

Great Commission - Not a great suggestion



Devotional by Stewart

"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." Habakkuk 2:14

The great commission was not just a suggestion - it was a mandate. It was based on the greatest commandment, which is to "love God and love thy neighbour as thyself". We have been given the same mandate. If we truly love God, then we truly love people; and if we truly love people, our heart's desire is for them to know Jesus as their saviour.

We need ask ourselves this question, what has been God's mission since creation? His plan can be traced through time and it has always been the **'Redemptive Blessing of the Nations'**. In its ultimate fulfillment, this blessing has come through the offspring of Jesus Christ. Therefore, the God who we serve, is a missionary God (*Galatians 4:4, John 3:16*).

God set the greatest example in giving and sending. He gave Jesus to reconcile man to God, and the church should be an extension of this reconciliation ministry (*2 Cor 5:18-19*).

God's concern, therefore, becomes our concern. (*Jonah 4:10,11*)

When He saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field." Matthew 9:36-37



GLOBAL SUMMARY:

*World's population: 7.6 billion. 3.1 billion unreached.
People groups: 17,298. Unreached people groups: 7,368*

We can't just read these numbers! The reality is that the church is the only institution that God can use and which He depends on to reach the unreached of our world. Unfortunately, leaders want their churches filled but God wants them empty with people being sent out. **The job is not done, and God will keep us responsible for our disobedience to the Great Commission.**

In 1963 Martin Luther King stood before his followers and poured out his heart to them when he said, "I have a dream, I have a dream". **Today, I, Stewart, have a prayer!**

- **I have a prayer** that this church will SEND their finest missionaries to the ends of the earth, not only sending them, but praying for them and faithfully supporting them financially.
- **I have a prayer** that we will not only adopt a local VISION, a regional vision, a national vision, but a world vision.
- **I have a prayer** that pastors of local churches will begin to PREACH and TEACH missions on an ongoing basis, and not just to leave it at that, but to challenge the people to answer the Macedonian call.

I have a prayer that MY prayer will be YOUR prayer.

Amen

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