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**Questions that require an answer**

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**PP 1** Romans 10: 9 -17 (Bible Reading)

Self-introduction and general comments

**PP 2 Questions that require an answer.**

**PP 3** Japan – Tokyo = 37 million. Morning travel experiences at Higashi Urawa > Shinjuku (NZ Pop between 7 and 9am each day. How = One by one. Average church size.

It has been well said that Mission exists because Worship does not!

Our private and public worship is meant to be a formative encounter with Jesus Christ that then propels us into the world for mission. Through the means of grace, God empowers the church for the work of mission. Our gathering in church and responsibility to share the message of Christ does not simply end at the conclusion of our worship service.

When people of all nations don't worship Jesus as the Living God then it is our call to tell them of Jesus. Since Jesus gave us the Great Commission in **Matthew 28: 18 -20** (Read) and the instruction in **Acts 1: 8** (Read) Since the days of the early church, the church of God has sent men and women into mission both to their own people and cross- culturally to the nations of the world. This is the command and call the church must fulfil till Jesus comes again. Local and overseas missions is part of the DNA of all local churches.

Back in 1865 HT went to China and started what was called the China Inland Mission which is now known as OMF International. In those days some missionaries shipped their coffins with their luggage. Hudson Taylor is quoted as saying “If I had a thousand lives I would give them all for China”. Now number of Christians in China is maybe over a hundred times what it was then.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century how missions is accomplished, where missionaries go, and many other aspects have changed but mission still happens through God's people? Because of the internet, TV and Google etc many Christians have become desensitised to the spiritual needs of the world. When Jesus told his disciples to go into all the world, their world was quite small. Now the world is global, but the question still remains, where should I go? Mairangi Bay, Auckland, NZ or overseas? Is God laying the needs of a particular people group on your hearts as individuals or as a church? YP - Short term missions' trip? (Page 109 “Is cross cultural mission for me?)

Now, before we look at today's passage let me comment on a sometimes, believed myth that missions is only for the young and that God only calls the young. Throughout the Bible, God called many in their old age to step out and do courageous exploits for him. Abraham, Moses, Caleb, Josuah, Isaiah, Jeremiah and many more. God's call is not

limited by age but by a willingness for people with health, who sense God's call to pray and ask God what he would have them do.

**PP 4** Primarily it is not just our ability but our availability that God requires.

Fieketts – Farmer, sheep, China (MSI) – Did what they could do for the Kingdom.

The need of people to hear the Gospel and be saved is still as relevant today as when it was first spoken by Paul in today's passage from **Romans 10: 9 – 17**

**PP 5** In verse **14 and 15** Paul poses 4 questions.

Questions that require an answer.

1. How can they call on the one they have not believed in? V14
2. How can they believe in the one they have not heard? V14
3. How can they hear without someone preaching to them? V14
4. How can anyone preach unless they be sent? V15

Paul gives us these four questions that must be answered by all believers in all nations. These four questions are really one big question, and this is why Paul sandwiches these questions between **verses 9 - 12** (Words to note: If you, anyone, no difference, Lord of all, blesses all and everyone) and **16 – 17** where he refers to Jews and Gentiles.

The reason he does this is because these questions were a cultural shock to the Jews as changing cultural norms and entrenched patterns of thought take time. Change really only began in **Acts 10** when Peter was guided by the HS to visit a Roman officer and saw a vision of many animals that Jews thought were unclean, being lowered in front of him. It was then that the early church realised Christ's mission was not just to the Jews but to all nations. **Acts 10: 30 – 35** (Read)

**Romans 10 Verse 14 – 15** is all about people hearing and **verse 17** tells us why hearing about Jesus is so important. Because faith comes when we hear about Jesus. Hear the wonderful message of the Gospel. **Hebrews 11: 6** tells us why faith is so important. Because it is impossible to please God without faith. This kind of faith has three characteristics:

- We must want to come to him. (When you sense the spirit of God drawing you then believe)
- We must believe He exists. (First step to belief)
- We must believe that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him. (Peace with God through forgiveness of sin)

Why is hearing so important? Learning a language depends on hearing it understanding what is being said. Learning Japanese experience as an adult. Hearing same sentence about 40 times before understanding. For the hearer of a new language it all just sounds

like noise and all the words are joined together. That's why learning a second language is easier.

**PP 6** Maybe the following will help us see the process outlined in **verses 14 and 15** more clearly.

- **Need** - People have not heard about Jesus so don't know who to call on for salvation.
- **Method** - God's people sent to preach so people hear about Jesus. Understand the language of God!
- **Result** - Hearing about Jesus activates faith so people can believe.

Illustration of this is found in **Acts 17** (Paul at Athens – To the unknown God – FOMO Factor [Fear Of Missing Out] was at work even at that time - Resurrection)

**Acts 17:31 - 32** Some laughed, some wanted to hear more and we know that some believed. One way to tell others is through your Personal Testimony in 3 minutes – Before, now and what life was like after I became a Christian.

For all churches the message of salvation through Jesus is like a wonderful gift given to us by God to share with those who have not heard.

**PP 7** Gifts are to be unwrapped and enjoyed. If we don't use the gift given us, they are of little benefit to us. Japan a gift giving society - Story of Japanese company owner who had a room full of gifts which he just passed on to others. Still beautifully wrapped – an art in Japan! If you don't unwrap a gift you don't know what you have received. Have you ever seen a child deciding not to unwrap gifts given at Christmas? In most cases the opposite happens, and they just tear open the gift in anticipation and excitement.

Should we as God's people keep this precious message of salvation to ourselves? No, we must unwrap it. How do we do this?

By believing in Jesus and then telling others about Jesus and the change he has made in our lives.

We must become an intentional sending church. God has a call on all our lives. For some it is to minister in the context of our local church, for others it is to fulfil a ministry in NZ and for some to go to a people group overseas and preach the Gospel.

**Prayer Cards** - I wonder what you have under magnets on your fridge door? Grocery lists, family photos? Today, let me show you some of what I have on my fridge door. (Explain photos) These cards are not there just for decoration but as a reminder to pray for these and other missionaries. A couple of the cards I have on my fridge are friends that have visited and spoken at this church. Dawsons and Norths?

Finding God's call on a life begins with gathering information and prayer. The HS does not work in a vacuum For many of us who are older prayer is the most important activity we

can do. Prayer is something we can all do better at. I don't think I have ever met a Christian who is totally happy with their prayer life. Have you noticed that God, more often than not, speaks to people who pray and regularly read the Bible. If someone comments that God does not speak to them one reason can be because that person is not listening to God through prayer and Bible Reading.

Let me suggest prayer topics you may like to add to your prayer time.

- Lord place, your call on the lives of some in our church members that they will know what you want them to do.
- Lord, please place a call on the lives of some in our church to go into ministry overseas. (This is a prayer I used to encourage OMF Prayer group people to pray that God would help them identify younger people who they could see as missionaries and encourage them to pray about the possibility.)

In today's multimedia world we are constantly bombarded with the suffering of people. It is very easy for us to become desensitized to need and God's call to meet that need. We need to pray that God's Spirit speak in such a way that we can all hear through the noise of our multimedia world and TV.

Our Passage today is very clear. Unless people hear they cannot believe.

**PP 8 Keith Green Song Chorus (Died in a plane crash in 1982)**

# Show Brochure print.

To love the Lord our God  
Is the heartbeat of our mission  
The spring from which our service overflows  
Across the street or around the world  
The mission's still the same  
Proclaim and live the Truth in Jesus' name.

Jesus words:

**In John 20: 21** Jesus said: As the Father sent me I am sending you.

Father> Son> Holy Spirit > Me> Others

Mission (passion for those who don't believe) starts in the heart of our heavenly father, is in the heart of Jesus who through His willingness to die on the cross to make a way for us to be saved, is in the heart of the HS who fills our heart with love for himself and for people who have not heard. Our role is to continue to allow that flow into the lives of those who have not heard.

What a joy it would be if we could place a prayer card in our phone, on our desktop or on our fridge, of a new missionary or missionary family send our from this church!