearly basis, etc.
- c. Strategic Ministry Support: This category includes those opportunities where we can make a difference for the kingdom of God, regardless of any relationship or benefit to our church. We assist because it is strategic. We might not have any involvement other than giving. We may never see the missionary or national we support. This support could be for people or projects.

3. Church Priorities

- a. Priority will be given to church planting and to teaching of nationals.
- b. Priority will be given to those who have least access to the gospel (traditionally called unreached peoples).
- c. Priority will be given to training leaders who can then reach more people in their nation.
- d. Priority will be given to missions mobilization.

Appendix 2: Example of Missionary Selection Policies

A. Qualifications

1. All applicants must be in agreement with our Statement of Faith.
2. They must be accepted for service with a mission agency approved by the missions team. Tentmakers and nationals may be an exception in special situations.
3. They must have a proven track record in ministry.
4. They must demonstrate the qualities found in 1 Timothy 3:1-10.
5. Their home church must be in agreement with their decision.

B. Application Procedures

Applicants must:

1. Complete a written application.
2. Meet with the missions chairperson or representatives of the missions team.
3. Meet with the full missions team. If there is consensus, the missions team will then make a request for support to the Leadership Team.

C. Responsibility of Church to Its Missionaries

1. Remember the missionary in prayer.
2. Communicate with each missionary every two months.
3. Promote the work of each missionary within the church.
4. Encourage the missionary.
5. Send pledged funds in a timely fashion.
6. Assist in securing housing, furniture and a vehicle for the missionary's home assignment.
7. Work toward a partnership relationship with the missionary and his/her agency.

D. Responsibility of the Missionary to Church

1. Communicate at least every two months.
2. Give the missions team advance notice of any significant changes in ministry and/or location.

3. Spend quantity and quality time with the church during home assignments.
4. Provide the team with written yearly goals and an appraisal of the last year's activities.
5. Send the missions team updated support figures for each year.
6. Work diligently in team building/maintenance with all supporters.
7. Work toward a close partnership relationship with church.

Global Mission Study 1

Romans 10.11-14a

STARTING OUT

Share an experience or friendship you have had with someone from a different culture and different language background to your own.

WORKING THROUGH THE TEXT

Read Romans 10.5-14a

1. Looking at our passage what two things are necessary for a person to be saved? What do you think each means?
2. Paul says in verse 9 that anyone who confesses Jesus as LORD will be saved. He also uses the same word LORD in verse 13 when he quotes the Old Testament prophet Joel from chapter 2 verse 32. What does it mean to confess Jesus as LORD when you put these two verses together?
3. Paul emphasises that 'everyone' who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved. Can you see other clues in this passage that emphasise this?

IMPLICATIONS

4. What could be some of the implications of this for you:
 - In your personal life?

 - For us as a church family?

5. What type of people are you tempted to write off as being too fargone to be saved or at least not likely to be interested?

6. What are the implications of this passage for world mission?

7. What does it tell us about God's heart for different people?

8. 'A healthy church has a healthy interest in global mission.' Do you think this a good indicator of the health of a local Church? If so why or why not?

9. It is easy to think we are a welcoming church simply by the fact that we smile and try to talk to people from different cultural backgrounds when they are at Church. If you were a new member of a Church and people were kind to you and smiled, talking to you but that's as far as the relationship went, how would you feel over time?

10. What would be the next step to take from being polite and friendly to help those from a different culture feel welcome?

PRAY FOR YOUR MISSION PARTNER, or use these general prayer points for one of our church's mission partners:

Would your Growth Group like to “adopt” a missionary?

1. Let us know by filling out this form or emailing (see below)

Name of missionary our group would like to adopt	Growth group leader (or contact) Please include your email address	Any other info you would like? regular prayer news is available
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St Peters Link Missios:

Andrew & Margie Newman (CMS, Theological college lecturer/librarian)

Bruce & Libby (CMS, Medical mission, education, South Asia)

Robyn (Wycliffe Bible Translators, West Asia),

Katherine & Kimsoeun Seat, Evangelism, equipping church leaders, Cambodia

Gillian Law (CMS - Student ministry in Italy),

Kirk & Christine Franklin (Wycliffe Bible translators, Melbourne),

Robert & Margaret Love (NSW Representatives, Wycliffe Bible translators)

James & Jiji George (YWAM, India),

Alice (WEC, Evangelism/church planting, SE Asia),

Brian & Jenny (SIMAID, Projects & Crisis coordinator, based in Adelaide, SA)

Phil & Lauren Castelijn, aviation division of AIM, Africa.

Email completed form or drop it in to the church office

Email to: Ian Burton, ianburto@gmail.com

or

Margaret Orenstein, margaret.orenstein@icloud.com

Global Mission Study 2



Begin by each member praying for one person in Tamworth who doesn't know the Lord yet.

Use your envelope.

FIRST STEPS

Last week we were reminded that anyone (no matter what their background or what they have done) can call upon the name of the Lord and be saved.

Discuss as a group what you think needs to happen for someone to be brought to the point of calling on the name of the Lord.

WORKING THROUGH THE TEXT

Read Romans 10:14a

14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?

1. What is necessary for a person to get to the step of calling on the Lord?

2. What do you think it means **to believe** in the Lord?

3. Where does belief (which calls upon the Lord) come from?

IMPLICATIONS

4. “It is not enough to believe in the Lord to be saved!” Discuss this statement.

5. If someone believes in the Lord but doesn’t call out to him, what does that suggest?

6. How does this verse apply to global mission?

7. What must be at the heart of global mission?

8. If we use the word ‘nation’, what are we most likely referring to?

There are about 195 countries (nations) in the world today. In the Bible, ‘nation’ usually refers to ethnic or people groups. There are many unreached people groups in the world today.

Unreached people groups

What is an **unreached** people group? There are various definitions, but, simply put, it is an ethnic group (a group of significant size in which the members perceive themselves to have a common affinity through shared

language, religion, ethnicity, class or caste etc. or combinations of these) in which the percentage of Bible-believing Christians is quite small, usually between 0 – 2%. Under God, to grow the church in UPGs starting from such a small base usually requires outside resources. Hence the need for missionaries - evangelists, bible teachers and preachers in this early stage of church growth in unreached people groups.

Missiological interest in unreached people groups (UPGs) has gathered momentum over the last half-century. The majority of Christian mission agencies are seeking to refocus mission effort on people groups where the church is smallest ie. Unreached peoples. Even so, in 2021, the vast majority of Christian missionaries are still working in countries which have a significant Christian population ie. People groups, which would not be defined as ‘unreached’.

There are many thousands of unreached people groups in the world today. These groups can exist in one nation (country). In India, for example, there are many unreached people groups. Groups with different languages that might need to be learnt and also different acceptance/cultural barriers which might need to be overcome for the gospel to go out.

We need to ask the question whether there are churches (evangelists, missionaries) in those groups, who are reaching out with the gospel to others in their group. If this is not the case, Jesus’ commission to his disciples to reach all people should push us to ask: “How can we send people to these people groups? How can we help people in unreached people groups to hear the message of the life and hope that can be found in Jesus? Who will go and learn the language, learn the culture and tell people about what God has done for them in Christ?” Who will support (send, pray, care) those who go?

Less than 1 percent of all Christian giving goes toward reaching UPGs. Less than 4 percent of all Christian workers live among UPGs.

These are startling figures if unreached people groups are remotely the gauge by which progress with fulfilling the Great Commission is being measured.

The remaining unreached people groups are hard to get to, difficult to live among, and it will take Godly men and women of character and grit and good training—supported by churches with sober expectations (not measuring success by converts and churches planted)—to see churches planted among them.

Let's pray to the Lord about this.

PRAY

- Father, we pray that you would indeed make your name holy and exalted among all the peoples of the earth. That your Kingdom would come and that your will would be done here on earth as it is in heaven.
- God of heaven and earth, just like Abraham, David, Daniel and Paul who caught the vision for all the nations to know you, help us and all of your church to catch the same vision and live it out the way you want us to.
- Lord Jesus, just as you told your disciples to pray for more labourers for the harvest so to, we ask for labourers for a great harvest amongst the unreached peoples in our world.

Global Mission Study 3

FIRST STEPS

List as a group all the barriers you can think of that prevent people around the world hearing the gospel of the Lord Jesus.

Which are some of the biggest ones?

WORKING THROUGH THE TEXT

Read Romans 10.14b

14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? ***And how are they to hear without someone preaching?***

1. According to the end of this verse, what do people need in order to believe?
2. There are 3 main things God uses to bring someone to believe: 1) Preaching 2) someone doing the preaching 3) someone listening to the preaching. What do you think of when you think of preaching?

3. How is preaching different from:

- Seeking out truth/discovering the meaning of life yourself
- Working it out what life is on about by deduction and logic
- Having an experience (Mystical, vision, dream)

Read Mark 1.32-39

“32 That evening at sundown they brought to him all who weresick or oppressed by demons. 33 And the whole city was gathered together at the door. 34 And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

35 And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. 36 And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, 37 and they found him and said to him, “Everyone is looking for you.” 38 And he said to them, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I cameout.” 39 And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.”

4. Jesus healed many and cast out demons but ultimately Jesus’ priority when he was on earth was to preach (v 38,39). Why do you think this was a priority?

5. What do you think is at the heart of preaching?

IMPLICATIONS

We are prone to think that preaching is what happens at church when the minister gets up, perhaps behind a pulpit and delivers a sermon of 20, 30, 40 minutes. This may be one form of preaching but preaching may be done in other ways .

Preaching is speaking God's message to men, women and children. Speaking God's message can take various forms.

- It can be spoken to crowds, to smaller groups or to individuals
- It can happen in a monologue or in a conversation
- It can take the form of teaching, training, counselling or storying the Bible.
- It can happen through a letter, a book, an email, a testimony an app on a smartphone (check out the 5fish app – 'Gospel in every language' and more..
- Through Christian radio, internet...

The various forms in which God's message came to people in New Testament times can be seen in Jesus' ministry and is seen also in the ministry of Paul. Preaching fits into this. Preaching is declarative in nature and fits the character of the message and the character of God. God declares to us, tells us, proclaims to all people who he is and what he has done and what he is doing. Preaching therefore fits the fact that God chose to reveal himself to us. It is not us seeking God, or discovering him, rather it is God who speaks making himself known to us.

6. There are many people groups around the world with no-one preaching the words of God to them. What should we do about that?

- Individually?
- As a Church?
- As a Growth Group?

PRAY for effective communication of the Gospel (preaching), in whatever form it may take.

Global Mission Study 4



Begin by each member praying for one person in Tamworth who doesn't know the Lord yet.

Use your envelope.

FIRST STEPS

The last step a person needs to take to be saved is to call out to the Lord. Can you remember the steps that need to take place before this?

WORKING THROUGH THE TEXT

Read Romans 10.14-17

14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" 17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

1. What is the link between preaching and sending?

2. Who do you think does the sending?
3. Why are the feet of those who bring good news beautiful?
4. Where does faith come from?

IMPLICATIONS

5. Do you know of any ‘unreached people groups’ represented in Tamworth?
6. Do you know of any ‘unreached people groups’ in Australia?
7. What can we be doing to obey the Lord’s command to take the gospel and make disciples in all the nations - to all people groups?
8. A rule of thumb (*since God wants us to give out of generosity and not out of compulsion*) is to give 10% for the furthering of the Gospel. We tend to give to the local church – but what percentage of this 10% do you think should go to making Jesus known amongst unreached peoples?

PRAY

- That God will help each of us to grow in our understanding of His global purpose and to show us how we can play our part. Whether it’s to go or to support someone who is serving cross-culturally.