



CELL GUIDE 2016

Theme	Sharing Christ Beyond Church and Country
Topic	BBTC Mission & Outreach
Speaker	DSP Chua Seng Lee
Date	10 th and 11 th September 2016

Message Summary

Getting involved with missions

Pastor Seng Lee told the story of the life-saving station, a modern-day parable about the church. The station began with a simple hut and boat, and a small group of members devoted to rescuing people from shipwrecks. With the community's support, the station grew, attracting more people, acquiring resources, and building facilities for members and survivors. Over time, some people began to question the need to save lives. It was decided that the station would scale down its lifesaving mission, and focus on developing the club and caring for its members. While the station thrived, many lives went unsaved, lost at sea.

The story has parallels with the modern church, as some of us may be so focused on looking after our own/fellow members' needs that we lose sight of our original mission to save lives for Christ. We may then become an inward-looking church. Pastoral care for our existing members is undoubtedly important, but we must also remember that we need to reach out to the lost, and be involved in the mission field so that we can build God's kingdom.

4 handles for being involved in missions

The word "church" comes from the Greek word *ecclesia*, which means a called-out company or assembly. Wherever it is used in the Bible, it refers to people (e.g. Acts 19:30-41, 7:38; Eph 1:22, 5:25, 32). This is a reminder of a church's purpose, that it is a community of people existing for God, not for ourselves. We have been given the Great Commission, and it is a command to be obeyed. In BBTC, we live this out by allocating a proportion of our budget to supporting missions, and by sending teams into mission fields. A survey also showed that up to 35% of BBTCians provide mentoring or ministering. As explained in the sermon, the scripture in Matt 28:18-20 encourages us to reach out to people and be involved in missions.

1. All authority (v. 18 "...all authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth")

This verse gives us courage, as we know the source of the call for mission. God has called us to harvest the mission fields. Thus, the foremost purpose of missionary work is discipleship, followed by humanitarian reasons.

2. All nations (v. 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of *all* the nations") i.e. the scope for mission

Ps Seng Lee asked of us, "What is your Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria?" The meaning behind this question is that some of us may be called to do mission trips overseas, and for others, our field of mission may be local, such as helping out with BCCSC services, reaching out to migrant workers in Singapore, etc. We need to find a place to be involved.



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For BBTCians who venture overseas, we must recognize that mission fields are diverse, and be prepared to encounter different ethnicities and cultures. This requires sensitivity and adaptation on our part.

3. All commands (v. 19 “Go therefore and *make disciples* of all the nations”; v. 20 “...teaching them to observe *all* that I commanded you”) i.e. the scripture for mission

We first need to be strong disciples, grounded in scripture, as priests and kings in places where God has put us in Singapore. As disciples, we are defined by our obedience to God’s word, and not just by being a convert or church-goer. We identify and carry out what God teaches us, and in turn pass it on to others. Likewise, in mission work, we aim to help the local people independently do what we have taught, and pass it forward to their fellow locals.

4. Always with us (v. 20 “...and lo, I am with you *always*, even to the end of the age.”)

This verse tells us that the Lord’s presence is always with us, and it assures us that we are not alone as we go out on missions. He gives us comfort and strength as we labour in the field, and our greatest joy in embarking on missions is to see Jesus at work and being worshipped.

Conclusion

The Great Commission compels us to make disciples of men, and this journey calls us to go out on missions with courage, willingness to make cultural adaptation, compliance to God’s commands, and assurance of His comfort. Are you willing? Will you let God work through you?



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Questions

Share a memorable encounter that happened during your previous mission and/or outreach activities. How and why did it stand out to you?

(Fill In Answer Here)

What are the obstacles hindering your involvement in reaching out to others? Where can you draw encouragement from scripture?

(Fill In Answer Here)

As a cell group, discuss your plans for outreach for the coming year. Use this time to brainstorm, update your oikos list, make plans and pray over your activities.

(Fill In Answer Here)
