
SOLA FIDE

Volume 8

No. 2

The Calling for Missions

Last year, I had the privilege to partake in a 2 week mission work in Armenia. During our stay, we served at a local church and helped host VBS camp for children; our team presented God's saving Word through various means such as bible studies, crafts, art, body worship and more. Being in a new country where the language and the culture was so different and yet



being able to participate in worship of the same God with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ from other parts of the world was amazing. And it was a blessing to be able to first-hand witness God's saving Word impacting the lives of people thousands of miles away from home. I praise God for His faithfulness and the opportunities that were provided to me to be able to partake in His kingdom work, and through this letter, I want to encourage everyone to proactively participate in His kingdom work, the missions!

Why participate in mission you might ask? Christians participate in mission work to be part of God's great plan to reach the lost. In missions, those who are considered "unreached" are people who do not have the means to the gospel at all - having no access to church, bible, missionaries, Christians and etc. Unless someone from outside reaches them, they will not be reached! But having said that, even if there are means, in many of the 3rd world countries, it is very difficult to engage in Christian faith due to lack of resources, unstable living standard and possible persecutions. In the western culture we live in, it is difficult to imagine so much strain involved in Christian faith; yet such is reality in most of the parts of the world. So when Christians engage in mission work, whether we are reaching the unreached or assisting those who have access but have not yet known God, we are being part of God's great plan to reach all who are lost.

But even more importantly, we engage in God's work out of obedience to Jesus' commands. In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus gives us what is known as the Great Commission. In this Great Commission, Jesus commands all Christians to go and make disciples of all nations. What's

Some Suggestions

1. 4 Christian Mission (<https://christmission.org>)
2. IMB - International Mission Board (<https://imb.org>)
3. Navigators (<https://www.navigators.org>)
4. OMF - Overseas Missionary Fellowship (<https://omf.org>)
5. Samaritan's Purse (<https://www.samaritanspurse.org>)
6. African Inland Mission International (<https://aimint.org>)
7. Praying Pelican (<https://prayingpelicanmissions.org>)
8. Frontiers (<https://frontiersusa.org>)
9. Pioneers (<https://pioneers.org>)
10. Wycliffe (<https://www.wycliffe.org>)

important here is that this command is given to all Christians; this is not only for the missionaries, pastors, elders, deacons but it is given to all Christians. In a way, every Christian is called to be a "minister" because we are called to make Christ known. But you might ask, "why can we just do mission work at where we are placed locally?" It is absolutely true that reaching out to others, sharing the gospel message and making disciples do not take place only in the foreign land. In fact, it should start where God has placed you. Think about family members, coworkers, friends - anyone around you! Yet, someone has to eventually go and reach out to those who are far and away. And as children of God, we want to reach out regardless of the distance or differences in culture. So, if the opportunity presents, we must utilize it with our utmost effort!

Finally, we must understand that the mission work is never heartless work anyone is forced to engage in, but a joyous outcome of genuine faith. When we are saved, we go from death to life, hopelessness to hope, and sadness to joy. And this is all because we have salvation, hope of reigning with Christ, eternal security and peace that can only come from Christ. All of these cause us to be part of His kingdom work! Therefore, our approach towards mission should not be a burden nor indifference; rather it should be joyful obedience to the Lord's calling. As people who have experienced God's saving grace, we cannot help but to tell others of His amazing grace (1 Peter 4:10 and 1 Samuel 12:24).

By now, I hope you are getting the point that we (Christians) are called to go out and make His saving grace known to those who are far and away. So let me suggest some things to think about in approaching mission works.

Firstly, there are different duration of mission works we can participate in. There are the short-term mission (anywhere

from 2 weeks to several months) and long- term mission works (anywhere from several months to many years). For the first time participants, it would be wise to take advantage of a short-term mission works because it will allow you to find suitable mission work for you - this is because the content of mission work could vary depending on the organization and the goal of the mission team. Secondly, regardless of the nature of the mission works, it is important to work with the local churches already established in the region. We want to be helpful hands rather than hindrances! Building up and strengthening the local church is part of the mission work as well! Let us remember: regardless of the duration or the types of work, the purpose remains the same: it is to share the good news. Therefore, let me encourage you to look for opportunities! You will experience the power of God at work and be blessed.

- EW -