

# **Evangelism and Mission**

**Responsibility of Mission**

**(Great Commission)**

**Matthew 28:18-20**

# **Responsibility of Mission:**

**Rests up on every member of the body of Christ**

- These days the church struggles with inward and outward focuses
- The need for resource sharing, for out reach and in reach areas, makes the church stand in an unbalanced position
- Most resources are invested inside, but a few go to the outside
- The church has to have balanced concern for the inward and outward focuses, otherwise the church might be spiritually paralyzed

# ***Nothing is more important than reaching people with the gospel, because:***

- There are harvests to be harvested on time
  - Jesus says “...Do not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting’ ” (Jn. 4: 35)
  - For the disciples, it is not yet time but for the Lord it is now the right time. Even His disciples are saying the time is not now, but Jesus is saying it is just right now.

# ***Nothing is more important than reaching people with the gospel, because:***

- There is a doom at the door (Lk. 19:42)
  - *“If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. Indeed, the days will come upon you,.....”*
  - *Let us compare these words: these day/ days will come. The date of her chance was counted as day where as the suffering date as days, endless.*
  - *Thus, church is expected to make people aware of the judgment which is at the door.*

# ***Nothing is more important than reaching people with the gospel, because:***

- There are souls who couldn't have a chance to see tomorrow
  - *“And I will say to my soul, ample good laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry. But God said to him, ‘you fool! This very night your soul is being demanded of you.’ ” (Lk. 12:19)*
  - *For some today is the end of their lives-no chance to see tomorrow*
  - *The church is here to knock their door with the good news.*

***Nothing is more important than reaching people with the gospel, because:***

- There are current pleasures that hinder them from seeing the darkness to come
  - *“Remember your creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come, and the years ...” (Ecc. 12:1)*
  - *The days of the youth are limited to some months. The difficult and dark times that come are counted in years.*
  - *The shorter pleasure hours deceive man and put him in the longer painful dark times.*

# How and When

- Every believer is responsible to witness the Good News starting from his/her very place
- It is a great commission to go to the new areas rather than waiting the new comers to the Church
- As an institution the church has to explore the unreached areas to reach in gospel

# How and When

- *Reach in Conducive environment*
  - Church has to be movable with its nature. It has to reach to the very situation of the people. Christ is the good model for the church. He reaches where the people are found (Mt. 9:9-12). He comes to the place of Levi's business. He calls him and makes him his follower.

# How and When

- *Reach in Conducive Time*
  - The conducive time might not be according to our schedule but suitable time for God's harvesting. In Jn 4:35 the disciple assumes that the time is not yet for harvesting but Jesus says to them 'look around and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting'. It is high time for Jesus to evangelize the Samaritan.
  - John Ch.4 teaches us how to plan for evangelization. Let us see the pattern of the targeted plan.

# The Six “P’s” Strategy

- **Plan:** *To evangelize the land.*
- **Purpose:** *To win souls for His kingdom.*
- **Procedure/How:** *Through the Samaritan woman*
- **People:** *Jesus is the subject*
- **Place:** *Sychar (one of the Samaritan town)*
- **Period of Time/When:** *about 12:00pm*

## Mark 2:3-4

***Some men came, bringing to Jesus a paralytic and made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on.***

**Such people who dig and use all possibilities to bring people to Jesus are wanted today.**

**CS Strategic plan indicates us what should the synod looks like in the coming five years? Where should we reach? Where will be our position in evangelism and development by then?**

# Readiness to Nurture

- The church has to be prepared herself to feed new believers to come to her.
- In John 11:56 many people came to the temple from a distant and 'They were looking for Jesus and were asking one another as they stood in the temple 'what do you think? Surely he will not come to the festival, will he?'
- But no one from the temple has information about Jesus whether he comes? It is a temple but does not have God's agenda but rather busy other commercial business (Mt. 21).

**In most of our EECMY-CS  
congregations we have  
5 levels/mechanisms to  
evangelize/nurture the believers**

# **5 levels/mechanisms to evangelize/nurture the believers**

- Step 1: Evangelization
  - each and every Christian is expected to Jesus Christ
  - the task is not reserved for the ordained ones/the church leaders.
  - Because it is a great mission

# 5 levels/mechanisms to evangelize/nurture the believers

- Step 2: Pre confirmation Class
  - Brief orientation is given about salvation.
  - What is Christian?
  - What makes different it from other religions?
  - If they are from Muslims we teach them about Trinity and water baptism.
  - They confirm their personal decision to follow Jesus Christ

# **5 levels/mechanisms to evangelize/nurture the believers**

- **Step 3: Confirmation Class**
  - In addition to Luther catechism we teach them about the water the baptized of the Holy Sprit.
  - They are told to avoid Smoking and drinking.
  - They are told to give their tithes to the church.

# **5 levels/mechanisms to evangelize/nurture the believers**

- **Step 4: Post Confirmation Class**
  - we teach the to serve God both inside and out side of the churches.
  - They are encouraged to identify their gifts.
  - We underline that all gifts are for the benefit of the church.

# **5 levels/mechanisms to evangelize/nurture the believers**

- Step 5: Now in Mission Field
  - in my synod there are 10837 volunteers
  - 4988 preachers or teachers at congregation level who teach and preach the churches, home prayer programs, at villages, etc
  - Some lay ministers preach at Sunday worship program.
  - Others are involved in different ministries in the church including cleaning the church and church offices.

# The Witnessing Strategies

- Direct Witness
  - Person to Person
    - Each and every individual of believer has to be equipped with the knowledge of witnessing in person-to-person out reach method. This method is mostly targeted on some important people selectively.
  - Doors to Door
    - Every body must hear the Good News so that every Christian is responsible to reach where the people are.

# The Witnessing Strategies

- Direct Witness
  - Witness Group
    - Training for the Group
      - The organized group has to be trained before engaged in the activity. Strategies and methods are very important to be searched and adopted. Approach methods in appropriate time in all and every conditions developed in training.

# The Witnessing Strategies

- Direct Witness
  - High School, Collages, and University
    - These areas are very important at least for two reasons.
      - The first thing is that the church can reach the students and the staff at one place
      - The second thing is that it the great opportunity to prepare leaders and ministers for tomorrow.
    - Taking all these into account, such institutions have to be the target areas.

# The Witnessing Strategies

- Direct Witness
  - Gospel Tracts and other Literatures
    - Tracts and other literatures are the other means of witnessing.
    - The distribution of the items does not require long time training as we do the witnessing group.
    - During the distribution, one has to be aware of the mood of the person to whom the item is given.

# The Witnessing Strategies

- For better distribution put gospel material in Convenience stores, Gas stations, Laundromats, Newsstands, Phone Boxes, Restaurants, Fast Food restaurants, Ball Games, Music Festivals, Flea Markets, Garage sales, and Medical offices.

# The Witnessing Strategies

- Direct Witness
  - Strategy within Age Group
    - Youth to youth approach
    - Adult to adult approach,
      - This witnessing strategy, elders to elders and the youth to youth approach mechanism helps the church to reach people in different age groups.

# The Witnessing Strategies

- Direct Witness
  - Film Show
    - For example: Jesus film is shown at un-reached areas in collaboration with Great Commission and it opens the door for evangelization and witnessing.

# The Witnessing Strategies

- Direct Witness
  - Using the Opportunities of Wedding and Funeral Ceremonies
    - On these ceremonies both believers and non-believers gather in the church so that one can address the witness to the lost world.

# The Witnessing Strategies

- Direct Witness
  - Internet and Phone communication
    - Internet and phone communications are the other open doors that God has given us to reach the unreached people and backsliders.
    - They are always on the line if we are ready to make them our outreach target.

# The Witnessing Strategies

- Indirect Witness
  - Invitation to Healing Programs  
(Come and See strategy)
    - Invitation is extended to targeted person to see what is going on in the healing program.
    - When they see demons are cast out, paralysis healed, and when people are set free from different sorts of disease they decide themselves to receive Jesus Christ as their personal savior.

# 7. The Witnessing Strategies

- Indirect Witness
  - Preparing Trainings for VIP
    - Especial training is prepared for very important people such as politicians, business men and others to capacitate them in their respective positions and this pave the way to know Christ.

# 7. The Witnessing Strategies

- Indirect Witness
  - Having Exemplary Life
    - Christians are called to follow the foot steps of Christ in their daily life.
    - The love He shows us, our holy life that shine for others, and the commitment for the well being of the society to win others to come to Christ.
    - The believer's life and word serve as a witness to the world

# The Witnessing Strategies

- Indirect Witness
  - Generosity to the needy
    - Christian communities are not only living for their own in this world but rather for the benefits of others.
  - Sport Ministry
    - Aims at reaching the un-reached through relational evangelism addressing the needs of children and youth. Above 74% of the congregants are children and youth and thus designing especial program.

Finally, if the leaders remain silent at their call time, God arises others from unexpected areas.

During the era of Judges, the period of confusion and anarchy, God revealed His deliverance through unexpected agents.

# God revealed His deliverance through unexpected agents...

- The left hand:  
“.... the LORD, and he gave them a deliverer-Ehud, a left-handed man,” (Judg 3:15).  
Accordingly, if the right hand is not willing to fight the left hand is available.

# God revealed His deliverance through unexpected agents...

- A stick:  
After Ehud, Shamgar son of Anath came to position, and he struck down six hundred Philistines with a stick. (Judg 3:31). If the spear is reluctant to go to war front, the stick is strong enough to be victorious.

# God revealed His deliverance through unexpected agents...

- Deborah:  
The expected fighters, the men, were not ready to lead in war and therefore God raised up Deborah who “held court under the Palm” (Judg 4:5) to make the Israelites victorious.

# God revealed His deliverance through unexpected agents...

- The tent peg:  
“Her hand reached for the tent peg, her right hand for the workman's hammer. She struck Sisera, she crushed his head” (Judg 5:26).  
If their bows are not standing by against the enemy, the tent peg is enough yet to slay the enemy's top leader.

# God revealed His deliverance through unexpected agents...

- Foxes:

During the time of Gideon there were 300 strong fighters but during the time of Samson there was no one, "So he went out and caught three hundred foxes and tied them tail to tail in pairs. He burned up the shocks and standing grain, together with the vineyards and olive groves" with this 300 foxes (Judg 15:4-5). If 300 fighters are not available it is possible for 300 foxes to damage the economy of the enemies.

# God revealed His deliverance through unexpected agents...

- A jawbone:  
Samson Said, "With a donkey's jawbone I have killed a thousand men." (Judg 15:16). If the sword is reluctant to be in the midst of war front the donkey's jawbone that only used to graze grasses now becomes a sword in God's battle field.

# Conclusion

- *Evangelization is the main mission of the church.*
- *The mission is not restricted by national and international boundaries.*
- *Souls under the darkness of death wait for the church to be set free from eternal judgment and therefore the church has to be alert for her mission and call.*

# Conclusion

- *Our in reach and out reach balance has to be maintained.*
- *Regardless of national and international limitations, resource flow for evangelization should be promoted so that the water level will be maintained starting from the next door.*

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