

MARCH NEWSLETTER

Good Works versus Missions

Matthew 25:35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: 25:36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. 25:37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? 25:38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? 25:39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? 25:40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Romans 10:14 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?

Good works (helping others) should be our response to having God's love in us. God calls us to love our neighbors and it is a requirement. He expects us to do this out of love, worship and obedience to Him.

Missions IS sharing the gospel and often we use good works as the entry point to be able to share the gospel with others. If the Red Cross can do it, it's not missionary work. It is only "missionary work" if we are sharing the gospel. We are all called to be "missionaries" in our daily lives and to spread the Word of Jesus every day. We are not immune or exempted from the call to be a missionary - we just do it where we are planted.

When we are doing Church outreach work in our communities, we should be striving to use those opportunities to be missionaries and share the gospel.

What can we do to help missionaries?

Here are a few suggestions:

- Prayer is good for both the sender and receiver and it is completely cost free.
- Fasting lends focus and intensity to our prayers. There is no financial cost attached to this activity either.
- Funding goes to help purchasing Bibles, medical supplies, care packages, and other special needs especially in times of crisis.
- Money also helps in the building of churches and income for the missionaries themselves.
- Encouragement is very low cost and can be invaluable to those in the field. Just a word or two on a facebook post might be just the fuel someone needs to get up and get back to it when it gets difficult personally for them.

This list is not all inclusive of course. Use your imagination on how best to serve others. The key to mission work, is to then use your hands and feet...