

VIGIL



“Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” 1 Peter 5:8

**Volume XXXVII No.4
July / August 2009
Mission of the Church**

GO YE MEANS GO ME

Tim Hayes

Go Ye Means Go Me, written by Ivan Stewart, is a book that has been used by many Christians and in many congregations of the Lord’s church to assist in the spreading of the gospel. The origin of the charge and commission given to each Christian was spoken some 2,000 years prior to Stewart’s writing.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen (Matthew 28:19-20).

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned (Mark 16:15-16).

Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of

sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem (Luke 24:45-47).

Often the question is asked, does this apply to me? Or perhaps, why should I go, why should I teach? Let us answer these questions by noticing the foundation for this command built by Christ some three years before He ascended back to Heaven.

The question asked is often the incorrect question. The question that must be asked is, who am I?

Am I a Christian? The word Christian is defined as a follower of Christ, one who is Christ-like. Am I a disciple of Christ? The word disciple denotes one who follows one’s teaching; one who adheres to one’s teaching.

Jesus said to His disciples, *Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid (Matthew 5:13-14).*

Christ said if one is a Christian, a follower of Christ, a disciple of Christ then he is the salt of the earth and he is the light of the world. Christ did not give the Christian a choice, if one is a Christian then he is salt and he is light. For one to fail to be salt and light is for one to fail to be Christ-like.

Salt left in its container will never transmit the desired qualities or characteristics. Salt must make contact to affect the intended product. Why did Jesus leave Heaven and come to the earth? Why did Jesus not isolate himself from the world? In response to those who condemned Him for being with ones whom they deemed unworthy, Jesus said, *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which is lost (Luke 19:10).* The Christian was never intended to live in a compound or commune isolated from the world. The world is without salt, thus, the statement of fact by Christ that every Christian is the salt of the earth.

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EDITORIAL

MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Ronnie Hayes

What is the "Mission" of the Church? Have we as Christians lost sight of it? The church's mission is not to provide entertainment for our children or to pacify it's members. The Bible says we are to be benevolent and to edify (cf. James 1:27; Ephesians 4:12,16). I fear this "Mission", the main thrust of our Christianity, is often forgotten. Too many members of the Lord's Church don't see the need! Too many times brethren make statements such as, "Why do you have to go over there to preach?" or "What good is it doing our congregation for him or her to be over there?" Slowly, but surely, the sight of our mission is lost. So the question is, "Why should I or the congregation where I worship be concerned about Mission Work?"

First, we are commanded to be Mission-Minded. Christ commanded his disciples. "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matthew 28:18-20). "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:15,16). What will your answer be on the Day of Judgment regarding this command? Many in the Church simply say, "I can't go across the ocean". This may be true, but it doesn't lessen the command to teach and to make disciples. Have

we forgotten where the world begins? NEXT DOOR! God will not be pleased with feeble attempts to set aside His command. We will still fall under the condemnation of the Lord if we reject His commands. Paul told the Church at Thessalonica that God would punish those "...that know not God and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thessalonians 1:8). The truth is there is no reason that every member of the Lord's body does not meet this command; we can all reach the lost. "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). It was Christ's mission while on earth and it is still our mission today.

The second reason I should be concerned about Mission Work is because of the urgency. Christ spoke of the urgency of His task. "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4). What will cause us to see the urgency of our task? Death and the second coming of Christ are constant reminders of our need to hasten. Man thinks he is going to live forever, but you and I know that is not the case. The writer of Hebrews makes us aware of the fact that death is coming when he said, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die..." (Hebrews 9:27). We are all going to keep that appointment. Who knows when one is going to die? We are all familiar with situations where men, women, boys, and girls all died suddenly and tragically. This is why we must be Mission-Minded! Men launch out into eternity everyday unprepared and facing an eternity in a devil's hell. It might be my neighbor, my family member, or someone half way around the world, but they are dying and without the gospel they will be lost. How does it make us feel when someone we know dies without the gospel? It is my prayer that we are all heart broken and more determined than

ever to reach the next soul before it is too late! If death doesn't make us

For your sake and the sake of others, please, see the urgency in our Mission!

see the urgency, then the second coming of Christ should. We don't know when Christ is coming (cf. Matthew 24:36), but we do know that He is coming (cf. Acts

1:11). For your sake and the sake of others, please, see the urgency in our Mission!

The final reason we should be concerned about Mission Work is this should be our desire. Paul stated, "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved" (Romans 10:1). Too often the focus of our desires are the wrong focus. If you don't think so, ask someone about the economy and see what he or she has to say. John warned us not to get caught up in worldly desire. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15). Luke recorded the warning of the Lord when He said, "...Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15). We surely have that backwards! Man places a premium on his possessions. This is the standard by which to measure a man, according to the materialistic view. But according to Christ this is not what our heart's desire should be. What is your heart's desire? It should be to go to heaven and to take as many with you as you can! May God grant us the strength to carry out this Mission!

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HOW CAN CONGREGATIONS HELP?

Chance Hicks

Just prior to Christ's ascension into Heaven to the right hand of the throne of God, Jesus left His disciples with the Great Commission. Matthew records, "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:18-20). Mark penned the Great Commission in these words: "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:15-16). The mission of the church in the first century was to preach the good news of the Gospel of Christ to every accountable individual under the sun. This too is the mission of the church in this century – to proclaim the saving message of the Gospel to every accountable individual on every continent.

There are numerous congregations of the Lord's church throughout this country and throughout various countries of the world. Every congregation has the same mission of reaching the lost. The responsibility of the church is to sow the seed of the kingdom into the hearts and minds of every individual without regard to their race, gender, etc. How can congregations accomplish the task and help the Gospel reach the lost of our day?

Seek a Mission Mindset

If congregations of the Lord's church will be successful in helping the Gospel reach the lost souls that will face the wrath and justice of God, then congregations must seek to develop a mindset focused on the

mission. Jesus kept His mind on His mission while upon the earth. He said, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). As you investigate the life of Christ, His mind was always thinking of carrying out that great mission. Even at the young age of 12, Jesus is found in the midst of the temple being about the business of the Father. When Mary and Joseph found Jesus, He said, "How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" (Luke 2:49). Christ truly was always about His Father's business "teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people" (Matt. 4:23; Matt. 9:35).

To help preach the Gospel to every creature which is under heaven, congregations must develop the mindset of Christ to always be about the Father's business. The main focus of every congregation must be the proclamation of the Gospel of Christ to the world for the saving of souls! Too often congregations become bogged down and overwhelmed with less important matters. While those matters have their place, they should never take precedence over the mission of the church!

Support Missions Monetarily

For the Gospel to reach lost souls, there must be individuals who are willing to go forth with the Gospel and individuals who are willing to send them forth with the Gospel. The apostle Paul penned, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of

them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Romans 10:14-15). Congregations can help accomplish the mission of the church by seeking faithful men who are willing to go and by financing their journey to preach the Gospel. Even if a congregation could not fully support the missionary, the smallest monetary gift is of great blessing to those who are seeking to do mission work stateside and across the seas. When congregations support mission efforts with monetary gifts, then those congregations have a hand in proclaiming the Gospel everywhere that missionary takes the Gospel message and fruit abounds to their account (Philippians 1:5; 3:14-17).

Send Manpower

As Jesus beheld the multitudes, He saw them as scattered sheep needing a shepherd. He told His disciples, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:37-38). Concerning this harvest, Jesus said, "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest" (John 4:35). There are multitudes of people who need to hear the Gospel of Christ, and while the majority will reject the message, there are still numerous individuals whose hearts will be receptive to the message of the Messiah. Congregations can help in the mission of the church by training Christians to be effective personal workers, by encouraging them to reach out to the lost in the surrounding community, and by encouraging them to volunteer to travel to a foreign country on a mission trip. For the lost to hear, the hearers of the Gospel must go seek the lost.

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MISSION WORK HELPS THE LOCAL PREACHER

Billy Hayes

The command given by the Lord to the disciples first and through implication all Christians for all times is a simple directive to understand. "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen."(Matthew 28:18-20) This command is a command of service. It certainly forces Christians to think and focus on those who do not know God and have not obeyed His gospel (2 Thessalonians 1:8). Can a local preacher gain anything from this command which should force him to put aside self and become consumed with the lost of another culture? YES! As a person studies mission work, allow that study to follow the idea that mission work helps the local preacher.

Mission work helps the local preacher through rekindling the fire. Jeremiah wrote by inspiration the following: "Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But *his word* was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not *stay*." (Jeremiah 20:9) Many times the local preacher gets pulled down into a rut of his daily job. The fact of the matter is that while the local preacher has a great job, much too often his job is treated just like a job. The local preacher needs to keep in his mind the fact that the duty of the local preacher is the greatest commissioned job from the greatest commissioner, God Almighty. In order to complete this duty correctly, the local preacher must have a fire

inside him for the duty. After a mission trip, it seems as if the fire has been rekindled to a point that it is considered a wild fire. It is very hot and roaring.

Mission work helps the local preacher through realizing the lost. The most devastating way to live in this life is to live without hope. The lost should be a grave concern for every Christian as well as the local preacher. At times, the local preacher can become complacent to the fact that we live in society of people who live without hope and are searching for truth. As a local preacher goes into a foreign culture, he is bombarded with those people who crave the truth. The culture dictates what style of Bible studies will be conducted. However, culture never dictates the look in the eyes of the lost or those who hunger and thirst after the Laws of God. Those citizens of the United States do not even realize that they are lost because they have fallen into the same devilish trap as the nation of Israel; they trust completely in their OWN riches. It is not until a Christian sits across the way from a lost individual and sees that person finally understand perfect truth that the Christian will comprehend the idea 'craving truth'.

Mission work helps the local preacher through reenergizing the local congregation. To effectively go into all the world, money is needed for certain expenses. While every member of the local congregation cannot go, those local brethren are just as much a part of the mission effort as the man or men

The local congregation needs to feel as much a part of the mission work as the one who is sent.

being sent into the field. It is the local congregation that supports the work done in that foreign land by the local preacher. The local congregation needs to feel as much a part of the mission work as the one who is sent. As the congregation receives the report of the local preacher a sense of that particular accomplishment ought to be felt by every Christian that makes up that local bride of Christ. After all, without that help the local preacher could never go and teach the glorious gospel of Christ.

Mission work helps the local preacher through a remembrance of the power of the gospel. Those men who have opportunity to go and teach the gospel have a firsthand view of the power of the gospel. Paul wrote the following: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation"(Romans 1:16).It is good to see the power of God as it related to the salvation of the soul of man. The sinner who obeys the plan of God unto salvation exhorts the local preacher and he then remembers the important the gospel. It is a sad fact that sometime the local preacher does not remember as fervently the saving power of the Gospel in its purity.

It is my prayer that every Christian has an opportunity to go to another country and work in the mission field. It does the heart well of every Christian and also the local preacher to go and serve the lost world with the unchanging gospel of peace. Mankind can be served in the noblest fashion by seeking and saving the soul. After all, that was Jesus' task (Luke 19:10).

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FAR EAST/WORLD EVANGELISM

Billy Bland

God has commanded us to take His Gospel into all the world and unto every creature (Matthew 28:18-20). Not only are we to teach "all nations," but we are to "preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). God has never commanded us to do anything that is impossible for us to accomplish. Since God has commanded us to teach all nations, and preach the Gospel to every creature, it follows that (1) we can accomplish world evangelism, and (2) we will be held accountable as to whether or not we evangelize the world.

It is my privilege (with the blessings of the Lord and the support of good brethren), to help accomplish world evangelism through the work of *Far East / World Evangelism*, which was effectively started by the late Ira Y. Rice, Jr. Since his passing we have tried to continue the great work of the Lord in which he was engaged. Additionally, we have not been content to rest on the works of others but to build on their works and use any other "open door" that has been opened unto us. These open doors have allowed us through to teach and preach in such countries as Russia, India, Singapore, Malaysia, China, Peru, Philippines, etc., I have recently returned from a very profitable preaching trip to Klang, Malaysia and Singapore. Lord willing, I will return to India in December for the purpose of preaching in villages and speaking on a Bible Lectureship in Kakinada. Although much could be said about the various works, in this article attention is centered on the Lord's work in Singapore, as well as Kakinada, India, and Bibles for the World.

SINGAPORE: Would it not be wonderful to have the opportunity to preach the Gospel in a country that is multi-cultural, multi-lingual and yet where the common language spoken

is English? Reader friend, we have such a country in Singapore!

According to government statistics, the population of Singapore as of 2008 was 4.84 million, of whom 3.64 million were Singaporean citizens and permanent residents (termed "Singapore Residents"). Various Chinese ethnic groups formed 75.2% of Singapore's residents, Malays 13.6%, Indians 8.8%, while Eurasians, Arabs and other groups formed 2.4%.... English has been heavily promoted as the country's language of administration since its independence. The English used is primarily based on British English, with some American English influences. The use of English became widespread in Singapore after it was implemented as a first language medium in the education system, and English is the most common language in Singaporean literature. In school, children are required to learn English and one of the three other official languages (Wikipedia).

Four Seas College of the Bible and Missions has operated in Singapore since 1965. It is a small college doing a large task. Sharing a building with the Jurong church of Christ, Four Seas Bible College currently has 13 full-time students who come from China, Singapore, Malaysia, Viet Nam, and the Philippines. These students are taught God's Word in English and they, in turn, will go back to their native lands equipped to teach God's Word to their own people in their languages. What an opportunity! Additionally, there are many other Singaporeans who are taking courses through Four Seas extension program conducted at the Lim Ah Pin congregation in Singapore.

Kakinada, India: The Lord has opened a huge door for the spread of the Gospel in India. Brother Joshua Gootam (a native of Southern India),

was converted to Christ in the 1960's. He was converted by brother J. C. Bailey (who came to India from Canada), using Ira Rice's "Basic Bible Course." Since Joshua's conversion to Christ, he has translated the Basic Bible course into two different Indian dialects and offers the Bible course free of charge to anyone whom wishes to study God's Word. Since he preaches on satellite television, people from all over India learn of this course. Amazingly, there are hundreds of requests each day for the Bible course. Over three million people have taken the course. Many lost souls have been converted by means of this Bible course. When a person completes the Bible course they are given a Bible containing both Old and New Testaments. In addition to preaching the Gospel by way of satellite and the Bible course, Joshua also edits and prints 11,000 issues of "The Word of Truth" magazine monthly.

Bibles For The World: As mentioned above, Joshua offers Bibles to those who complete the Basic Bible Course. He needs to mail 1000 Bibles a month. The Bibles cost approximately \$2.25 each. One can readily see the need of over \$2000.00 a month just for the Bibles. Plus there are other places in the world where we are privileged to offer Bibles, such as Russia and China.

Please send any contributions to the Coldwater Church of Christ, P.O. Box 437, Senatobia, MS 38668. May God help us to carrying out His will in world evangelism. "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

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LATIN AMERICAN MISSIONS

Jonathan Winchester

Latin American Missions is a work of the Forrest Park church of Christ, in Valdosta, Georgia. While LAM may be a new work to many, it is not a new work at all. The work began in Panama in 1958 and has grown into seven additional Latin American countries. With the dedication of the missionaries, translators, and printers on staff, LAM will continue to press forth, seeking to reach the lost in Latin America for Christ.

Train the Local Men to Reach Their Own People

Our mission method is to “Train the local men to reach their own people.” Training the local men to do the work decreases dependency upon foreign support and leadership, and increases self-sufficiency. In order to accomplish this mission, the Bible School of the Americas began training men to teach and preach in the country of Panama in 1963. Extension schools have also been established in Colombia (2001), Peru (2006), and the San Blas islands (2006). Currently there are 35 men studying in the school, preparing themselves to reach the lost with the Gospel of Christ. The Bible School of the Americas operates on a scholarship program in order to provide this opportunity to the men. \$425/month for two years will train a man to spend the rest of his life preaching the Gospel.

Children’s Home of the Americas

Other areas of the LAM work are the Children’s Home of the Americas, the Printed Word ministry, and mission campaigns. The Children’s Home of the Americas began in 1996, and is located in Panama City, Panama, on the campus of the Bible School of the Americas. On every trip to Latin America, we are confronted with children who need help. Children with abusive parents, children who have been abandoned, children who

are starving, and children with bellies full of worms. The Home is dedicated to providing these children the opportunity to be loved and reared in a Christian home.

Printed Word Ministry

The Printed Word ministry consists of a fully-functional print shop, which produces nearly one million pieces of Spanish material each year. Sound Bible materials are in abundance in the English language, but this is not the case in Spanish. Our printers and translators work tirelessly to fill this void by translating and printing tracts, Bible class lessons, Children’s materials, commentaries, songbooks, and much more.

Mission Campaigns

LAM seeks to help the local congregations in their work by way of evangelistic and medical mission campaigns. North American brethren work alongside Latin American preachers, teachers, and translators to teach the Gospel from house to house. Medical mission campaigns are a great method of impacting a community for Christ. Christian doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists will treat nearly 2,000 patients in a one-week campaign. Evangelists and translators are available to teach the Gospel to those who have attended the medical clinic. In addition to the evangelistic and medical campaigns, other campaigns are also conducted: Benevolence and relief efforts are conducted during times of disaster; construction teams assist congregations in need of a permanent building; and the YES II (Young Evangelistic Servants) campaigns allow our youth to join with young people in Latin America to teach others and conduct VBS classes for children.

What are the Needs?

Each year we are in desperate need for scholarships in order to train

students. We have the facilities, teachers, and prospective students; we just need the scholarships in order to support them while they study.

I am often asked: “What is the biggest difference between preacher training schools in North America and Latin America?” The answer is that the majority of North American graduates go out and find work with an already-established congregation, while the majority of the Latin American graduates return to a city where there is no church and seek to establish one. Preachers are often in need of financial support until the congregation is mature enough to provide for its own needs.

Communion trays and plastic cups are like gold in Latin America, and cannot be purchased there. How many of our congregations have old sets collecting dust in the basement? If so, could you send them to us and allow us to put them into the hands of the brethren in Latin America?

The Printed Word Ministry is in need of funds for printing and shipping. After seeing congregations with no songbooks, Bibles, or tracts, it is so sad to see a warehouse full of these materials but no means with which to ship them.

Of all the areas of our work, the medical mission campaigns seem to be one of the greatest helps to these preachers and congregations in Latin America. After receiving care and attention to their physical needs, the majority of the patients then allow us to give care and attention to their spiritual needs. Funds are needed in order to purchase medicine for these campaigns. Can you help us purchase these medicines?

LAM has been seeking the lost in Latin America for over 50 years, and with your help, we will continue to do so!

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MISSION AT HOME

Dale Hubbert

“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). The purpose of Jesus is abundantly clear in statement and action. The ministry of Jesus left no doubt that his desire was to bring as many as possible into a spiritual relationship with the Father. Our purpose and motives should be identical today.

It is possible that we can become so conscious of structures and assemblies that our minds wander from the souls that are lost and headed for a lost eternity (2 Thessalonians 1:7-8). The salvation of lost souls and the encouragement of those in the kingdom are matters that should remain the focus of the local church (1 Corinthians 2:2).

Mission work is often considered to be something done in a far away land where people eat weird food. It is true that souls are lost all over the world (Mark 16:15-16). It is also true that many souls are lost and have strayed (2 Timothy 4:8) in the communities where local congregations meet. It is a fact that every congregation sits in the middle of a mission field. How many lost and erring souls are there within a five-mile radius of the church building where you attend?

While it is true that charity begins at home; it ought to be true that mission work begins there as well. Jesus once told a man whom he had healed that he needed to go home to his friends and tell them what great things the Lord had done for him (Mark 5:19). All of us have friends and family who would miss heaven if the Lord were to return today.

Where do we begin? The home is a mission field. What would happen in the church today if fathers and mothers truly treated the home as a mission field and sought with diligence to instill in themselves and their children the love of God (1

John 4:7). Teaching in the home is no guarantee that those in the home will obey the truth and always be faithful. Teaching in the home DOES guarantee that the seed is planted (Luke 8:11) – that is our mission. Teaching children in the home to be evangelistic is a great mission work.

Christian camps are a great mission field. I recently returned from a week at Indian Creek Youth Camp. Eighteen were baptized into Christ but that does not begin to tell the story of the good that was done. Many hours of bible study and training for service were weaved with other activities wherein Christian values were extolled and the pattern of Jesus was lifted high (John 12:32). Many who may not be able to go great distances to teach the gospel can devote a week to building godly foundations in young lives.

The teaching of new converts is a mission that often goes neglected. We are instructed to teach, baptize, and teach some more (Matthew 28:19-20). It has often been noted that the last teaching is prone to get the least attention when in fact the latter teaching is as crucial if not more so to the ultimate growth and salvation of the one who has been taught and baptized (1 Peter 2:2). Does your congregation have a new convert program? A new convert class? An organized way to help these spiritual newcomers in their grounding (Ephesians 3:17)? Are you personally involved in this important mission effort?

Personal evangelism should be an important part in the life of every child of God. The sharing of the gospel is not for an elite few. Every person who has rejoiced over forgiven sins (Acts 8:39) should have zeal to help others enjoy that wonderful feeling. The plight of the lost and the destiny of the saved

should springboard our actions in reaching out to those apart from God. Many methods are at our disposal. Whatever works best for you is the best method! DVD's, open bible studies, bible correspondence courses, and tracts are but a few of the ways the good news can be spread. We need to be going everywhere (Acts 8:4) and that includes the people we know and come in contact with on a daily basis.

Encouraging those already covered by the blood of the Lamb is a mission we can and should give priority to in the local congregation. It is estimated that there as many unfaithful members of the Lord's church as there are faithful members. Thousands have wandered from God and they are worse off than they have ever been (2 Peter 2:20). How did that happen? A variety of reasons factor into those decisions. One reason many may have left the fold of safety is that the level of encouragement was very low. When they faced trials, hardships, difficulties, and the cares of the world there was no “missionary” there to encourage them (Hebrew 3:13) and pray for them. How much stronger would the church be if all those who claimed to be members were faithful? What a mission field all around us!

The gospel is to be shared all over the world. It is great that there are volunteers to go and those willing to share the financial responsibility to see that these works are done. It is of equal importance that we are vibrant and active where we live.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Go Ye Means Go Me by Tim Hayes -----Continued from page 25

Salt is also intended to be used up. One of the greatest things that can happen to the Christian is to be “used up” in service to the Master. *And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved* (II Corinthians 12:15).

Christ also said that the Christian is the light of the world. The world is in total darkness. The fact is not that there is not enough light in the world but rather that the world is void of light. The light is absent, the light is non-existent, this is the world into which Christ came and into which He sends the Christian (John 1:4-5).

Would it seem strange for one to be lost in darkness, having a light but refusing to use it? Would it seem

wrong for one to be lost in darkness with others, having a light but refusing to use it or to share it with others?

On that great Day of Judgment, how severe will be the consequences as one stands being judged and others learn he had the light that leads to eternal life but refused to use it or share it?

Remember the words of Jeremiah, *Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay* (Jeremiah 20:9).

Jeremiah found it impossible not to speak the word of God. The Christian will have to mutate into

something else to stop teaching the word of God. The Christian can do nothing but teach the word of God, because that is who he is. The rest of the world begins at the end of one’s toes and that is where one must begin to teach.

Let us look back at the beginning.

Question: Does go ye mean go me?

Answer: Are you a Christian?

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VIGIL is published under the oversight of the elders of the Adamsville Church of Christ, **Ronnie Hayes**, Editor, and **Chance Hicks**, Associate Editor. You may go to our website www.acoc.org to read and download archived issues of *Vigil*.

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