

Missions Month

God's World

Our Mission Field



May 2011 Series

Christ Evangelical Free Church Pulpit Ministry

***Jesus Christ. . . our greatest purpose,
our highest calling, our soul's source and joy,
and our all-consuming passion***

May each lesson bring a growing submission, a deeper obedience and an increase of the righteous reign of the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives.



Jesus Christ

Our Highest Calling
Our Greatest Purpose
Our Soul's Source and Joy
And Our All Consuming Passion

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Missions God's World, Our Mission Field

"Jesus' Final Preparation for the Harvest"

May 1, 2011

When I turn off Rt 19, I continually thank God for our mission field and for this church – this City on a Hill – this Missionary Outpost – this Beacon on light and life in an area with a lot of spiritual darkness.

INTRO

Kids Sermon

The Mission of our church

Christ Evangelical Free Church is committed to demonstrating God's Word His unconditional love reach people and develop mature disciples the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Vision of the church

To be a church that serves our community. (Jn. 13)

To be a growing, effective and dynamic church, full of the Holy Spirit and used of God to bring eternal life transformation into our mission field.

Goals of our Church

- 1) To be experiencing the Increase of the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives.
- 2) To be Increasing in attendance through increase of new souls coming to faith in Christ.
- 3) To be Increasing in those who have a heart passion to grow in the knowledge of Christ and of God's word, maturing as Christ's disciples.

*** * * Additional Church wide Goals for 2011**

1. ...To participate in a Bible reading plan for the coming new year.
2. ...To be willing to take a new step of faith as a church, trusting God to use us in a new and powerful way for His kingdom purposes.
3. ..To pray for some opportunity for our church to serve the Saegertown community.
4. ...To develop closer ministry and fellowship relationships with other local, like-minded churches.
5. ... To be involved in greater participation in evangelistic training and opportunities.
6. ...To help develop some regular outreach ministry, which would involve church wide participation.
7. ...To be praying and consider participation in an opening for ministry at Chuck-A-Lou.
8. ...To experience greater interest and participation in our Wednesday night prayer meeting.
9. ...For each family to pray for and connect with at least one other family in a discipleship relationship.

Steps of our church – Opportunities for a our Missionary Plan of Action

* We will be sharing a few exciting things at our annual Congregational Mtg. on Tuesday evening at 7pm at on May 10.

What will be your Personal Missionary Plan of Action?

What will be your Family Missionary Plan of Action?

If Jesus is preparing for a harvest, how should we be preparing? If you feel that just because you are saved, that you are ready to meet Jesus, you are mistaken. Beyond our own focused salvation, there

is the world and community of lost souls, who are also those, whom Christ died and shed His blood to redeem. Are we obediently and diligently striving to reach them and help them to be prepared for the eternal harvest when Christ returns?

THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST (Acts 1:1-8)

* *Jesus is preparing the Disciples for fruitful ministry*

Act 1:3-8 To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. (4) And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; (5) for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." (6) So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" (7) He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. (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."

Jesus Confirms His Resurrected Presence

*The resurrection of Christ was literal, physical, bodily, and Visual.

Act 1:3 To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during **forty** days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

1Co 15:1-9 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, (2) and

by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you--unless you believed in vain. (3) For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, (4) that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, (5) and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. (6) Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. (7) Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. (8) Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. (9) For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

Jn. 20:17 – Mary clung to Jesus’ feet – physical, literal,
Lk. 24:13 – Jesus on the road to Emmaeus with some of the disciples

- he taught them, - he broke bread with them (v30)

Luk 24:39 See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

He ate a meal with them - Luk 24:42-43 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, (43) and he took it and ate before them.

B. Jesus Clarifies His Promise of the HS

* He promises power for the work ahead.

Act 1:4-8 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; (5) for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." (6) So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" (7) He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. (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."

THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST (Acts 1:87-11)

Jesus is providing the disciples with assurance for fruitful ministry.

Act 1:8-11 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." (9) And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. (10) And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, (11) and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will **come in the same way** as you saw him go into heaven."

Assurance of the faith is the 2nd most important thing a Christian needs. The First is the HS himself.

Jesus Ascended (1:9)

* Bodily, Literally, physically, visually. Just as he was born. Just as He was raised.

* God gave angelic testimony of the ascension of Jesus.

To offer Assurance and confidence.

To instill with Courage and boldness.

They were eyewitnesses.

Angels Promised (1:20-11)

Just as He went up, so shall He return.

Jesus will return Bodily, Literally, Physically, visually.

The Mission Clarified (1:8)

Witnesses to the uttermost part of the world.

* Cp. Mat. 28:18

((The Ascension of Christ))

The Provision of Christ for the Mission of the Harvest

Jesus is providing the disciples with the Power for their calling.

Act 2:1-11 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. (2) And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. (3) And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. (4) And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. (5) Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. (6) And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. (7) And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? (8) And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? (9) Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, (10) Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, (11) both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians--we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

The Feast of Pentecost / first fruits

*

Act 2:1

And when the day of Pentecost - The word “Pentecost” is a Greek word signifying the 50th part of a thing, or the 50th in order. Among the Jews it was applied to one of their three great feasts which began on the 50th day after the Passover. This feast was reckoned from the 16th day of the month Abib, or April, or the second day of the Passover. The paschal lamb was slain on the 14th of the month at evening, Lev 23:5; on the 15th day of the month was a holy convocation - the proper beginning of the feast; on the 16th day was the offering of the firstfruits of harvest, and from that day they were to reckon seven weeks, that is, 49 days, to the feast called the Feast of Pentecost, so that it occurred 50 days after the first day of the Feast of the Passover. This feast was also called the Feast of Weeks, from the circumstance that it followed a succession of weeks, Exo 34:22; Num 28:26; Deu 16:10. It was also a harvest festival, and was accordingly called the ***Feast of Harvest***; and it was for this reason that two loaves made of new meal were offered on this occasion as first-fruits, Lev 23:17, Lev 23:20; Num 28:27-31. (Albert Barnes)

* After Jesus was raised, He remained, appeared to and ministered to hundreds before He ascended.

* Approximately 50 days after Passover and 10 days following His resurrection, Jesus Ascended into heaven.

Some connections to the NT Pentecost

1. At the passover, the Israelites were delivered from Egyptian bondage: this was a type of the thralldom in which the human race were to Satan and sin.
2. At the passover Jesus Christ, who was typified by the paschal lamb, was sacrificed for the sin of the world, and by this sacrifice redemption from sin and Satan is now procured and proclaimed.
3. On the pentecost, God gave his law on Mount Sinai, accompanied with thunderings and lightnings.

4. On the pentecost, God sent down his Holy Spirit, like a rushing mighty wind; and tongues of fire sat upon each disciple, in order that, by his influence, that new law of light and life might be promulgated and established. Thus, the analogy between the Egyptian bondage and the thralldom occasioned by sin - the deliverance from Egypt, and the redemption from sin - the giving of the law, with all its emblematic accompaniments, and the sending down the Holy Spirit, with its symbols of light, life, and power, has been exactly preserved.

4. At the Jewish passover, Christ was degraded, humbled, and ignominiously put to death: at the following festival, the pentecost, he was highly glorified; and the all-conquering and ever-during might of his kingdom then commenced. The Holy Spirit seems to have designed all these analogies, to show that, through all preceding ages, God had the dispensation of the Gospel continually in view; and that the old law and its ordinances were only designed as preparatives for the new. (Adam Clarke)

We have what we need to do what we need to do.

When Jesus Ascended:

1) He was seated on the throne of heaven

Mat 26:64 Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power

Mat 26:64 Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Heb 12:2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

2) He sent the HS in full preparation for the Mission of the harvest.

This week I received a call from a reputable Christian group with some great DVD materials for leadership development, church growth and basically advancing the Kingdom of God.

* Unless you can send me something that when I open it, there's a package or a bucket that the Holy spirit of God comes pouring out of – unless you can send me something like that, then I probably won't be purchasing anything at this time, because that is exactly what we need where I am.

Act 2:32-33 This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. (33) Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.

((The Provision of Christ for the Harvest))

APPLICATION –

1) Be used for the Harvest of souls. This is God's purpose, may it be ours as well.

2) Be used by the Holy Spirit of God. He will fill us, purify us, guide us, teach us and empower us. We

What will be your Personal Missionary Plan of Action?

....To experience greater interest and participation in our Wednesday night prayer meeting.

What will be your Family Missionary Plan of Action?

...For each family to pray for and connect with at least one other family in a discipleship relationship.

Personal Thoughts:



Missions God's World, Our Mission Field

“Living Like Jesus Lived”

May 15, 2011

Mission of the church

Christ Evangelical Free Church is committed to demonstrating God's Word His unconditional love reach people and develop mature disciples the Lord Jesus Christ

Vision for the church

To be a church that is loving, serving and reaching our community. To be a growing, effective and dynamic church, full of the Holy Spirit and used of God to bring eternal life transformation into our mission field.

Goal: Find ways to effectively love, serve and reach our community, developing relational connections to bridge people to Christ.

Steps: We have developed several steps for a Summer Schedule and will begin implementing that Summer Schedule Sunday, June 5th

1) June: These steps are intended to help us more effectively *Interact with our Immediate Mission Field – Saegertown.*

* In June: Shift our Wednesday evening mtgs to Sun. Nights.

KQ, ACTION, Adult Bible and Prayer group

S.O.S. focus in downtown Saegertown

– Sat.-Visit and meet our neighbors. – Hand out ads for our upcoming Summer Gatherings.

* Ads will focus on the first Sunday of July.

* June 19 or 26: Shift location from CEFC to FCVCS

2) July: This step is intended to help us more effectively ***Infiltrate Our Inner Mission Field.***

- Attempt to reach our mission field where they are
- Take the church to our mission field
- Target the downtown and surrounding area

*** July 16 – SOKM Bike Clinic @ FCVCS @ Saeg.Yard Sale**

3) August: This step is intended to help us more effectively ***Invite our Interested Mission Field through relational connections in serving our community.***

Relational Connections building events and opportunities

Aug 10-14 – Winner's Cup Sports Camp at FCVCS

*** July & August Summer Sunday Evenings – 2 special DVD series.**

“American Heritage Series” – God in the founding of America

“Creation & Evolution” – Answers In Genesis

**Strategies of Spiritual Harvest, p.30 (www.Harvestime.org)*

INTRODUCTION

Gen 22:17-18 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; (18) And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.
(Gen.28:13-14)

The beginning and growth of the gospel and the church.

QQ: How does our garden grow?

GOD'S PLAN FOR HARVEST

*** From the beginning, God's plan and purpose has been for life, reproduction and harvest.**

From the beginning God's Harvest plan included plants

Gen 1:11-12 And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. (12) And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

From the beginning God's Harvest plan included animals

Gen 1:21-22 And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. (22) And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.

From the beginning Gods Harvest Plan included humans

Gen 1:27-29 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. (28) And God blessed them, and God said unto them, **Be fruitful, and multiply**, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. (29) And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb **bearing seed**, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a **tree yielding seed**; to you it shall be for meat.

God's Plan for physical Harvest, was to be a lesson for the Spiritual harvest.

** From the beginning, Gods plan was not only for physical life, reproduction and harvest, but for Spiritual life, reproduction and harvest.*

God intends for His name to spread throughout all creation

Psa 22:27 All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the **kindreds of the nations** shall worship before thee.

Psa 57:9-11 (9) I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the **peoples**; I will sing praises to you among the **nations**. (10) For your steadfast love is great to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. (11) Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be **over all the earth**!

Compare Psa 96:1-13

Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all **the earth**! (2) Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. (3) Declare his glory **among the nations**, his marvelous works among all **the peoples**! (4) For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. (5) For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens. (6) Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. (7) Ascribe to the LORD, O **families of the peoples**, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

Psa 96:7-13 Ascribe to the LORD, *O families of the peoples*, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! (8) Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! (9) Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, *all the earth*! (10) Say among *the nations*, "The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge *the peoples* with equity." (11) Let the heavens be glad, and let *the earth* rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; (12) let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy (13) before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge *the world* in righteousness, *and the peoples* in his faithfulness.

God intends His People to spread His Love, knowledge and worship throughout creation.

Jer 31:33-34 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. (34) And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Jesus commissioned His disciples to spread the good news of Christ to the entire world

Act 1:8 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."

God's Plan of Sowing and Reaping --Application

* In all God's plan, there is an intended partnership by design, for both God and His people be work together for the Harvest.

The importance of prayer in the Harvest

* This was The Principle of The Wrenched Gut

Luke 10:2 ff

Jesus perceived a significant scarcity in true workers for the Kingdom.

Luk 10:1-3 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. (3) Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.

Some versions say "pray therefore", some say "pray earnestly" in order to convey the intensity of this kind of prayer.

Throughout Scripture there are several different words that are used for prayer.

- 1) prayer - talking or worship
- 2) Prayer or making requests
- 3) pleading or begging

Jesus uses the word for pleading or begging – it was a word that literally meant to bind or tie up – to wrap around.

This was such a special word for prayer that the same word is used only once in Matthew's gospel. The next time we see this word in Scripture is when Luke shares this same teaching from Christ and he uses the exact same word. It was so important and it was such a specialized use of the word, Luke uses the exact same word as Matthew in recording the Lord's instruction to pray for the Harvest.

Luk 5:12 While he was in one of the cities, there came a man full of leprosy. And when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and **begged** him, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean."

* This not toothache and gallbladder problems this is cancer of the day – this the gut wrenching prayer of a man awaiting certain death. And that prayer got results from God.

Luk 8:27-28 When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. (28) When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me."

Luk 9:38-40 And behold, a man from the crowd cried out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. (39) And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out. It convulses him so that he foams at the mouth; and shatters him, and will hardly leave him.

This is not your "now I lay me down to sleep" prayer
Not your "God is Great and God is Good". This is not the pathetic one minute prayers, or a one sentence prayer. This is gut-wrenching, intense prayer of pleading with God – not for our allergies, or an upcoming check up or for safety in travels – or because we have a test - but for the state of the souls of human beings for the coming Harvest.

*** These are things that keep us up at night – cause us to weep -*

* Next Luke uses it in 10:2,

Then --

Luke 21:34-36 "But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. (35) For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. (36) But

stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

It is used in the sobering context of warning others to pray for one another as they will one day face the coming judgment.

Next place Luke utilizes this word for prayer is in ch.22 when Jesus tells Simon that Satan was about to sift him like wheat ---

Luk 22:32 "... but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

The next place Luke uses it is in Acts 4

Act 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

I found it fascinating that at the end of the gospel of Luke and at the beginning of the book of Acts, Luke goes back to the regular word for prayer – meaning talking and worship.

In Acts 1:14, after Jesus Ascension the disciples continued in prayer.

Act 1:14 All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. (talking prayer or worship)

Then in Act. **1:24**, when they were praying regarding their choosing a replacement for Judas, they Prayed – regular word for prayer.

Then in **Acts 2:42** we are told "...they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." – regular word for prayer.

Then in Acts 4:31

Act 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

* The word here for prayer is the word for binding, tied up, gut wrenching prayer.

My question was – What changed? What happened that would cause the early church's prayer life to go from the mild mannered talking and worship prayer into the transformed prayer life characterized by the tied-up-in-knots, gut wrenching prayer??

TWO THINGS:

1) Acts chapter two occurred. The Holy Spirit descended on the church, filled the believers and changed their prayer lives dramatically.

Act 2:42-44 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (43) And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. (44) And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

Holy Spirit empowered prayer is prayer filled with urgency and intensity from the Holy Spirit Himself, not simply changing our words but changing our heart in prayer.

2) Persecution occurred:

Act 4:29-31 And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, (30) while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." (31) And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

When they had “wrenched their guts in corporate prayer”, they received the answer to their prayers – they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Act 4:33 And with great power [they] were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.”

Prayer – not just any prayer but Kingdom Harvest Gut Wrenching Prayer is what moves Heaven – Gets Gods attention and experiences unmistakable answers.

So that Jesus instructs His disciples who are true disciples in serving Him and working for the Kingdom Harvest – He says -- **Mat. 9:38** “...therefore pray [gut wrenchingly] to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Mat.9:37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; (38) therefore pray earnestly or “wrench your gut in pleading with God for lost souls through intense prayers” to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

It is important to note that once calling their attention to the scarcity of laborers for the harvest, - Jesus does not tell immediately them to “Go”, - instead he tells them to “Pray and earnestly so.”

((God's Plan of Sowing and Reaping))

APPLICATION – My MPA -- Missionary Plan of Action
Jesus Promises and Scripture evidences that true Prayers will be true Harvesters. Those who sow in prayer will reap in souls and kingdom advancement.

We have the indwelling Holy Spirit. He has promised His Holy Spirit power. He expects our participation. God has provided all we need to accomplish all He has called us to do.

Then Jesus says **GO**.

Luk 10:2-3 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. (3) Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.

Your work = Go - dedicate that as your mission field.

Ball teams = Go – dedicate your **ball team** as you mission field.
– Pray for the team. Attempt to make relational connections with them and the parents. Invite to church events or meetings like action or KK.

Talk to your children about that – help them see that if God has them there, then He has a purpose of having them there.

Dance class = Go – **dedicate that dance class as your mission field.** Talk to you child about that. Find ways to make personal contacts and relational connections. Distribute flyers about church events,

What will be your Personal Missionary Plan of Action?

- 1) Pray for the spiritual harvest of souls
* Commitment to pray and fast – Wednesdays
- 2) Look for opportunities for Harvest ministry.
SOS on Saturdays at 2pm
SOKM Sports Camp Other....

Something that will involve some impossibility if God is not in it.

Something that will demonstrate dependence upon the the Holy Spirit of God.

Something that will drive you to pray gut-wrenching prayers of the Harvest.

What will be your Family Missionary Plan of Action?

- 1) Pray for your neighbors
- 2) Pray for your church's effective outreach
- 3) Look for opportunities for your family participation in ministry.

Attend & participate as a family in some of our outreach events

4) Talk about this and explain this to your children.

Pray with your family – as a family for spiritual harvest ministry.

Church Family Question:

1) Does your family participate in the Wednesday evening prayer gatherings at Christ E Free? Yes____ No ____

2) If no, please briefly share the reason your family doesn't participate? _____

3) If we move our Wednesday evenings to Sundays, will that enable your family to participate? Yes____ No ____

4) Would other scheduling arrangements for our church gatherings help your family get more connected to the family life of your church? Yes _____ No _____

5) Please explain or offer your suggestions: _____

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* June 19: Shift location from CEFC to FCVCS

2) July: This step is intended to help us more effectively ***Infiltrate Our Inner Mission Field.***

- Attempt to reach our mission field where they are

- Take the church to our mission field

- Target the downtown and surrounding area

* **July 16 – SOKM Bike Clinic @ FCVCS @ Saeg.Yard Sale**

3) August: This step is intended to help us more effectively ***Invite our Interested Mission Field through relational connections in serving our community.***

Relational Connections building events and opportunities

* July & August Summer Sunday Evenings – 2 special DVD series.

“American Heritage Series” – God in the founding of America

“Creation & Evolution” – Answers In Genesis

* **Aug 10-14 – Winner’s Cup Sports Camp at FCVCS**



“Living Like Jesus Lived”, pt2

May 22, 2011

Mission of the church

Christ Evangelical Free Church is committed to demonstrating God's Word His unconditional love reach people and develop mature disciples the Lord Jesus Christ

Vision for the church

To be a church that is loving, serving and reaching our community. To be a growing, effective and dynamic church, full of the Holy Spirit and used of God to bring eternal life transformation into our mission field.

Goal: Find ways to effectively love, serve and reach our community, developing relational connections to bridge people to Christ.

Steps: We have developed several steps for a Summer Schedule and will begin implementing that Summer Schedule Sunday, June 5th

GOD'S STRATEGY TO REACH THE WORLD (Acts 1:8)

* *God has always had a plan*

Faithful missionaries

Act 1:8 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."

Mat 28:18-20 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."

Sent with a purpose

Luk 9:1-2 And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, (2) and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.

Luk 10:1-3 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. (3) Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.

"sent them out" – our word for missionary, but it's the word **Apostle**.

Jesus Apostled them. He did not Apostle them to look good, or to be faithful in the modern church interpretation – He apostled them to proclaim and to heal – the clear intent was to yield results, to bear fruit in their kingdom work.

** "Well, that was in the times of the early church – that was before the HS had descended at Pentecost – that was for them then, not for us now."

Eph 4:4-14 There is one body and one Spirit--just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call-- (5) one Lord, one faith, one baptism, (6) one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (7) But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. (8) Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (9) (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? (10) He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) (11) And he gave the **apostles**, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, (12) to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, (13) until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, (14) so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

v11 – Christ gave “apostles” – not the original 12 – not the 72, but to every church, in every time, in every location.

The is the early church – after the original apostles, after the coming of the Holy Spirit, after the beginning of the church – in this present church age – Apostles are part of God’s plan for His present day kingdom work.

* Apostles after the original apostles. – not those who will write more or new Scripture but those who will respond to God’s call to **Go**. Those who will go and bear fruit for Christ.

John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should **GO** and bear fruit and that your fruit should

abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

Our need for the Spirit of Power

Act 4:29-31 And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, (30) while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." (31) And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

Eph 5:17-18 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (18) And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, **but be filled** with the Spirit,

* If we are not reaching our Jerusalem, we most likely are not going to reach the ends of the earth.

* The best way to reach the ends of the earth is to reach our Jerusalem.

* Without reaching our Jerusalem – all you have is at best, a very few people reaching a very few people.

* If we reach our Jerusalem effectively, then we have much more laborers for the harvest in order to reach our Judea, who will in turn, be laborers in the harvest of our Samaria, who will in turn become laborers in the harvest to the utter most parts of the world.

* The most significant and effective means of reach the lost and sowing and reaping the harvest in other countries, like Indian, Africa, South Korea, etc – is that people who come to faith in Christ become part of the work force. They don't just come to church – they become laborers in the harvest. That's church life –

not so much in the church in America, but more so, around the world.

* If we are not doing what God has invited us to do in reaping the harvest, how can we expect God to do what we invite Him to do in our prayers?

((*We are God's Strategy to reach the world*))

MISSIONS IS ALL ABOUT THE HARVEST (Matt. 25:14ff)

* *Not just faithfulness, but fruitfulness.*

Scripture Mat 25:19-23 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. (20) And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' (21) His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' (22) And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' (23) His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

* ***Faithfulness = Fruitfulness***

Excuses about “faithfulness”

Too long the church has excuses itself by the statement, “God hasn’t called us to be fruitful, but to be faithful.

ILL: That’s like saying about your work, “It doesn’t matter if I actually sell any shoes, as long as I’m faithful to show up to work on time”. – If you don’t sell people your shoes, they will purchase them from the shoe store down the block.

or “It doesn’t really matter if we train our children to make good, godly moral decisions, as long as we provide food, shelter, and clothing. Well the local city mission can do most of that.
or If you step up the plate and never connect with the baseball. The coach says – “Hey don’t worry about that – Its not about hitting the ball, just as long as you look good standing at the plate.”

Those excuses sound absurd, but that’s basically what many Christians think in their minds in regard to Gods expectations for them in the area of missions and reaching the lost.

Parable of faithfulness (Mat. 25:20)

Mat. 25:20 – “gained” = “faithful” (v21) > gain = fruitful (faithful)

v22) – “gained” = “faithful” (v23)

Mat 25:25-26 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' (26) But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed?

v25) “hid” (i.e. did not gain) = “wicked/lazy” (v26)
= “worthless” (v30)

We don’t hear God saying, “Its OK, as long as you look good, or as long as your just faithful to church, or as long as you just keep doing whatever it is you’re doing, that’s all I expect of you.

*No gain = no fruitfulness = lazy, wicked, worthless = UnFaithfull

The Expectation of Jesus for fruit bearing

* *He expects us to bear fruit..*

John 15:1-5 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.
(2) Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away,

and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. (3) Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. (4) Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. (5) I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Joh 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

((*Missions is all about the Harvest or RESULTS*))

HINDRANCES TO THE HARVEST Gal. 6:7-8 Application

Gal 6:7-9 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. (8) For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. (9) And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Sin

Disobedience to God – generally

Disobedience to God in relation to the gospel ministry, specifically

Forgetting God

God brings the increase

1Co 3:6-9 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. (7) So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. (8) He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his

labor. (9) For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

Sowing Problems

- * failure of seed to come into contact with the soil - Idle or lazy sower
 - * Careless sowing – on the path, rocky soil, in the weeds and thorns
 - * state of the soil – unprepared (Mat. 13)
 - * Apathy or complacency in sowing
- Prov. 10:5
- * Lacking true compassion for those of the harvest
 - Jere. 12:10-11 – sowers or pastors w/o heart
 - “ no one takes it to hear”
 - * lacking true passion for sowing and reaping
 - * lacking gut-wrenching prayer for the harvest
 - * Sloth (Prov. 24:30-34)
 - * Destructive Sowers – hirelings, a job, not Christ’s kingdom work
 - * Plight, Pests, varmints – Mat13:4 – the enemy of the harvest
 - sowing weeds or tares (Mat.13) ,
 - seed destroyed by birds (Mat. 13)
 - * Satan’s attacks against God’s kingdom work
 - * too few laborers – Mat. 9:38
 - * Lack of the gospel presentation and invitation
- Rom. 1:16

Jesus is all about Missions. Missions is all about the Harvest.

Mat. 9:37-38 – harvest is plenteous

Jn.4:35 – fields already for harvest

Rom. 1:13 – I may have a harvest among you

Mat. 13:39 – the harvest at the end of the age

Heb. 12:11 – “For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

Harvest = gain = fruitfulness = effective ministry = souls being saved, disciples being made, the church growing, the kingdom advancing. The Harvest is Gods’ intent and expectation for His church and no excuse is acceptable.

APPLICATION – My MPA -- Missionary Plan of Action

Jesus Promises and Scripture evidences that true Prayers will be true Harvesters. Those who sow in prayer will reap in souls and kingdom advancement.

We have the HS

He has promised His HS power

He expects our participation

He has provided all we need to accomplish all He has called us to do.

Then Jesus says **GO**.

Luk 10:2-3 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. (3) Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.

Your work = Go - dedicate that as your mission field.

Ball teams = Go – dedicate your **ball team** as you mission field.

– Pray for the team. Attempt to make relational connections with them and the parents. Invite to church events or meetings like action or KK.

Talk to your children about that – help them see that if God has them there, then He has a purpose of having them there.

Dance class = Go – dedicate that dance class as your mission field. Talk to you child about that. Find ways to make personal contacts and relational connections. Distribute flyers about church events,

What will be your Personal Missionary Plan of Action?

- 1) Pray for the spiritual harvest of souls
 - * Commitment to pray and fast – Wednesdays
- 2) Look for opportunities for Harvest ministry.
 - SOS on Saturdays at 2pm
 - SOKM Sports Camp Other....

Something that will involve some impossibility if God is not in it.
Something that will demonstrate dependence upon the HS of God.
Something that will drive you to pray gut-wrenching prayers of the Harvest.

What will be your Family Missionary Plan of Action?

- 1) Pray for your neighbors
- 2) Pray for your church's effective outreach
- 3) Look for opportunities for your family participation in ministry.
 - Attend & participate as a family in some of our outreach events
- 4) Talk about this and explain this to your children.
Pray with your family – as a family for spiritual harvest ministry.



Don't close this booklet yet

without considering this all important question.

Is Jesus Christ the Savior of *your* soul and the Lord of *your* life?

Every person is born guilty of sin and in need of forgiveness.

For all have sinned, and come short
of the glory of God; --*Romans 3:23*

Our sin is against God, therefore our forgiveness can only come
from God.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only
begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should
not perish, but have everlasting life. --*John 3:16*

God has appointed His Son as the payment for sins and sent Him
to die in our place.

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is
eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

-- *Romans 6:23*

God's love is demonstrated through the sacrificial payment of
Jesus Christ in our place for our sins.

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still
sinners, Christ died for us. ---*Romans 5:8*

For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
will be saved." -- *Rom 10:13*

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name,
he gave the right to become children of God, - *John 1:12*

Before you close this book, why not be absolutely certain that your
are truly a citizen of God's eternal kingdom and loving family?

*Trust in Jesus Christ today and receive forgiveness
for your sins and citizenship into God's family and
His kingdom.*

A - Admit you have sinned and are in need of a Savior.

B - Believe Jesus died in your place, and you can no way help yourself.

C - Confess your sins to God. *He already knows.*

- also Confess Jesus as you LORD.

Prayer: Take time to talk to God right now and open your heart and life to His instruction and leadership.

Connect with a local Bible believing, Christ centered church.

Commit yourself to meeting regularly with other Christians who are growing in their faith.

Heb 10:24-25 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, (25) not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Act 2:41-42 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. (42) And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

For more information or for spiritual help, please contact us at:
Christ E. Free Church, PO Box 619, 19682 Hill Rd,
Saegertown, Pa, 16433, Ph: 814-763-2934, www.christefca.org

*It is our prayer that you find Jesus Christ to be, your
greatest purpose, your highest calling, your soul's source
and joy, and your all-consuming passion.*

Other Free Booklets downloadable at www.ChristEFCA.org

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May each lesson bring a growing submission, a deeper obedience and an increase of the righteous reign of the Lordship of Jesus Christ in the fullness of His Spirit, in His Church and throughout our mission field.

--- Downloadable free resources at: www.christefca.org --

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