

Ambassadors for Christ



"Therefore, we are Ambassadors for Christ,
as though God were making an appeal
through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God".

II Corinthians 5:20

**MISSION, EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP
LEADS TO CHURCH PLANTING**

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TITLE: AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

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PREFACE

Welcome to the discipleship / leadership series. These little booklets were designed to give basic information concerning various topics about our Christian faith in Christ Jesus.

The purpose of this series is to stimulate thought and to foster a clearer understanding of discipleship and servant leadership. These booklets can be used as a discussion tool for personal study, family devotion, youth meetings or in cell groups. Our hope is that this information will stir the readers and encourage them to go deeper into personal research and study.

Our desire is that these booklets will be a blessing to the reader and a tool that can be shared with others as a gift of encouragement.

Please feel free to mail or e-mail us for more copies or to just write to us with any feedback concerning the content of these studies. We hope you enjoy this offering of knowledge and experience. We pray that Christ will draw you into an ever deeper personal relationship with Himself as you study.

Your servants in Christ,

Rev. Dr. James and Hkaw Win Humphries

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*"Therefore, we are Ambassadors for Christ,
as though God were making an appeal through us; we
beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God".*

II Corinthians 5:20

Introduction:

There is a great need in our churches and schools to see ministry as “one whole picture”. Schools and seminaries often teach by dividing study into little compartments and therefore the students do not see how the Christian life works as a whole. It is likened to focusing on the “foot bones” of the human body but not seeing the uniqueness of all the other parts. We do not see the muscles and flesh, the major organs and how they are all connected, or how important the blood is to bring life to our bodies. We need to realize that seeing how the body can function is an amazing miracle that has been beautifully created by God.

The church of Jesus Christ is the same. It is made up of many different parts each having a specific purpose but very valuable to the whole. No individual member can survive on their own – they need to remain connected. It is necessary to have relationships that are built on harmony and unity. When we receive

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Christ into our hearts we become connected together, one with Him and one with His Church.

Today there is much focus on the individual parts. We divided everything up into departments such as Christian Education, Evangelism, Preaching, Teaching, Missions etc. We give each separate budgets and occasionally we call a joint meeting to hear what the other is doing. We end up having 10 different goals and going in 10 different directions. We then add on the Para-Church ministries and say they're, "outside of the church". They are connected but are not of the same importance and value as the church. We send them a little support each month, yet the church needs them and they need the covering of the church. We are all part of the same body!

What we need to have today is Apostles (overseers) who look at the big picture and help in giving the individual pieces wisdom and direction. These people assist in connecting the various departments together, guided by one or two goals. When this begins to happen we will see fruit from our labours. Christ want us to work together using the "ONE ANOTHER PRINCIPLE"— being lead, taught and comforted by the Holy

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Spirit. We see things not as parts but as a whole, working together to take back that which the enemy has either taken or destroyed.

This booklet is intended to get leadership and individuals to come back together and see ministries as a complete unit. To recognize how the parts, as they work and minister together, will see God's strength flowing through them. We will also look at how the burden is lifted as individual departments become lighter as we work together. We are to remember that only through God's ability and strength can we do this, for Christ is the head and everything we do must work in unity and harmony with Him. If we coordinate our strengths and focus the ministry, lives will be changed and churches will be planted. Then the Kingdom of God will be established here on earth.

As a disciple we have become Christ's Ambassadors. We no longer belong to this world but represent another land and another King. We are to bear witness to a lost world that Jesus Christ is Lord of lords and King of Kings. Our joint ministry is to go out with our individual programs and work together on reconciling people to God (within the church as well as with our Para-Church family).

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MISSIONS

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Matthew 28:19-20

The great mission was given by Christ during His last days on earth. He commanded the disciples to go, not in their own strength or ability, but in His strength and ability. The meaning of the word missionary is to be a “sent one”. The missionary goes out to proclaim and to bear witness for Jesus Christ. We are all commanded to be missionaries. This comes through the great mission of Matthew 28:19-20. This does not mean that we are all evangelists, preachers or teachers but it does indicate we are to be a witness for Jesus Christ wherever we go. This starts in our homes and continues as we walk out our door, whether to go to the market, to another city or to another country. We are to go as one who is either purposely sent (such as Paul from the church of Antioch) or as an individual being lead by the Holy Spirit to minister to someone (like Philip who went to the Ethiopian Eunuch).

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It does not matter how we go, as long as we are obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit. This is how we are to fulfill God's will of being a light to a lost world. We are all called to be Ambassadors for Christ. We need not fear or worry because Christ said, "He will be with us wherever we go as long as we are doing it in His Name".

The Bible lays out four specific points that are foundational to what it means to be a missionary for Christ. We are to come, we are being sent, we are to go and then we are to make disciples of all nations.

COME:

Jesus told the disciples to come and follow Him and has called us to be fishers of men (Matthew 4:18, Mark 1:17). Paul also tells us that as we follow Christ others will also follow us. The first challenge that we often face is to take the first step – to be willing to follow Christ wherever He may lead us.

SENT:

Christ told the disciples that He was going to send them out (Matthew 10; John 17:18-21). Being sent is greatly different than doing something on our own. As a "sent one" you are going as a

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messenger not for yourself but for the one who sent you. You are going with His power and authority. Jesus communicated that He would send them with the power of the Holy Spirit, going out two by two. They were to be an encouragement to one another. A team of two or three can do a great deal more than just one (Mark 6:7). We are told that a three cord rope cannot be easily broken (Ecclesiastes 4:12).

GO:

Going out moves us from being a hearer of the word to being a doer also (James 1: 22-25). It gets us involved with other people lives. Once informed, we then become a person who sees the needs of the people and will be able to pray more effectively and help more specifically. Many people sit through life as spectators, but it is those who get involved in the race that are the ones who can receive the prize (II Timothy 2:5). God knows our past, present and future and is the best one to give instruction on what we are to be doing.

It is like on the job training – going out opens the door for growing. That’s why we call it a step of faith (Psalm 32:8).

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MAKE:

The idea of going out and making, has as its root the concept of creating. It is the idea of making something brand new. We are called to make disciples. These people will be new and different from that of the world. They will be newborn babies in their faith and as such we need to teach and train them until they are mature enough to stand on their own (I Peter 2:2). We need to lead them into an understanding of baptism and show the importance of following through on this step. We must be committed to teaching them, raising them to a place of maturity, so that in due time they will produce fruit. Discipleship making takes much time and effort – answering questions and walking with them until they are able to understand what they have committed to by faith.

Kinds of missions:

Paul and Barnabas were sent out from Antioch by the church. Although they were most likely the churches' best leaders, the church had a vision for missions, evangelism and discipleship (Acts 13:2-3). They laid hands on these two men, prayed and Paul and Barnabas went out with the blessing and covering of the local church.