

August 2017

Is Our Mission Program On A Freeway or Detour?

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Recommended Citation

McInteer, J. (2017). Is Our Mission Program On A Freeway or Detour?. Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.harding.edu/mcinteer-sermons-topic/52>

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IS OUR MISSION PROGRAM ON A FREEWAY OR DETOUR? II Thess. 3:1-5

I. In our devotional we read the above text.
Hear it again.

A. Words stuck in my mind.

1. Word of God.

2. Free course (KJ)

Speed on (RSV)

Go forward unhindered (Phillips)

Have everywhere the swift & glorious course (NEB)

3. Word glorified. *1830-1 Billion, 1930-2, Word triumph. 60-3; 80-4; 90-5; 0-6!*

4. We have confidence that ye both do & will do the things we command you.

5. Pray for us!

B. Would these words be written to West Eng

II. Is the Mission outreach of this church really important? Why send missionaries?

A. All need the abundant life.

John 10:10

1. "Nobody anywhere is getting along very well w/o Jesus."

2. But aren't all O.K. as they are?

B. Secondly, Jesus said send missionaries.

1. Story of Eng. clergyman said to Duke of Wellington he doubted wisdom of foreign missions. The Duke asked, "What are your marching orders, Sir?" "Well, I suppose the great Com." quoted Matt. 28:19-20. Duke, "These

.09% in church

30 Billion here land - 1/10 true new.

1830-1 Billion, 1930-2,

Word triumph. 60-3; 80-4; 90-5; 0-6!

are your orders - proceed on them. " 2.

2. We must win every generation to Christ
- C. Time is running out for us - whether for the world or not!

Jn. 9:4 "I must work the works

1. Carrell article.

III. We'd like your concern.

A. Jim Patterson & Youth.

1. See Clip on College-Bound.

B. Paul Brown & Bible School.

C. Harris Goodwin & Printing.

D. D. Daugherty & France - it's declining.

E. Henry Farrar & Africa.

F. Nell Wilkinson & Kindergarten.

G. Dan Blazer goes in Jan.

H. Jack Fogarty - Sn Juan.

I. Stan Morgan - Dom. Rep.

J. Stateside's effort.

FISHERS OF MEN

The other night I saw a preacher with a miniature fishhook on his lapel. I didn't ask him for the meaning, but had I asked him, I think he would have said that it was to indicate that he is a "fisher of men". Jesus once said, "I will make you fishers of men". This is what the Lord wanted all of us to be. Souls are lost, and we are doing so very little about it.

A radio commentator made the statement a few years ago: "Today's Christians are no longer fishers of men; they have become keepers of the aquarium." It would appear that many Christians have lost the fire and enthusiasm for soul-winning which caused Luke to say about first century Christians, "They went everywhere preaching the word." It can be that way again!

-Gene Carrell, Columbus, Ohio-

Some intelligent religious people have advocated a change in an emphasis on the Christian mission to non-Christians. Their argument goes like this: "After all, why try to make Christians out of those who are already religious and have a religion of their own? It only disturbs them needlessly, and surely God will not punish them if they live up to the light of the truth they possess. Imperialism in any form is detestable and encourages even good Christians to treat other human beings as colonials, inferior, and second class persons. After all, Jesus Himself said, "I have other sheep that are not of this fold." John 10:16. Some of the other sheep may be sincere believers in other religions. In thinking of this saying of Jesus, it's important to read the rest of the verse: "And I have other sheep that are not of this fold;

I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice."
It is as if Jesus is saying, "Give them opportunity to
hear my voice through the gospel and they will respond.
It is a part of God's design that these others not now in
my flock must come to me and remain with me."

"Let's Take Another Look" - By David MacLennan

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CHURCH STATISTICS

CHURCH membership in the United States registered a 1.60 percent gain in 1968—the last year for which statistics have been compiled—reaching a total of 128,469,636, as reported by 226 religious bodies, according to the 1970 edition of the *Yearbook of American Churches*. This compares with the previous year's total of 126,445,110.

Church attendance continued to decline from the high of 49 percent of adult population recorded in 1958 by a Gallup poll to 43 percent in 1968.

The total contribution received from members by 52 United States Protestant communions in 1968 was \$3,580,185,239. Per capita giving for full or confirmed membership amounted to \$95.31. Of the total amount, \$2,854,382,944 was spent for congregational finances and \$725,802,295 (20.27 percent of the total) was devoted to benevolences. Since all religious bodies do not report on financial contributions, figures listed present only part of total church finances in the United States.

The *Yearbook of American Churches* is published by the National Council of Churches; the editor is Constant H. Jacquet, Jr. Copies of the 1970 edition are available, at \$8.95 each, from the Department of Publication Services, National Council of Churches, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, New York 10027.



From the Preacher's Desk

ITALY AND ENGLAND

As you read these words the Clyde McLendons and I should be in Italy for the appointment of elders in the church at Ferrara scheduled for Sunday, September 6. The setting apart of men to serve in the capacity of elders is a real milestone for the church in Italy and Europe. Pray for these brethren:

On Friday, September 11, the Campaign in Loughborough is to begin and is to continue through September 18. We plan to fly home on Saturday, the 19th, and to be here on the Lord's Day, September 20. We trust that we will find a place in your prayers as you will continually be in our prayers.

WHAT IS EVANGELISM?

(As we look forward to Campaign Tyler: Harvest Time and as we make definite plans to reach out into our community to bring the lost to Jesus, the following article by Bill Lowry, Bartlesville, Oklahoma, is thought provoking.)

Evangelism is Elders who oversee the flock with goals to grow, both spiritually and numerically, and who lead the church to seek the lost including restoration of erring members. Evangelism is Deacons involved in serving the church by relieving the Elders of many temporal and physical responsibilities. Evangelism is a preacher proclaiming the Word of God from the pulpit with "The Bible says. . . !" Evangelism is the minister of education helping Bible school teachers and coordinators in the edification of the church through a vigorous curriculum.

Evangelism is a vibrant "Personal Work Program.": It is a systematic plan to visit newcomers to the community, new members, and entertain a group of members in your home to promote better fellowship. Evangelism is privately teaching ONE Soul salvation through Christ, or baby-sitting for a young couple while they are being taught the Bible. Evangelism is feeding the hungry, giving a cup of cold water to the thirsty, showing hospitality to a stranger, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and those in prison.

Evangelism is a church member inviting a neighbor to Bible study and worship, attending a Lectureship, Teacher's Workshop, or a Personal Work Workshop. Evangelism is reading the Bible, a brotherhood publication, or a good book to an older person who cannot read. It is sending a get-well card to a sick person, going to a rest home to do specific work, or writing an article for the bulletin. Evangelism is taking a Bible to a person in prison, enrolling yourself in a Bible Correspondence course, or writing a "thank you" note to someone who has influenced your life for Christ. Evangelism is baking a pie, scrubbing floors, and doing dishes and laundry for anyone who needs your services. Evangelism is a congregation singing "How Great Thou Art, : praying for the lost, and joyfully assembling at midnight to welcome a soul who has been baptized into the family of God.

Evangelism is a spiritually strong teenager refusing to go with the wayward crowd. It is young people handing out brochures from door to door, preparing their Bible study lesson, sitting near the front during worship and helping keep the building clean. Evangelism is a young mother going about her work teaching her children "What A Friend We Have In Jesus", or leaving the auditorium embarrassed because her child is crying.

31 Aug 70

Dear Jim Bill -

Just received a bundle of copies of Victor's from West End, and thought this an opportune time to write a short note.

Things are going well here, I've been assigned to the 22nd Signal Company (Picorial) in Long Binh, that is the administrative unit for the Southeast Asia Picorial Center. I'm enjoying my work, especially since it's in my field.

The Church here is small, yet quite faithful under the circumstances of warload. Most of us work seven days a week, and frequently on trips around the country. Our services are at 5 pm each Sunday in a small chapel at the 24th Evac Hospital. Our usual procedure is to rotate

leading singing & speaking, we usually have 10-15 for services, and of those 5-10 are able to stay for Bible Study afterwards. There is also a Bible study class on Wednesday night.

I would suggest that the Vietnam newsletter be made available to every serviceman you know of who is going overseas. By using the contacts listed in it, it is quite easy to find location of & transportation to the services.

I have one request, although it could probably be filled just as well from any of the other three congregations I've worked with in the last few years, but since I just remembered it, I

might a well go on and ask it.

Our congregation cannot get the bread & wine for communion here. They usually have to depend on some relative or friend sending it over. Our supply is getting low, and we could use replenishment if that is possible.

Well I'd better close. I'll leave my address at the bottom of this letter if anyone should get the urge to write.

We all would appreciate your prayers & remembrance. Thanks so much for all that you have done for Dennis & me.

LT JOHN M. GREEN

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