

Sermon series: New Years 2019
Sermon title: Be Sent Globally
Scripture Reading: Luke 10:1-2
Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church
January 20, 2019
S.C. Brown, Pastor

Our vision at CBIBC is that we will all:

BEHOLD GOD daily. We want to see his glory. We want to know him. We want to love him. And we will do that as we become beavers for the Bible because it's in the Bible that we can know God.

Our vision is also that we will **BELONG** to one another deeply and love one another just as Christ loved us: build each other up with the gifts we have been given.

We also want to **BE SENT** locally and globally. We want to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

We want to BE SENT globally to take the good news of Jesus to the uttermost parts of the earth. And it is in this area that I want to encourage us in today: Being Sent globally.

Let's pray.

Have you ever wondered what God is doing in the world?

I mean, what's his plan? Do you know what his plan is?

We know what his plan is in the Great Commission, Matthew 28:18-20. Jesus commanded all of his followers to go about the world making disciples of all of the ethnic groups of the world.

So, that is the mission.

We see the mission fulfilled in Revelation 7:9, where there is a great multitude before the throne in heaven. And there are some there representing every nation, tribe, ethnic group and language.

Matthew 28:18-20

Commission



Revelation 7:9

Fulfillment

all the ethnic groups

There will be some who come to saving faith from all ethnic groups, we know that for sure. But we are not there yet.

So, we live in the gap today, right now...between Jesus's commission and the fulfillment of it.

No believer can say they don't have a part to play. We are all called to join Jesus in his agenda.

It's not a matter of *whether* we are called to participate but *how* we are to participate.

We can pray: provide air support.

We can send others: mobilize others.

We can go ourselves by being a front line troop.

In 1996, I was a 25 year old college graduate who wasn't sure what God's will for my life was.

I was searching hard for God to show me my calling.

There were many things that I could do, but I wanted to know what I was born to do. The honest truth is, I had no direction.

Yet, I was led by the Lord and encouraged by some older men to pray and seek God's face and ask him what I should be doing with my life.

I thought that I was going to go into the music industry in some way. I thought I would write and perform songs. But God had other plans.

It was a Sunday in the summer of 1996 and I remember praying, "God speak to me today." I went to church anticipating God to show me something.

I went to the early service and the message was on marriage. I thought, "That doesn't really apply to me."

Surprisingly, I went to Sunday School at 9:30am and we had a guest speaker.

It was my former student minister who was a missionary in Mexico. I had seen him a few times while he was in and he kept harassing me saying things like, *“You should consider going to the mission field.”* I was little annoyed by it, maybe like you will be with me today. I simply replied, *“Rick, when God calls me I will go. But he hasn’t called me.”*

Well, everything was about to change that Sunday morning.

Rick was sharing from [Isaiah chapter 6](#) where Isaiah sees the Lord and overhears the Lord saying, *“Who will go for us and whom shall we send?”* I heard for the first time that it wasn’t a personal call to Isaiah but the Godhead talking. Isaiah overhears and says, *“Here am I. Send me.”* It’s as if he was saying, “Hey God, I hear you saying you need some people to go. I’ll be glad to be the one.”

I was struck. I realized that I had been waiting on a specific call instead of seeing what God is doing in the world and responding to be a part of it.

I realized for the first time that it was a great privilege to be sent by the Lord into the unreached peoples and I wanted to respond somehow.

Rick then said this, *“All you need to do to join a 2 year program to serve overseas is 2 things: be a graduate from college and be willing.”*

I looked around the room. I was the only one in the room already graduated. That left me with only one question. Was I willing?

He then said, *“For example I know of 250 jobs last year in China teaching English that no one took because they weren’t willing to go.”*

Something happened! All I can tell you is that when he said the word “China” that joy flooded my soul. It was as if I was being awakened and my affections were changed by the Holy Spirit in that very moment. My heart was beating strongly. The word ‘China’, ‘China’ kept flooding my mind. I couldn’t stop thinking about China. I spent a lot of time praying, asking God what I needed to do with these desires that I now had. That was 23 years ago.

That day the Lord of the harvest kicked me out of my gospel saturated hometown where there are 250 churches in a town of 50,000 people...and threw me deep into the uttermost parts of China. Surely someone was praying for God to send out laborers. Surely someone was praying for God to kick some of us out.

I want to see God kick some people out of CBIBC and throw some of you into the uttermost parts of the world. The harvest is huge. The workers are few.

Turn in your Bibles to **Luke 10:1-2**. I won't spend a long time here. I simply want to encourage us today as a church. I want to open our eyes a bit.

I want to encourage us to pray.

I want you to think about being sent out.

1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. 2 And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

Is the harvest really plentiful?

The harvest is a harvest of people.

UNREACHED	UN-EVANGELIZED	EVANGELIZED
Little or no access to the gospel	Access to the gospel, but not received	Sufficient numbers of churches to reach others
3.1 Billion people	764 Million	3.5 Billion
6,741 groups	2,792 groups	7,058 groups
.001% of giving goes here.	.3% of giving goes here.	99% of giving goes here.
3% of workers	23% of workers	74% of workers

Many unreached ethnic groups are in China and not too far from us. And around the world there are thousands of groups who have yet to hear. It's not that they have heard and they don't believe.

They've never heard!

Someone once said, *"No one deserves to hear the gospel twice until everyone has heard it once."*

Most Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists don't even know a single Christian. A few billion people in the world who if they woke up tomorrow morning and wanted to find a Christian or a church, they wouldn't find one.

The harvest is plentiful and the laborers are few, as we see in the chart above.

So, the first step for us to move toward BEING SENT globally is to:

- 1. Be awake. Be aware.** See the need. Don't live unaware. Don't live in our own little world, even sometimes our gospel saturated world and forget that there are hundreds of millions who have never heard the first time. Some of them even in HK but billions in the nations. Don't bury your head in the sand. As William Wilberforce said, *"Having seen all this you can choose to look the other way, but you can never say again, 'I did not know'".*

Be awake by revolving your life around God's global purpose instead of just living your life, paying your bills,

taking your kids to school, eating dinner and God being in a section of your life labeled Religious section. If you are living that way, then you don't accurately understand what it means to 'follow' Jesus. If you claim Jesus as your Lord, you are already called to join him in his global agenda.

2. Beg God to throw out workers into his fields.

That's what it says we should do. Look at verse 2 again. **“Pray earnestly (or beg) the Lord of the harvest”** ...to do something.

It's interesting that the command of this passage is to pray: to beg God to do something about the need for workers. This word 'pray' here means to tie, to bind oneself to, to beg.

Why is this the answer? Because we need God to move us. We need God to shake us out: shake us up. We need God to do a work in our hearts where we want to go. That's what he did to me. I didn't have the desire to go. Then I had it.

Now what specifically do we want to pray?

We want to pray for God to kick people out: to throw people out: to fling people into the harvest fields.

Is that really what it means? I thought it says, “Send.”

In verse 1, it says that Jesus 'sent them on ahead'.

In verse 3, it says, “Go your way, behold I am ‘sending’ you.

In both of these cases, he uses the word where we get the word ‘apostle’ from: a form of ‘αποστέλλο’.

But, in verse 2 where he says, “[Pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest](#)” he uses a different word. He uses the word ‘εκβαλλο’.

‘εκβαλλο’ is used 81 times in the New Testament.

Ekballo is a forceful word. It is mostly used for casting out demons...the word ‘cast’.

It means to drive out, throw out, push out and even tear out.

But for some strange reason, translators use send here. It loses its strength. Send is weak. Ekballo is very strong.

Jesus commands us to ‘pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to kick out workers into the harvest fields.’

Why would we need to pray that?

Why would God need to forcefully throw us out or drive us out?

Because WE are unwilling to go. We want others to do it. And very few are being sent.

1. We need to Be awake/Be aware of the great need.
2. We need to Beg God for kick people out.
3. We need to Be willing to be the answer to our own prayers.

You see, it's not about asking God to send others specifically. It's not, "God I beg you to send out those people." "God I beg you to kick out those people." "God throw out those missionary types."

NO! It's being willing to say, "[Here am I, send me.](#)"

Let me close with questions for us all.

- **If God commanded you to go into the world to make disciples of all nations, would you do it? If not, why wouldn't you?**

Would you have a good reason to NOT do it besides... "*I don't want to*" or because you love the world more than Jesus?

- **If God commanded you to join a group of people in praying that he might kick out laborers into the nations, would you give yourself to this task?**

Well, he's already commanded us to do those things.

Clearwater Bay Church, let's **Be Sent** to a group who has yet to embrace our Lord- for the glory of his name. Let's pray and ask the Lord which unreached ethnic group we could take off of the unreached list.

"May the Lamb that was slain receive the reward of His suffering!"