

什麼是差傳？

What is Mission?

When we think of mission we may immediately associate it with the Great Commission in Matthew 28. Our focus is always on the action Jesus committed us to do – “go and make disciples.” Here, I would like to bring your attention to the later part of Mathew 28:20- “till the end of the world.” In this short phrase wit mentions two important elements – time and geography.

First, we have to understand that God has a timetable for what is happening in this world. As mankind’s history goes by He is accomplishing his plan according to His timetable. At the end of His timeline this world in which we live will be destroyed. It is our responsibility, not only to evangelize but to evangelize in response to the opportunity He created for our generation – with a sense of urgency. Soon the opportunity will be gone forever, when His ordained time is past.

Second, we have to understand that He plans to save people of all nations. In geographic terms, He wants us to evangelize people all over the world. It is not just people in St. Louis... it is people in the Far East, Africa, South America, and Europe. It is not just Chinese... it is Caucasians, African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, etc. It is our responsibility to reach out, not only in our local community, but also to reach out to other parts of the world. We should not focus solely on our own church. We should also be willing to share our resources to help those areas where they are not able to evangelize their own people.

This is why our church has a Mission Committee. We support mission organizations and missionaries; we send out short-term mission teams; we organize an annual mission conference; and we encourage brothers and sisters to go to Chinese Mission Conference and the Urbana Mission Conference. By doing all these, we want to obey God’s Great Commandment and take part in His Great Commission.

差傳與馬太福音二十八章耶穌的大使命常被連在一起。然而，我們通常把重點放在耶穌吩咐我們要做的事—「你們要去使萬民做我門徒」。在這裡我想讓大家集中思想最後一句：「直到地極」（太28:20）。這短句裡提到兩個重點：時間和地點。

首先，我們要明白神對這世界要發生的事有一時間表。祂根據祂的時間表在人的歷史成就祂的計劃。我們現在住的這世界最後將要被廢去。我們的責任不單只是傳福音，更要抱著迫切的心情、把握機會向我們這一代的人來傳。因為當祂所定的時間過去了，我們的機會也會永遠消失。

此外，我們要明白祂旨意是要救所有種族的人。用地理角度來看，祂要我們向全世界的人傳福音。不只是聖路易的人，而是遠東人、非洲人、南美洲人、歐洲人.....不單只是中國人，而是白人、美裔黑人、拉丁美洲人、印度人等等。我們不僅有責任向當地的社區以至全世界各地的人傳福音，我們應把注意力、金錢和資源，從自己的教會擴展到全世界，幫助那些有缺乏的教會做福音工作。

教會的差傳小組就是為此而成立。我們支持差傳機構和宣教士，我們差出短宣隊，舉辦每年的差傳年會，鼓勵弟兄姊妹參加華人差傳年會或青年宣教大會。我們藉這一切，表明我們順服神「最大的誠命」（愛神和愛人），並參與祂的「大使命」。