

"People cannot call on Jesus if they don't BELIEVE IN HIM. People cannot believe in Jesus if they have not HEARD OF HIM. People cannot hear of Jesus unless someone PREACHES TO THEM. People cannot have faith in a message of Christ if indeed they have not HEARD THE WORD of Christ. So, consequently, all who do not hear the message of the cross and respond with faith in Christ are still DEAD IN THEIR SINS AND IN NEED OF A SAVIOR. This is why the call to missions is serious: IT IS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH for millions around the world."

the work of Christ is both the necessary means and the only means that God provided for eternal salvation

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Missions

*A Position Paper to Exalt
the Cause of God in Global Missions
at New Hope Community Church*

MISSIONS

"We must either go out for the sake of His name, or we must send and support such people who do, and do so in a manner worthy of God." These are the words of Tom Stellar who wrote the afterword in a book called "Let the Nations Be Glad." That defines New Hope's passion for the global cause of missions. The reason we exalt missions is because we exalt God and desire to make Him known. The central mission statement of this church is: *"To fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission."* Accomplishing the great commandment (to make disciples of all nations) requires that we triumph the cause of missions and spread abroad the name of Jesus Christ, especially in regions and countries where His name is not treasured or in some cases is unknown.

At this time in the life of New Hope Community Church, 13% of every dollar contributed to the general fund is dedicated to the support of missionaries. These missionaries, in large part, are people who are serving overseas, whose goal is to lift up the name of Jesus so that people can know Him and be saved. We believe that Scripture clearly teaches that for a person to be saved they must confess with their mouth that "Jesus is Lord" and believe in their heart that "God raised Jesus from the dead" (Rom. 10:9). We also believe that any person from any tribe, nation, or language that calls upon God's name through His Son Jesus Christ will be saved. (Rom. 10:13) The conviction form the necessary foundation for why we treasure missions. As it says in Romans 10:14-17:

"14. How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15. And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"... 17. Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ."

The questions in Romans 10 are rhetorical and the answers are obvious. People cannot call on Jesus if they don't believe in Him. People cannot believe in Jesus if they have not heard of Him. People cannot hear of Jesus unless someone preaches to them. People cannot have faith in a message of Christ if indeed they have not heard the word of Christ. So, consequently, all who do not hear the message of the cross and respond with faith in Christ are still dead in their sins and in need of a Savior. This is why the call to missions is serious: it is a matter of life and death for millions around the world.

That is why missions plays and essential role for the local church. In this book, *"Let the Nations Be Glad."* John Piper helps define why churches should be passionate about missions. In a chapter called *"The Supremacy of Christ as the Conscious Focus of All Saving Faith"* he asks and answers three fundamental questions. Below are those questions which we, the pastoral staff of New Hope, have answered:

Q: WILL ANYONE EXPERIENCE ETERNAL CONSCIOUS TORMENT UNDER GOD'S WRATH?

A: We at New Hope believe the Bible clearly teaches that all men are under the curse of sin and that those who are not saved (the unregenerate) will face the judgment of God and experience His wrath for all eternity. This is not popular theology nowadays, but it is Biblical. By embracing this truth we believe there is an absolute urgency for missions and evangelism.

Q: IS THE WORK OF CHRIST THE NECESSARY MEANS PROVIDED BY GOD FOR ETERNAL SALVATION?

A: We at New Hope believe that the work of Christ is both the necessary means and the only means that God provides for eternal salvation. All can be saved from sin, but the can only be saved when they come to God through

the means that He provides, and that means is acceptance of and belief in Jesus Christ. The Bible teaches in Acts 4:12 that *"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."* We believe that Jesus is the exclusive means of salvation.

Q: IS IT NECESSARY FOR PEOPLE TO HEAR OF CHRIST IN ORDER TO BE ETERNALLY SAVED?

A: We at New Hope believe, as Romans 10 teaches, that the faith necessary for salvation is only possible when one hears the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ. If a person is to be saved, he/she will be saved by hearing and receiving the gospel message of Jesus Christ, who made the claim of being *"the Way, the Truth and the Life. No man comes to the Father except through me."* (Jn. 14:6) We do not believe in a generic salvation nor do we believe in many pathways of salvation. This means that the Muslim, the Hindu, the Jew, the Atheist, the Pantheist (and anyone else who fails to recognize Jesus Christ as Lord) will not be saved.

The importance of global missions stems from these convictions, which are rooted in the teaching of Scripture. This is why we are passionate about missions and are committed to supporting those who go to foreign nations. We encourage our New Hope body to join us as we "send and support" those who serve as missionaries. We also encourage you to prayerfully consider whether God may be raising you up to "go out for the sake of His name."

Seeking to Advance the name of Christ Globally.

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