

"In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. That light shines in the darkness, and yet the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:4-5).

We are all living in a time with much darkness. Yet, the Light of Jesus is shining through the darkness in every corner of the earth. There are still regions where we have work to do to make His name known and carry the light. However, more than ever before in the history of man, we have the opportunity to carry that light into every community. The power of Pentecost is still



working its way through the church, and we are still on mission. God is at work all around us, and He has invited us to join Him in this amazing journey to make His name known and help bring people to the foot of the cross.

With the outbreak of COVID-19, many things changed for all of us. Our daily schedules were interrupted by quarantines and daily briefings. The journey through this pandemic has not been easy. Struggles remain around every turn in the days ahead. However, none of this has changed the truth of His Gospel! The Light of the world remains active and working in and through us. We must remain committed to His Kingdom plan and His Gospel message.

In the midst of news reports and posts about what to do or what not to do, the Word remains our standard by which we make our decisions in this journey. The Bible is clear and has remained the same through countless disasters, pandemics, and tragedies. It is the responsibility of the church to make His name known and to celebrate His goodness and His grace. In the middle of such polarizing political discussions and division among the powers of this world, the God of creation remains focused on the salvation of all people through His Son! Travel restrictions and warnings remain in many places around the world. The time for travel all over the globe is not quite here. But, we cannot wait until the door opens to prepare to walk through it. Many countries have begun to open their borders back up and replace strict protocols with more travel friendly guidelines. With all that's happening, we need to prepare to once again go to the nations.

The pandemic has in some ways forced us into a world that is inwardly focused. Many of us have been monitoring our own health and the conditions of our world right around us. This has caused a loss of the cultural sensitivity to the need for cross-cultural ministry. Some of us have not felt the nudge of the Holy Spirit to consider where and when we need to leave our comfort zone and engage others in another context with the truth of the Gospel. Yet, opportunities are opening up, and we need to be answering the call.

In the coming weeks, more information will begin to be shared about going to the nations. We are already seeing this happen with certain areas around the world. Please join us as we pray for wisdom and discernment for the next steps in reengagement after a pandemic. The protocols and logistics are going to be different. The costs involved will be greater. The challenges may seem more extreme. Yet, the Gospel remains the same! His Word will endure forever! The light that came is still setting people free from sin and death! Let's pray intensely together about the opportunity that is before us to Reach the World and Teach the Word! Commit today by contacting us by email or phone to share your desire to be on a team in the coming

months. Begin now to arrange those days and weeks in the next 12 to 24 months so you can GO make disciples among the nations. Join us at One Way Ministries as we celebrate 20 years of ministry by pressing on into the



field and continuing to share and show the Gospel!

People often ask the question, " What is my purpose in life?"

Matthew 28:18-20 tells the story of when Jesus met with His disciples at the top of a mountain in Galilee, where he had told them to go. He gathered them there because He had some things He wanted them to know. He knew He would not be with them much longer so we could say it was His farewell address....The Great Commission. He shared that all authority, in Heaven and on Earth, had been given to Him, and He was then instructing them of their purpose on Earth. They were to "go out and <u>make disciples</u> of all nations, <u>baptizing them</u> in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." They were to "teach them to <u>obey</u> <u>everything"</u> that He had commanded. Finally, He encouraged them by saying, "Surely I am with you always to the very end of the age."



The plan that He laid out for His disciples is the same plan He has laid out for us... this is our purpose in life!

Once we place our trust in Jesus and choose to follow Him, it changes who we are and what we do. Many times we are identified by *what* we do...our careers. But when we are saved and baptized, our identity becomes in Christ. If we say we have placed our trust in Jesus and choose to follow Him, we must also be obedient. Part of that obedience is sharing him with others.

Do we believe what we say we believe? If we really believe that we have been transformed and we want our friends, family, and everyone we know to have that also, then we should share the news!

Did you know? Most believers, around 90-95%, have NEVER shared the Gospel?

We all know that we do things when we are motivated. Motivation is a driving factor for us - diets, exercise, work, etc. The same is true for evangelism. We will never share if we are not motivated to do so.

Be honest, how motivated are *you*? Romans 9:1-3 helps us evaluate how motivated we are to share the Gospel. Paul wrote, "I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit—I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, the people of Israel."

In order to have a heart like Jesus, be His disciples and carry out our purpose in life,

- We must be people who are consciously aware of who needs to hear the Gospel, having a heart that hurts for those who are lost.
- We must show as much passion for the lost as we do for other things in our life.



•We must care for people with our whole hearts.

•We must do what motivates us to ensure we are sharing Christ with others.

•WE must be willing to sacrifice.

I urge you friends to be bold. Don't hold back. Be motivated. There is no greater time than NOW. We need to be living the life that Christ has purposed for us.

Karen

