

Go! Missions

Session 4 – Letter to the World
2 Corinthians 3:1-6



Introduction

In the first lesson, we discussed how we are sent into the world by God. We are ‘missioned,’ or sent out, and being sent out requires sacrifice. In the second lesson, we looked at our task of evangelizing, or sharing the good news, the good news that God is reconciling the whole world to himself. Part of our mission is to reconcile the world to God. Finally, we looked at the tenants of the social gospel and noted that to be missioned is to seriously consider our call to take care of the hungry, naked, and imprisoned. In doing so, we join God in creating heaven on earth.

Finally, we return to our distinction between ‘**missional**’ and ‘**missionary**.’ Again, missional simply means that we (ALL OF US) are sent out into God’s world to share who God is to other people. A missionary, however, is someone who works vocationally across cultural barriers to proclaim God’s good news.

I am sent. You are sent. We are sent:

There are many images for the church, but one image that is not often used is that we are Christ’s letter to the world.

READ 2 Corinthians 3: 1-6

ASK - *What does this passage say about how we witness in the world?* (Gather answers.)

This passage makes clear the fact that PEOPLE are Christ’s letter. In that is the implication that buildings and programs are not. This is important because Paul is asserting the value of ministering for the transformation of people. Painting walls and building the perfect church program may have some value, but our main focus is on ministering to people because people will be the witnesses to this world. We are focusing on the “Spirit of the Living God being written on **HUMAN** hearts.”

This passage talks about how “I” am sent because it recognizes that you have something to say on behalf of Christ. Perhaps it is to your family or co-workers, but you have a message that you are supposed to carry from Christ, written on your heart by the Spirit of God. This passage talks about how “we” are sent because it recognizes that “I” will be sent to others to testify to what God has done, and then others will be sent out in response. In the end, the goal is to inspire other witnesses to go out and testify to who God is, too.

“Letter to the World” Activity

Grab a sheet of paper. Choose someone specific, perhaps a child or parent, perhaps a group of people like those who are mourning. Choose a group or a person, and on your sheet of paper begin with:

Dear _____ (fill it in with your group or person)

Then, write God's good news to them. What does God want to say to them? What does God want us to do for them? Write it all out, and then sign it. ***Depending on time, you might consider having the group share some of the letters they wrote.*

God has good news to share with this world, through you. As Christ's letters to the world, we are tasked with sharing what the Spirit writes on our hearts.

This understanding recognizes that different people are sent to different places. The church sends representatives on its behalf to proclaim Christ's good news to the world. Someone who crosses cultural barriers to be this letter, is called a missionary.

Cumberland Presbyterian Missionaries

In the CP denomination, we define a missionary as someone who crosses large cultural and linguistic barriers to proclaim the gospel. While we recognize that the entire church is sent out to witness to God, we also recognize that this task is a distinct one with unique challenges and unique gifts required.

We, as a denomination, send missionaries around the world to represent the Good News of Jesus Christ on behalf of the CP Church.

ASK - What CP missionaries do you know? Can you list them on a piece of paper? Have you talked to a missionary? Are you praying for a CP missionary? (Gather answers.)

Our theology of international missions - Missionaries in the CP Church are sent to further the interests of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church around the world. This is not a selfish thing to do. This is their task because we believe that the CP church is part of the kingdom of God. As they spread the CP church abroad, they are working to spread God's kingdom.

This does not mean our missionaries are competing with other denominations. They are working to spread the CP church's letter to the world in conjunction with others, reaching people that other denominations may not be able to.

Our missionaries are trained to listen and watch for what the Holy Spirit is already doing in a given place. They join in with their gifts and skills to plant churches, start medical clinics, work in schools, preach and teach.

Current CP Missionaries

- 1) Boyce and Beth Wallace: Missionaries to Colombia working in discipleship and leadership development
- 2) Carlos and Luz Dary Rivera: Missionaries to Mexico. Carlos works as a church planter and Luz Dary works in women's ministry.
- 3) Fhanor and Socorro Pejendino: Missionaries to Guatemala working as church planters.
- 4) Anay Ortega: Missionary to Guatemala working as an administrator and evangelist.
- 5) John and Joy Park: Missionaries to Iloilo, Philippines working in leadership development and church planting.
- 6) Daniel and Kay Jang: Missionaries to Iloilo, Philippines working as church planters.
- 7) David and Sarah Lee: Missionaries to Southeast Asia working as church planters.
- 8) Jacob and Lindsey Sims: Missionaries to Brazil working as church planters (deployment January 2017)

- 9) Patrick and Jessica Wilkerson: Missionaries to Colombia working as church planters (deployment 2017 or 2018).
- 10) Kenneth and Delight Hopson: Missionaries with World Gospel Missions in Uganda
- 11) *Anonymous Missionaries: Live in Kyrgyzstan and run an egg production company. They evangelize through the use of Christians to distribute the eggs.
Anonymity is important to certain missionaries for safety reasons

How to Support our Missionaries

To support our missionaries, please consider donating as individuals or as churches or as Women's groups to the "Stott-Wallace Missionary Offering Fund." This is an ongoing resource designed to provide financial support for current and future CP missionaries. This fund will enable missionaries to spend less energy and money raising support money, so that they can devote more time to the work in the field. This fund helps to sustain a more salary-based missions program for the CP Church. 100% of all support money sent in to the Missions Ministry Team is given to support the CP missionaries.

Prayer Activity

Attached you have a map of all the mission fields and missionaries of the CP denomination. Take some time to locate where they all are and to pray over each missionary and the work they are doing. **We invite you to pray over them individually and by name.** You can divide the names up and let different people in the group take turns praying over a missionary. If you have a large group, you may want to divide into a few small groups, with each group in charge of praying for one or two of the missionaries by name. (*You will notice several of these missionaries are not listed by name because they serve in closed countries. A closed country is a country where proclaiming the Christian Gospel is illegal. Anonymity is important to their safety.)

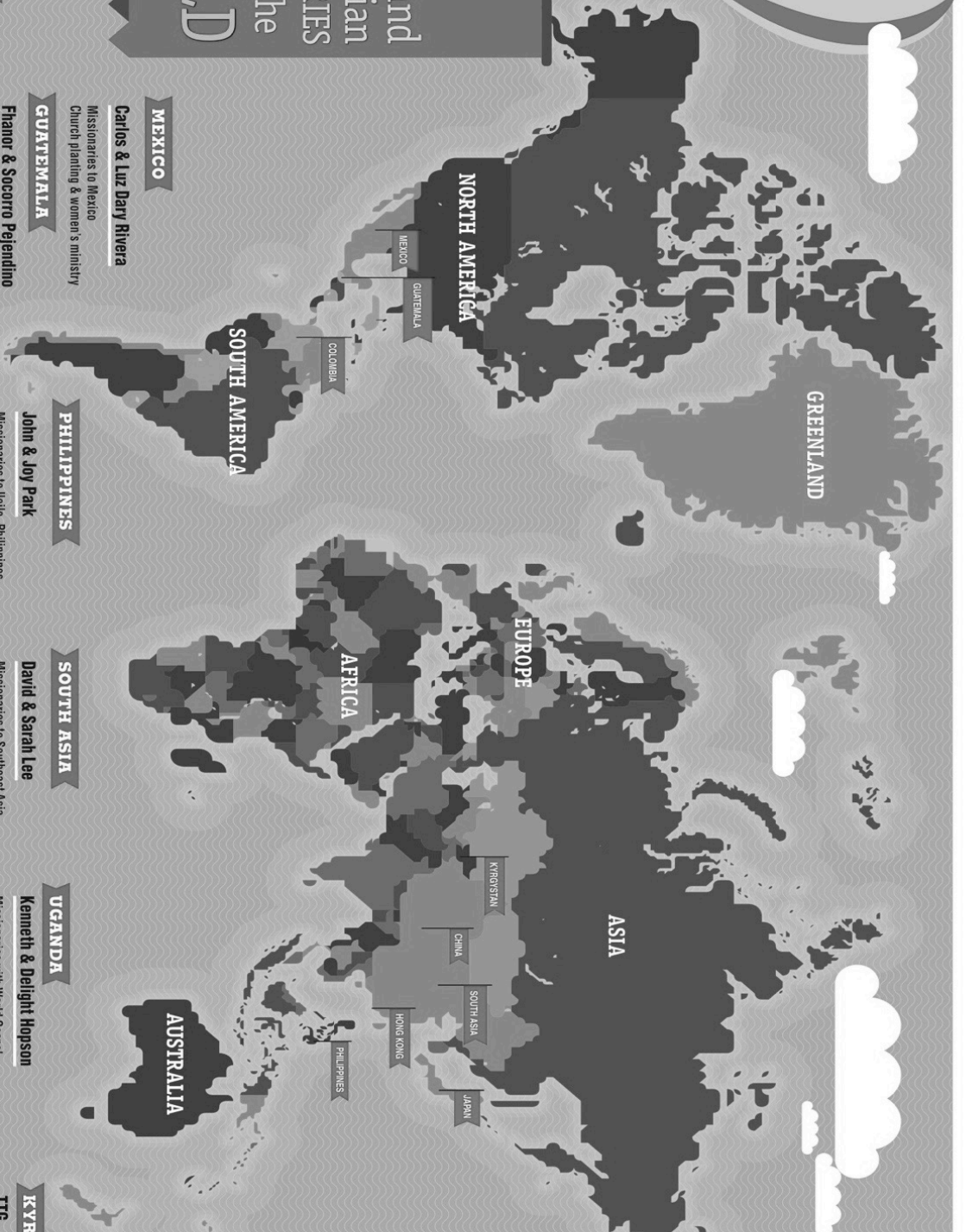
These are our representatives in foreign countries. We have entrusted them with the gospel. And so, we pray for them because WE are sent out. While we may be sent to our local communities, others are sent to foreign lands. Nevertheless, we, all of us together, pray for one another, and together bring the gospel to the corners of the earth.

Conclusion

We are each Christ's letter to the world, written by the Holy Spirit. We have a particular message we are to proclaim and particular people we are to proclaim it to. Because missionaries have been sent to other people, we pray for them, that God might bless them as they proclaim the good news in ways that we cannot. We proclaim the good news together in the hopes that one day Christ's letter to the world will be read and received by all.

PRAYER: Lord God, Thank you for those whom you have called to be missionaries in other corners of this world. Bless them and keep them. Show us how to support them in the tasks that you have called them to do. Send your Spirit upon us that we might be your letter to the world. In Christ's name, Amen.

Cumberland Presbyterian MISSIONARIES Around The WORLD



Note:

* Missionaries that have an initial work in closed countries and for security reasons we do not publish their names. Much of the data on this map is from the 2013 GA Yearbook. Non-denominational organizations that have CP missionaries that are not listed are: Frontiers Missions, New Systems International and Campus Crusade.

COLOMBIA
Boyce & Beth Wallace
 Missionaries to Colombia
 Discipleship & Leadership
 Development

MEXICO
Carlos & Luz Dary Rivera
 Missionaries to Mexico
 Church planting & women's ministry

GUATEMALA
Ethanor & Socorro Pejandino
 Missionary to Guatemala
 Church Planters

ANAY ORTEGA
 Missionary to Guatemala
 Administrator, Evangelism

PHILIPPINES
John & Joy Park
 Missionaries to Iloilo, Philippines
 Leadership Development,
 Church Planting

Daniel & Kay Jang
 Missionaries in Iloilo, Philippines
 Church Planters

SOUTH ASIA
David & Sarah Lee
 Missionaries to Southeast Asia
 Church Planters

HONG KONG
Glenn Watts
 Missionary to Hong Kong
 Worship and English Service Xi Lin CPC

UGANDA
Kenneth & Delight Hopson
 Missionaries with World Gospel
 Missions - Uganda

CHINA
NB
 Lives in China and does leadership devel-
 opment with Campus Crusade.

KYRGYZSTAN
TTG
 They live in Kyrgyzstan
 and run an egg production
 company. They evangelize
 through the use of Chris-
 tians to distribute eggs.