

From The Pastor:

Recently, while thinking about the new worship center we are building and wondering about how we can “Get Connected” with the community around us, an article by John G. Innuis, stirred my thoughts concerning “The Global Church” (CirculRider Nov/Dec 2003).

First of all, Jesus said, “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark16:15 KJV).

Secondly, John Wesley, who helped initiate our “Methodist” way of thinking, took the Lord’s great commission quite seriously when he said, “The world is my parish!” And the truth is, while the world tries to influence us every day, we can influence the world more easily than ever before. The global church of Jesus Christ can impact our world in a major way ... if we will just be faithful to remember why we are supposed to “Go ye into all the world”. The reason we go is to tell people about the one in whom we have hope! The reason we go is so others can hear of God’s marvelous provision through the Son! The reason we go is to share the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ! The reason we go is because we have been made ALIVE in Jesus and we want to ... we just have to ... share the all encompassing presence of God with whoever will listen. The prophet Jeremiah, in the midst of great trial and trouble, says, “If I say, ‘Forget it! No more God-Messages from me!’ The words are fire in my belly, a burning in my bones. I’m worn out trying to hold God’s word in. I can’t do it any longer!” (Jeremiah 20:9- b). I have to ask. First of all, is God’s word in us? And second of all, is God’s word burning, pushing, and bubbling to come out of us no matter what we’re going through?! I hope so.

In the hymn, “Jesus Is All the World To Me” Will Thompson captures the “aliveness” we can have no matter what the circumstance of our life.

*Jesus is all the world to me, My life, my joy, my all. He is my strength, from day to day, Without him I would fall. When I am sad, to him I go, No other one can cheer me so. When I am sad, he makes me glad. He’s my friend (# 469 UM Hymnal).*

Friends, that’s the hope the world needs! And the only way the world will be introduced to that eternal hope in Christ Jesus is if the church worldwide takes it to them every day ... in all circumstances. For, in the words of Saint Paul the Apostle, “Who or what shall separate us from the love of Christ?” And then he answers his own question by stating flatly, “Nothing!” The fact remains that no matter what is going on in our life, or in the world around us, Jesus is our hope! Jesus is the King of Peace, the one who spoke gently, calmly, lovingly, and caringly, to all who heard his voice and came to him. And folks, that’s what we’re called to do. So let’s “Go!” Let’s just not forget why we’re going.

Much Love, Pastor Mike