

## THE GOSPEL HAS A PULSE 29.7.18

The heart of God has always been, will always be to bring life, to send life. (Illustration of human heart – how much it pumps and how far it traverses to keep us live). Just like blood courses through our body, the Gospel is coursing through humanity – some pulses are weak and thready; some are throbbing; some are slow and inconsistent; some are fast with the pressure. Jesus promised that 'this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations and then the end will come.' Matthew 24.

While blood flows, we breathe. While a river flows it brings life wherever it goes, must keep flowing or it is given over. The good news of Jesus Christ must keep flowing and this is why Jesus came as sent from the Father and this is why He said 'as the Father has sent Me so I am sending you'

He brought good news in bringing Himself. He is the very news Himself. Gospel, the noun: Gk: 'evangel' 'good message'; the verb: 'evangelise' - to preach: to announce, bring, show, declare the good message. An 'evangelist' is a 'preacher of the gospel' – the gift though is also to perfect the saints for the work of the ministry – to prepare believers for the effort that's needed for that ministry to be attended to - to build the body of Christ up in the area of evangelism. Even shy people will speak boldly of what they are confident in.

We could keep preaching the gospel to ourselves and it's a great message but the gospel is the outgoing pulse – it has to keep traversing – it's not self-propelled, it has to be shared/pumped – this is why we partner in the Gospel. We share in its continuation; it's rewards and sufferings. The dignity and destiny God calls us to are only found in fulfilling this call.

The good news, evangelism sit under the broader folder of mission. The word Mission comes to us from Latin – it parallels the Gk apostello – 'to send' and this is Father's will, that we would bring/send the good message. 'Apostello' – means to be set apart and sent out, dispatched under orders.

From Romans 10:9-10 we understand 'whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' Look further to v14ff:

*<sup>14</sup>How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? <sup>15</sup>And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"*

God has always been sending. He sends the rain; He sent His Word and healed us; He sent Joseph to Pharaoh (Genesis 50:20 as supported by 45:3-8); He sent judges, He sent kings, He sent prophets, He sent priests. He sends angels – still – Hebrews 13:2 'don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.' Angels – are dispatched messengers... God sends people to help us – 'godsend'

For God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son so that whosoever believes on Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16. In John 17:3 Jesus said: 'This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.' And in John 20 in between His resurrection and ascension Jesus said v21 'So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

Remember Isaiah – beautiful encounter with God – overheard the voice of the Lord saying 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Isaiah's response – 'Here am I! Send me.' He had repented of his bad mouth and his mouth found dignity, destiny; he had a revelation of being clean; his iniquity and sin having been taken away – he could therefore fully respond 'Send me.' Not 'pick me' but send me. He knew He was picked – he was ready now and wanted the dispatch – the commission – the detail – the order – the mission. And God said 'Go, and tell'

Something beautifully familiar in Mark 16: *<sup>15</sup>And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup>He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. <sup>17</sup>And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; <sup>18</sup>they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."*

Mark 16:19 say that Jesus was received up after He spoke those words. Last words are always critical.

Matthew 28:<sup>18</sup> *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.* <sup>19</sup> **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,** baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: <sup>20</sup> *teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. KJV*

We cannot avoid the 'go': two little letters – it means to traverse – to travel – to take a journey. The last three verses are titled 'The Great Commission: why a commission – because Jesus has all authority to give the charge and he has entrusted that authority to us. 'Com'+ 'mission' means **sent together** and with (New Testament) focus for all the world, for all nations (all 'ethnos' – all races, tribes, all peoples) not only their own community.

Acts 1:8 *'But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.'*

There was no small revival after the Holy Spirit was poured out. It seems Jerusalem had her fill of witnessing, spirit filled joyful life, preaching every day, provision, thousands being saved, healed, delivered, added, taught, - not sure how long this was but it isn't until Saul steps into the scene in chapter 8 that we see the Church scattered to Judea and Samaria... Saul's on the warpath trying to catch all the scattered Christians to bring them back to Jerusalem... of course the enemy would want everyone back home. Saul is as far out as Damascus – about 350+kms from Jerusalem trying to contain the spread of the gospel. We see the Holy Spirit move Philip to preach to an Ethiopian – leads him to Christ and baptises him – that man had come up to worship; (the head of the treasury) is going 2641kms back to Candace, the Queen the Ethiopians ... someone had handed him a (not a NT ☺) but a copy of Isaiah. (Remember the Queen of Shebha who visited Solomon. Sometimes what is done is setting up events generations, centuries forward. We need only to be obedient, not reliant up seeing results. Jesus caught Philip up – he was found at Azotus preaching through all the cities on his way to Caesarea. Saul is arrested by Christ, saved and after some time begins to preach everywhere – again there come a rest across the churches in all Judea, Galilee & Samaria, so enters King Herod that the Church be shaken and scattered even further. 'We didn't come this far to come this far.'

Holy Spirit falls on the gentiles.... You can read from chapter 13 – Paul's missionary trips... went as far and as wide as they could. Recall the call to Macedonia, etc. They planted Churches and nurtured Churches but Paul never moved away from the gospel ... he said everything he did was for the sake of the gospel. He avoided somethings that the gospel wouldn't be maligned; and he did all manner other things in order that he might save some. His great concern for all the Churches would have included that they would hold course, holding to the preaching of the gospel.

Mission then fits under the great commission... it never needs to change. Mission as we understand it: out of our love and relationship with Jesus Christ, we would love all people. Because we are a church, the gathering of believers, we are the sent ones and we are sent together; we send together in partnering in the gospel.

1. Our first commitment is each individual's commitment to share with people, face to face living a 'good message lifestyle.
2. Corporately is our evangelism and activities that facilitate it (please see the last page for further details and check out the Mission board now located in the main foyer) including our ministries and benevolent operations – as part of our social responsibility which displays God's wisdom and kindness – we become the face of God, the face that helps bring the outside's perception of Church into alignment with who He really is; it's the kindness of God that leads men to change their minds – understanding that ultimately the greatest need is spiritual is on our minds whilst we serve in this way.
3. Missions: our 'cross culture' operations in other nations (last page)

Paul was absolutely fuelled and persuaded that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation, unto sozo life. He knew to preach the gospel comes first from the command of Jesus Who has sent each one of us out. This is what we signed up for – we are become his messengers – called to be His witnesses, His 'sent ones'. Paul knew that the initial purpose of being filled with the Holy Spirit was empowerment to be that witness. Paul knew that this call was to all nations and He knew that Jesus Himself accompanies the preaching of the gospel with signs and wonders. Some went about preaching; some through personal conversation; some by invitation; some by a meal with friends and/or strangers; some by testimony – making the most of every opportunity.

- The gospel has a pulse because it pumps out the heart of God and the mercy and justice of God for mankind to be saved
- The gospel has a pulse because God wants to be represented correctly
- The gospel has a pulse because there's always another generation that need to hear. God intervenes sometimes but the Church is plan A to finish the work that Christ started.

If we are going to use the term 'missionaries' it is good to be reminded that 'we' are the sent ones. We can't be put off by methods or fear - the Holy Spirit is not limited and there is specific wisdom for every situation. We must be an alert, awake and intentional people. Mission is not tucked away where Christ is front and central.

### Sun City Christian Centre Mission



#### Our 'Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria' – Australia

- SCCC: FunCity, Sun City Youth, Sun City Care and all benevolent operations (food distribution, shelter and rehabilitation/restoration, Wandalgu) – all ministries sit under 'Loving God! Loving People! Loving Life!' with the understanding of 'making the most of every opportunity' and souls in mind, gospel preached
- Chaplaincy – schools and hospital (Geraldton)
- Midwest Disaster Relief (Geraldton)
- Australian Aboriginal Outreach Ministries (John & Jenny David, Carnarvon)
- Christ for All Children, Ivan & Jane Mills, Perth & International
- One off donations to Mission to Seafarers, Bible Society and other emergency relief causes when they arise

#### Our 'ends of the earth'

- ACC International Missionaries: South East Asia, Central Asia, South Africa, Japan & One Life Program
- 'House of Hope, Ps Gayle Dwije, C3 Bali
- Shane & Jemima Paxa, Ukraine
- International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, Israel
- ACC Emergency Relief projects when they arise
- Churches planted previously through Empart, Gospel for Asia, India



#### Current initiatives (yellow):

- Pedal-it-Forward – Water for Africa, Tanzania
- Water for Africa – Zimbabwe
- Project to assist women/babies – Cambodia
- Building project, Shane Paxa – Ukraine
- FunCity, Mission Trip – India (September)
- Trip to Kolkata, India (November)

We, each one, are sent because Jesus said 'Go' - with mission in mind, our heart will beat stronger with and for the Gospel. We are currently dreaming and strategizing how we can increase our efforts in the gospel and multiply the funding of the gospel. Ps Jack Hanes: 'His last command must be our first priority.'