

Sermon Series: Lengthen & Strengthen  
Sermon title: Panta Ta Ethne  
Scripture: Matthew 28:18-20  
Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church  
May 6, 2018  
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Over the last 5 weeks we've been talking Strategy. The verse that we have taken our strategy from is **Isaiah 54:2-3**.

**2 “Enlarge the place of your tent,  
and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched  
out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and  
strengthen your stakes.**

**3 For you will spread abroad to the right and to the  
left.**

We have 5 areas that I'm calling us to stretch out and lengthen and 4 areas or 4 stakes that we need to strengthen. We will do those in the summer.

The **5 cords** are:

**1. Prayer-**

We need to pray more strategically and pray more together. We do a great job of sending out prayer requests and praying individually—but our praying together needs to happen more. Prayer needs to undergird all we do. It is the support for the other 4 cords. Because..Apart from HIM we can do nothing.

## **2. Proclamation of the gospel-**

In week 2 we looked at the fact that we are obligated to those around us..we owe the gospel to them. We should pray for God to give us an eagerness to share and an unashamed heart. We must pray toward that and work toward that...asking God to give us hearts to obey him.

## **3. Parents and children-**

In week 3 we looked at lengthen our cord to parents and children. We must disciple our own children well. We must put discipleship above education. We also need to reach out to the parents and children around us....Lengthen our ministry to the many families in our sphere of influence and our area. We are surrounded by families who don't know Christ and we need to reach them.

## **4. Planting 'multiplying' small groups-**

Last week we looked at LTG's...Life Transformation Groups...a method by which we can make disciples. Our church needs to de-centralize, stretch out and do ministry by meeting together with 2 or 3 others to grow in our faith. We must obey Jesus' commands to one another...one another. If we aren't careful, we can get stuck in a cycle of forever equipping...attending Bible studies forever and never making disciples. Life Transformation Groups will help us do that.

Today we come the final and **5th** cord that we need to lengthen...and that is in the area of Global Missions or what we are calling....**Panta Ta Ethne**. Panta Ta Ethne

is the original Greek phrase for '*All the nations*'....as in the great commission where Jesus said, "Go, make disciples of all the nations.

Let's pray.

Our church has missions in its DNA.

25 years ago, a man named Dick Lusk, who wasn't from this city or country...who wasn't Chinese..planted this church. He left his home, his family, his language and following the call of God, packed up his wife and kids and his few belongings and traveled to this part of the world. And it seems every pastor that CBIBC has ever had....has done the same thing.

It's my prayer that in the future, some of you will follow in these same footsteps and go yourselves!

It's time for CBIBC to not just receive missionaries but launch some brothers and sisters out....To leave Hong Kong and purposely go to a place that needs Jesus..an ethnic group that has little or no **access** to the gospel.

Here in Hong Kong we have many unbelievers, but... just about any person in Hong Kong who woke up tomorrow morning and said, "I want to know more about Jesus Christ"...they could find out. There is **access**. They could find a church for sure. They may know a Christian. They could probably find a Bible.

So, the issue in Hong Kong is EVANGELISM. Here, there are many that we need to proclaim the gospel to but they DO at least have **access**.

Missions is going where there is little or no access to the gospel or an insufficient number of people to reach the place with the good news.

There are 3 Billion people in the world who have little or no access to the good news. There are hundreds of millions who....if they work up tomorrow and wanted to know about Jesus Christ...they would have a very hard time. There is no church. They don't know a believer. No Bibles around. No Christian radio. No one on the streets handing out flyers. NO ACCESS.

#### **ANIMISM**

- 206 Million worldwide
- 2,800 People Groups
- 1,004 UPGs
- 2.9% of the world population

#### **HINDUISM**

- 1.028 Billion worldwide
- 2,595 People Groups
- 2,314 UPG's
- 14.7% of the world population

#### **CHINA**

- 1.291 Billion individuals
- 519 people groups
- 428 Unreached People Groups
- 18.6% of the world population

#### **ISLAM**

- 1.537 Billion worldwide
- 3,431 Total People Groups
- 2,854 UPG's
- 22% of the world population

#### **BUDDHISM**

- 621 Million worldwide
- 581 People Groups
- 449 UPGs
- 8.9% of world population

#### **CHRISTIAN**

- 2 Billion worldwide (all Catholic, Protestant, etc.)
- 6,876 Total People Groups
- 28.6% of the world population

Sources: *Operation World* and *Joshua Project*

## **WORLDWIDE**

- Total People Groups: 16,591

## **UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS**

- Less than 2% Evangelical Christian.
- Total Unreached People Groups: 6,741
- Total Population of UPGs: 3.11 billion people
- Total Percentage of world: UPG's make up 42.2% of world population

## **UNEVANGELIZED PEOPLES**

- Greater than 2% Evangelical Christian but still great numbers of unsaved.
- Total Unevangelized People Groups: 2,792
- Total Population: 764 million
- Total Percentage of world: the unevangelized make up 11% of world population

## **REACHED PEOPLES**

- Greater than 2% Evangelical Christian or majority Christian Population
- Total Reached People Groups: 7,058
- Total Population: 3.5 billion
- Total Percentage of world: the reached population makes up 42% of world population

## **TOTAL DISTRIBUTION OF LABORERS**

There are 400,000 missionaries from all branches of Christendom. Only between 3 and 4% (13,315) of these missionaries work among unreached peoples. The distribution of Protestant Missionaries among religious blocks looks like this:

- 74% Among Nominal Christians
- 3% Among Buddhists
- 8% Among Tribal Peoples
- 2% Among Hindus
- 6% Among Muslims
- 2% Among Chinese Folk Religions
- 4% Among Atheist or Non-Religious Peoples
- 1% Among Jewish Peoples

## TOTAL LANGUAGES:

There are estimated 6,909 Languages worldwide.

## THREE LARGEST LANGUAGES:

Mandarin Chinese 12.44%, Spanish 4.85%, English 4.83%, (first language speakers)

## BIBLE TRANSLATION:

4,400 languages are without Scripture portions available, with some 634,000,000 speakers. Translation projects are in progress in an estimated 1,600 languages that currently are without adequate Scriptures. There are about 2,500 languages needing Bible translation work to begin. (joshuaproject.net)

**WHAT IS CBIBC GOING TO DO ABOUT THAT?**  
**WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THAT?**  
**SHOULD WE DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT?**

Why did I include this in the church strategy?  
Do we really have a responsibility to the nations?

Let's look at some scripture.

### **Psalm 67**

May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us, *Selah*  
that your way may be known on earth,  
your saving power among all nations.  
Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you!  
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity

and guide the nations upon earth. *Selah*  
Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you!  
The earth has yielded its increase;  
God, our God, shall bless us.  
God shall bless us;  
let all the ends of the earth fear him!

### **Psalm 96:3-5**

Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the peoples!  
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be feared above all gods.  
For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,  
but the Lord made the heavens.

### **Psalm 97:6-7**

The heavens proclaim his righteousness,  
and all the peoples see his glory.  
All worshipers of images are put to shame,  
who make their boast in worthless idols;  
worship him, all you gods!

**Matthew 28:18-20**— 18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of **all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

παντα τα εθνη {Panta ta Ethne}..All the ethnic groups.

**Matthew 24:14**— Jesus said the news, “the gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

**Luke 24:46-47**— 46 and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things.

**Acts 1:8**—8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

**Revelation 7:9-12**—

9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” 11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and



thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

**If we claim Jesus as Lord, we are already called to join him in his kingdom agenda!**

Let me ask you some hard questions.

As a Christian, do you have a good reason for NOT going to the mission field?

**“While vast continents are shrouded in darkness... the burden of proof lies upon you to show that the circumstances in which God has placed you were meant by God to keep you out of the foreign mission field.” -Ion Keith-Falconer**

Are you waiting on a calling?

Don't you see that we are all called to join him in the task of reaching the nations!

It's not about IF we are called...the question is HOW you are to be involved and WHERE?

Have you surrendered your entire life to Jesus Christ or are you holding back? “Jesus, I'll follow you as long as it's not \_\_\_\_\_”

Some of you need to move back to the mainland and move where some of these unengaged or unreached ethnic groups live...take a job there....and pour out your life there! GO! CBIBC will support you and pray for you and visit you.

Why not?

“If not you, then who? If not now, then when?”

Some of you need to consider going to another unreached place that God may be calling you to.

CBIBC we’ve given money for years. We’ve been faithful to give, we’ve been faithful to pray. It’s time we GO and SEND.

Are you willing? I am willing!

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Lastly, one of the things that I want to call our church to do collectively is to pray about adopting an unreached ethnic group. A group of people somewhere in the world, dear to God but with little or no access to the good news. That we would say together, “We will try to reach them.” We will pray. We will partner. We will go. We will send. We will stretch out this cord...to the nations.

I'll close with a story.

In 1732, Two young Moravians named Johann Dober and David Nitschmann heard of an island in the West Indies where an atheist British owner had 2000 to 3000 slaves. And the owner had said, "No preacher, no clergyman, will ever stay on this island. If he's shipwrecked we'll keep him in a separate house until he has to leave, but he's never going to talk to any of us about God, I'm through with all that nonsense." Three thousand slaves from Africa brought to an island in the Atlantic and there to live and die without hearing of Christ.

Several thousand slaves toiled in the sugar cane fields under the burning sun. 3000 slaves were doomed to live and die without hearing of Christ. These 2 young Germans in their 20's from the Moravians sect heard about their plight. They were willing to sell themselves to the British planter for the standard price for a male slave [if necessary.] They ended up going as a carpenter and a potter. Some from the Moravian community from Herrnhut came to Copenhagen see the two lads off, who perhaps would never return again.

Was their extreme sacrifice wise? Was it necessary? As the ship slipped away with the tide and the gap widened, the young men linked arms, raised their hands and shouted across the spreading gap, "*May the Lamb that was slain receive the reward of His suffering.*"