

BURUBURU COMMUNITY CENTRE CHURCH OF GOD NAIROBI

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“MAKING HIM KNOWN: MISSION & EVANGELISM PART 1”

Introduction: There is need to train missionaries for the work of missions. Indeed “the harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.” Matthew 9:37-38. Missions are the life blood of the church.

Mission is not:

1. Moving from the west to the rest
2. A hobby or adventure
3. What man can do for God

Mission is God’s heart, passionately beating for a lost world. Remember God had but only one son and he made him a missionary.

Walter Eric says the following, “Missions is the mother of the church”. If no missionaries had come to Africa probably our church would not have been there. We could not enjoy singing, dancing and worship. As children of God we need to ask ourselves, “do we care for yet unreached and forgotten people in our country, Africa and the whole world?”

If we want the 21st Century to be the greatest century of missions and revival then we will need to learn from the Christian pioneers whom God used in the 1800s and 1900s.

If we are to be more effective in world missions we must prayerfully examine what inspired these incredible pioneers and the successful strategies they used. The missionary pioneers of the 19th century present the most inspiring examples of Christian courage and perseverance especially when we consider the very limited resources available to them, the overwhelming difficulties, dangers and obstacles which they needed to overcome.

Alongside the successful missionary activities, there were those who have attempted to discredit their work. Professor Ds. Nico Smit once slandered the saints by saying, “the missionaries did not believe that black people had souls. They taught that Africans were the firewood of hell!” When asked which

missionary said these words he had no answer but drifted off into some heartless church members who had bad relations with people of other races.

Dr. David Livingstone had to walk across an Africa that had no roads, no bridges, no shops and no hospitals. Neither was clean water available. After his first missionary journey, he reported the following: “I have drunk water swarming with insects, thick with mud, putrid with rhinoceros urine and buffalo dung”

On over 60 occasions he was mauled by a lion, charged by rhino and laid low with fever. He walked for days in wet seasons of pouring rain, totally drenched but he persevered across the continent. Hostile tribes demanded exorbitant payments for passing in their territory, his life was often in danger from Muslims and slave raiders. The afflictions Livingstone was called to endure while opening up Africa for the gospel, and opposing slave trade, tested the limits of human endurance. He was plagued by leeches, maggots, putsi flies, cholera, pneumonia, sunburn, huge soars, tropical ulcers and malaria. But he remained steadfast for the gospel to reach us.

In New Zealand, Samuel Marsden pioneer missionary witnessed the depth of degradation and the hold of superstition over the Maori people, when the widow of the deceased chief hanged herself with the approval and applause of her parents and brothers. Cannibalism was rife amongst the Maori. One woman confessed that she had killed and eaten 19 children.

Missionaries to the New Hebrides, found human sacrifices and cannibalism rife throughout the Pacific. In Fiji, two-thirds of all children were boiled and eaten. Every village had a human butcher. Aged parents were butchered and eaten by their children. Men would even cook their best wife or child as a special feast for their friends.

Other men who were influential:

1. John Knox: He prayed; “Lord give me Scotland or I die”
2. The Hebrides brethren prayed; “Lord use us or kill us”
3. The brethren from England who brought the fire from Azusa street gathered every Sunday under the terrible cold and prayed; “Lord give us men that will spread your fire in the streets of England”
4. William Seymour prayed; “Lord, this is another day that hell must loose men and women. Please we are here use us”
5. Paul said; “Woe is me if I don’t preach the gospel”.

6. Rev. Bishop Alexander Muge was threatened by Hon. Okondo not to go to Busia to preach the word of God for he will not come out alive. Rev. Henry said, “For the cause of the gospel I must go”. Indeed he died while on his way back. (He wrote the book church and state in East Africa)
7. Bishop David Gitari, a man who was very influential and believed that the state should listen to the church, this is a man who faced the retired President Daniel Moi and told him that the church has a big role in the affairs of the nation. (He wrote the book let the Bishop speak)

But what is the prayer of the church today?

God bless me with money, spouse, God give me visa. Where do we see believers who will be praying and fasting? Believers with a hunger and thirst for God’s word. Believers with a passion for those who are in sin. May God help us.

Conclusion.

In spelling out the mission of repentance and the forgiveness of sin, Jesus first mentions the *source* of it, namely, God’s Word (24:44-45); He then gives the *subject* of the mission, the work He had accomplished on the cross and the necessary response to it (24:46-47a); and He gives the *scope* of the mission, the world, or all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem (24:47b). We are therefore called to carry out this mission in and out of season.

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