



To The **ENDS OF THE EARTH**

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Number 1

A work of churches of Christ

UNTO THE UTTERMOST PART

Editors Note: Guy Caskey (founder of Mission Printing) wrote the following article which was originally published in the October 1990 issue of "To The Ends of The Earth."

“. . . and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

The primary task of the church of our Lord is the evangelization of the world. In the word uttermost is found the extent of our obligation, the size of our duty. The word means “the farthest corner, last in space.” “Wherefore He (Jesus) is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him” (Hebrews 7:25). This is the very largest number. He is able to save all. And He is able to save those who are farthest away—those who are remotest. The Bible definition of “uttermost” is found in Paul’s statement to the Roman Christians “. . . their sound went into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world” (Romans 10:18).

In the minds of some congregations today, the function of the church seems somewhat nebulous. The place of our young people in the church is not one of *fun and frolic!* The service of our *singles* is not simply associational and sociable. The standing of our elderly Christians in the congregation is not recreational—amusing one’s self. But rather we are His representatives to transmit the saving message of life unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Like those in the early church, “we will give ourselves continually to prayer and the ministry of the word” (Acts 6:4). This does not mean that Christians must not delight in the everyday affairs of life, but it does mean that our chief purpose as God’s children is to “warn every man, and teach every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ” (Colossians 1:27, 28).

This truth is emphasized in the words of Peter: “. . . that the nations by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel and believe” (Acts 15:7). The duty that was enjoined upon Paul and Barnabas

is also ours: “I have set thee to be a light to the Gentiles and that thou shouldst be for salvation unto the ends of the earth” (Acts 13:47). God intends that we “preach among the nations the unsearchable riches of Christ and to make all men see” (Ephesians 3:8, 9). This term, “to make all men see,” means “to give light, to illuminate, to shine upon, to reveal, to give understanding to.”

The genius of Christianity, the very nature of the gospel itself, is expansive. Its inherent tendency is to propagate and extend itself. Propagation is the law of spiritual life. A living organism must reproduce it self or become extinct. In the word of God, this production is called *fruitbearing*. The Psalmist said: “And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season” (Psalm 1:3).

Fruitbearing is more than engaging in Christian works--visiting the sick and supplying food for the hungry. The apple has some use besides its beauty and taste. In addition to being good to eat, it serves another purpose. Down deep within the heart of it is the power to reproduce itself, and if it does not possess and use this power, within fifty years there would be no apple orchards. May we learn this timely, needed, lesson from Paul: “You are married to another, even to Him who is raised from the dead, that you should bring forth fruit unto God” (Romans 7:4).

Christianity is expansive. The faith of the New Testament is a viril faith that prompts its possessors to seek others, for no man was ever yet convinced of any momentous truth without feeling in himself the desire to communicate it. We see the beauty and power of this principle in the life of Andrew, which led him first to seek his own brother and lead him to Christ. Paul was possessed with a constant and overpowering impulse to communicate the gospel to others. “I am a debtor both to the Greeks and the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am now ready to preach the gospel to you who are at Rome also” (Romans 1:14, 15).

THE NEED TO PREACH

Everywhere and always we are to preach the gospel. There is no worthy reason for being concerned about the man next to us which is not applicable to the man five or ten thousand miles away. Anyone can love his own family, but it takes a broad-souled man to love men whom he has never seen—people about whom he has never heard.

In recent times we speak more about the suitability, the appropriateness of the gospel than we do the declaration of it. It is certainly important that we make our lives harmonize and correspond with the message. It must be relevant; but first of all it must be preached. Only when it is preached in its fullness and simplicity can we see its fitness and match our lives with its high and noble principles. Respect for authority, subordination of one's own will to a higher will, is as timely and germane as ever. There is no up-dating of these things.

In much present-day preaching, an effort is made to reach the student, the scientist and the intellectual. Men shut their eyes and ears to the proof and power of the gospel. With Philip, we need to say: "Come and see" (John 1:46). The gospel needs no outside embellishments—no props! If they will not hear Moses and the prophets, neither would they hear though one should rise from the dead" (Luke 16:31). The reason the student, the scientist and the intellectual have not obeyed the gospel of Christ is because we have not taught it to them.

In many instances their hearts are filled with furious desires and earthly ambitions that leave no room for "the foolishness of preaching." The cares of this world can crowd out the word of God.

There are more than five billion people on earth today. If we have the knowledge that is essential to the salvation of our fellowman, this places us under solemn obligation to impart that knowledge to them. The world needs the light of the gospel and we are called upon to hold it aloft in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation (Philippians 2:15).

Millions of children in Third World countries are dying each year of malnutrition. I am told that more than half of the world's population are undernourished and are gradually starving to death, physically. This is not comparable to the tragedy of five billion people starving to death for the bread and water of life.

The world is sick and needs a physician. Jesus is that Physician and is both able and willing to heal this sin-sick world; but we must tell them where they can find Him. We need to show the world the light, feed them the bread of life, point them the way to heaven and thus satisfy their great longing and need.

Our hope is in correcting this lamentable condition of sensualism that lies at the root of our failure. I do not refer to the coarse and common sins under this heading, but to the sensualism of selfishness—a selfishness that is at the center of our world. I speak of a selfishness that recognizes no social obligation to a world that is lost—a selfishness that neglects and excludes love for humanity groping in darkness. It is a sensualism that offers an attractive and convincing argument of our legitimate needs at home. We have formulated a plausible hypothesis that the gospel must first be well established at home before it can or should be preached elsewhere.

When I was a student in Abilene Christian College, I heard from this pulpit the statement made by an able preacher of the gospel, "You do not have to get seasick to preach the gospel." Let me tell you that someone is going to have to get seasick if he does what Jesus commanded him to do—preach it unto the uttermost part of the earth. After one of my lectures some years ago in Abilene, two preachers were heard discussing it, and one remarked: "It looks as though one cannot go to heaven from Texas anymore!" I am confident if we all try to go to heaven from Texas, we will ultimately land in hell!

We have developed a theory of rational self-love, of "charity begins at home," of a justifiable "looking after one's own." This spirit is antagonistic to Christianity and is in conflict with its purpose in the world. Christianity differs from all other religions in that it shows a primary concern for other people.

Edward Gibbon, the historian, said: "It became the most sacred duty of a new convert to diffuse among his friends and his neighbors the inestimable blessing which he had received. When the promise of eternal happiness was proposed to mankind on the condition of adopting the faith and observing the precepts of the gospel, it is no wonder that so advantageous an offer should have been accepted by great numbers of every religion, of every rank, and of every province in the Roman Empire."

One of the most effective ways of sharing the gospel with the lost of the world is by the printed page. There is no more propitious or favorable time than now, for we have both men and means to send it around the world. The magnetic pull of materialism, however, seems to cause us to say with the people of Haggai's day, "The time is not come, the time that the Lord's house should be built" (Haggai 1:2). The fields are white; the task is ours; and so, inescapably, is the choice!

— Guy Caskey

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MEMORIALS & HONORS

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Letters and Emails From the Field

Dear Mission Printing Team,
Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Once again I would want to send my gratitude and commend you for the work you're doing in supporting us with biblical materials. For the parcel containing Mathews Henry's commentary on the whole Bible, KJV Bible, New Testament Bible and some booklets were received. I also wish to request if you have a Bible study dictionary which I am lacking for use in evangelism, if any, may send it to the same address.

May God almighty bless you abundantly.

Thanks,

Leonard Sapalalo.

Central church of Christ,
Chingola, Zambia.

God Bless you, and all in Mission Printing. Your devoted work truly made a powerful impact in the world. We are Blessed that you included us to the list of those you help in having such wonderful materials for evangelism, edification, and teaching. I am happy to hear that you sent the box already.

May the Lord continue to Bless these materials and us, as we keep on using them to evangelize and educate people about the Gospel.

God Bless and more power. Please keep us in your hearts and prayers. Praying for you continuously.

For the Master,
Jun Gavina
Isabelo, Philippines

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Congregations With Mission Printing Workstations In Their Buildings in 2022

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***New Workstation added in 2022**

PLEASE NOTE

If you are not on our regular mailing list and you make a memorial donation, you will receive the issue of the newsletter in which your memorial appears. If you wish to continue receiving the newsletter, please let Mission Printing know by contacting Mary Carroll. If we do not hear from you, your name will be removed from the mailing list. We are sorry for any inconvenience that this may cause. We are attempting to reduce any expense that is not needed. Thank you for your support and prayers.

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Our printed newsletter will continue to be mailed to you, or we can deliver it to you by email as a PDF attachment. If you would like to receive our newsletter by email, send your request to missionprinting@gmail.com.

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“To the Ends of the Earth”

Printed: March 14, 2023
Editor: Tom Garner

Mission Printing News

- **Container Shipments** - In 2022 we were able to increase our production to fill and ship five containers, which compares to previous years when we normally sent four containers per year. These shipments went to Ghana, West Nigeria, Kenya and South Sudan, Eastern Nigeria and South Africa. We plan to ship five containers again this year. Our first container this year will be shipped soon, and it is going to Liberia and Sierra Leone. This will be the 47th container shipped since 2009 when we began this method of shipping. Over the past few years we have experienced many challenging and unusual circumstances related to our shipping, such as: container shortages, backups at world-wide ports and changing government's regulations. There have been some costs increases, but sea container shipping is still the most economical method of sending our materials to foreign countries. Richard Renfro is in charge of our container shipments and has been doing a great job of overcoming all the many difficult obstacles encountered in this endeavour. Each container holds about 37,000 pounds or about 750,000 booklets. We are very thankful for the many financial supporters who make this work possible. We also want to thank the White Rock Fund for their continued support.
- **Our Volunteers** - We have a great group of volunteers that give of their time and money. They are hard-working and are dedicated to sending the soul saving message of the Gospel to the World. Our volunteers print, collate, fold, staple and trim our Biblical publications. They also pack boxes for mailing and shipping. We could not succeed at this work without our wonderful volunteers.
- **New Congregation Workstations** - Several congregations have Mission Printing workstations at their church buildings (see page 6). In 2022 two new workstations were added. They are: Graham St. Church of Christ in Waxahachie, TX and Midlothian Church of Christ in Midlothian, TX. We are very pleased to have them join us in this work. We currently have 30 congregations assisting us with this work. We are very grateful for their help.
- **Death In Our Family** - Jessie Hiltibidal, Bertie Shipley and Judy Tarver (Guy and Jessie Lee Caskey's daughter).