



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	God's Unquenchable Love For All Peoples In Every Nation	SPEAKER	Brother Joseph Chean
THEME	Critical Concerns of Our Times	DATE	26 & 27 Aug 2023

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Brother Joseph Chean shared about how the Bible is so important in our lives and reminded us that there is more to the Word than just gaining knowledge about it. Because the Word is alive, we must make sure that the Scripture becomes flesh and permeates every area of our lives, so that the truth may be a part of who we are. Because the Bible is so important, we must also bring that Word of God to all people groups, all over the world (Habakkuk 2:14).

HOW CAN WE REACH OUT TO THE WORLD?

The world → Nations → Cities and towns → Families → Individuals.

The glory of God is likened to the presence of God. In the Old Testament, the glory of God was in heaven, guiding and leading the people. But in the New Testament, the glory of God came down to earth and became flesh, and dwelled among us. He is a loving God who always initiates to reach out to His people (Isaiah 65:1), and Brother Joseph gave the analogy that if there were a thousand steps separating us and God, he loves us so much that he will take 999 steps towards us. However, he will never take the final step. God wants us to make that choice to take that final step towards Him, and He will not force us to choose Him.

The character of God always seeks to bring justice, love, compassion and change. These characteristics should be evident in our lives, resulting in the transformation of individuals, communities, families and even societies. God invites all of us to understand that he is a personal and relational God. As we encounter God's love towards us, we grow in Christ-likeness and eventually become the flesh of the Word, shining God's Word to others around us and to the world. We become the love letter from Christ to the world.

When the early church gathered together to study the life and the teachings of Christ, they would have realised the following:

- 1) The kingdom of God is not political but transformational of societies and the only way to transform the society is through love and power.
- 2) The poor and the widows must not be neglected. Those who have much, should share with those who do not have much. They confronted the neglected issues of the society. Radical generosity was the guiding principle.
- 3) The glory of God is no longer a cloud or fire but the Church (people of God) revealing and representing Christ on earth.
- 4) The great commission is not just local, but globally as well.

Singapore has come a long way from our humble beginnings. Missionaries came to our shores when we were just a small, unreached people group. Brother Joseph shared about some prominent missionaries who bravely went out into the mission field with great passion to share the gospel. He then showed the congregation some statistics, and how the number of missionaries that Singapore has sent out has dwindled over the years.

He then shared about his ministry in Antioch 21, and encouraged us to take the step of faith to reach out to the world through missions.

CONCLUSION

Brother Joseph reminds us that whatever age or stage of life we are at, we can answer God's call to step out and do missions. God's Word is made alive through us, and all we have to do is to answer God's call and take that step of faith to bring His Word to others.

QUESTIONS

1. Over the past week, how are you a “love letter from Christ to the world” in your interactions with those around you?

2. Consider the global aspect of the great commission. How can you expand your understanding of missions or reach out to the global community beyond your local sphere?

3. Reflecting on the dwindling number of missionaries from Singapore, what factors might have contributed to this trend, and how can we address these challenges moving forward?