



TOPIC Hope for the Unreached Part 2

SPEAKER Joseph Chean

THEME Celebration of Hope

DATE 25 & 26 May 2019

MESSAGE SUMMARY

HOPE FOR THE UNREACHED

Christ gave us the Great Commission in which we are to make the disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and to teach them to obey everything that He has commanded us. Everyone in this world deserves to hear of the gospel as we are all made in the image of God. Therefore, as disciples of Christ, we need to bring this hope to the unreached people groups.

In this sermon, Joseph Chean focuses on the last two lines of the Great Commission – to build a church in every neighborhood, and for compassion and justice to be in every nation.

THE GREAT COMMISSION

1) CHURCH IN EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD

A goal we should work towards achieving the Great Commission is to have a church presence where God is worshipped, followers are discipled and the community is impacted in every neighbourhood and sphere of our society. The next generation is eager to belong to a genuine community of faith, which shapes their relationships and is seamlessly interwoven with their vocational life 24/7. Despite that, not everyone is willing or able to go to a church on a Sunday. Thus, we need to bring the church to them.

A church is no longer just an institution; God is still at work in building His church, but it is looking much more different and diverse now. Accordingly, we need to think out of the box about the different forms a church can take on in order to meet the needs of others, and yet not lose the foundations of the Word. We must look at “empty” places where the church does not exist and target them with fresh and intentional strategies for church multiplication. For example, Joseph Chean started a tuition group which integrated a “church” service. The group grew and many eventually became Christians, who now serve as leaders in Chean’s church.

2) COMPASSION AND JUSTICE IN EVERY NATION

The gospel that Christ shared with the disciples is a 'two handed' gospel. It goes beyond just words. If we are to fully represent Christ today, we need to both proclaim His truth and demonstrate His love just like how He did. God called us to loosen the chains of injustice and have compassion towards others (Isa 58:6-7). Gandhi identified a major problem that the Church faces: which is that Christians are so unlike Christ; many do not really live according to the Word. This has deterred many from coming to Christ.

The Celebration of Hope (COH) has not ended. In the second half of 2019, COH will spread to the migrant workers from eight different nations separately. However, even before the rallies happen, our nation needs to repent for the mistreatment and prejudice towards them. We need to stop taking advantage of the migrant workers. Instead we need to apologise to as well as thank them for all they have done for us.

CONCLUSION

God has shown who He is in every single book of the Bible. He longs to be known by every nation. As disciples of Christ, we cannot take the Great Commission to be just a token commitment. As the Church of Christ, the Great Commission should not be for us a short term or partial commitment either. The Great Commission is the very reason why the Church exists. We should therefore make it our main priority and forethought to be demonstrated daily.

Pioneer new things in new ways and encourage others to do the same as we listen, obey and co-create with God transformational activities that meet the needs of the least, the last and the lost. Will you give your life to live for His greatest glory?

QUESTIONS

1. A. What is your understanding of the Great Commission?
B. Share about how you carry out the Great Commission out in your daily life.

2. A. What are some common ideas that people have of a “church”? Do these ideas stop them from going to church?
B. What are some things you do to bring the church to the community? Think out of the box!

3. The gospel is a ‘two handed’ gospel in which we must proclaim Christ’s truth and demonstrate His love. What can you do to achieve both, in order to spread the gospel to both Singaporeans and migrant workers?