

Seed the Nations

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His eyes blazed with fiery zeal as his words blasted through the walls of my mental defences: "You don't need a call to go, that's a command, you need a call to stay!" Duncan Campbell was no manipulating missions recruiter, but a passionate revivalist whose Spirit-filled life had been the instrument of God in bringing revival to the Hebrides of Scotland. 'Go, Go, Go! What right have you to stay' he cried out. At His words I was suddenly awakened from my religious stupor and went to the nations. "Go! Go! Go!" is still the command of Jesus to all Christians, not a special call to a few

Our Generation waits

As the people of God we know that a nation's dilemma is not rooted in either the economic or the social evils of our time, such as unemployment, poverty, deprivation and bigotry, though undoubtedly there is too much of them all. These are merely the symptoms of the sickness rather than its cause.

The root is a spiritual problem. A nation is its people and people won't change until the way they think and feel does. That calls for a heart change. Christians hold the key to spiritual revolution in any land. That key is the dynamic power of God lived out through people scattered like seed across the nations. We must stop standing around waiting for some special call to reach our generation. 'Go!' is a command, not a special call.

Evangelise or Fossilise

The early church were a highly mobile people. Their living communities were constantly giving birth to new ones so that the people remained open at all times to moving forward.

They bore little resemblance to the static, institutionalised Christianity of our time. They were the life and power of God fleshed out in men and women on the move. They didn't need urging to go. 'Go' for them was a command that motivated their lives with the destiny of God.

The dynamic evangelistic surge of the early church should still be ours today. We should offer to pray for those in need at work, in homes, and on the streets. We can share our faith vocally at every opportunity. We need to have outward bound faith and feeling. Instead of simply praying for our own needs we should let our prayers

focus on the lost people around us. Then we need to give feet and voice to our prayers.

One young man I had come into contact with caught the heart of God on evangelism. He turned a town upside down when he arrived for the regular evening service and opened the meeting by closing in prayer! He then led the congregation out onto the streets, and into the pubs and clubs. Within three weeks the church had more new converts than the size of the original congregation!
Seed is Involved

From the beginning God planned for the ends of the earth to be His. He intended and still intends to rule. And His Kingdom will encompass all people. His covenant agreement with Abraham included world blessings; 'In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed' (Gen22:18,NAS). This meant that Israel would never be able to lock God inside her ethnic boundaries, nor Judaism inside her legalistic religious traditions. People have tried for centuries to fit God into their narrow thinking, to imprison Him in beliefs, practices, Bible interpretations, race , class and prejudices.

God refuses to think or plan for anything smaller than the ends of the earth and all the families of mankind. When the early church were in danger of becoming settlers, He provoked them into new pioneering progress by scattering them through persecution.

Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. (Acts 8:1, NKJV)

God intended to bless all men through his seed sown among the nations of the earth.

Scattering Seed

When you examine the life of Jesus from his birth in Bethlehem to his ascension on the Mount of Olives, you discover that it was not haphazard and disjointed but had a beautiful design to it. Yet at the time there was a spontaneity to his daily life, making the design all the more beautiful because it was not apparent. Paul's movements carried the same hallmarks of destiny. At times his missionary journeys were disrupted with imprisonments, cut short by persecution and set back by shipwreck and other delays. (1Cor11:24-28). But today when we look at the maps of those regions and see where he planted churches we are amazed at the way circumstances apparently helped him reach his generation. (see Phil 1:12)

It is very clear that God's wisdom directed the scattering of the seed purposefully in the early days of the church. 'Go!' was merely the command the focussed the

Christians' love into spontaneous actions to be directed by the invisible hand and mind of their king.

Going is Sowing

Jesus spoke two parables concerning sowers. One was about sowing the Word of God and the resulting response of those who listen. (Matt 13:1-23). The other concerned sowing into a hostile world the sons of the kingdom – those who had submitted their lives to Jesus Christ as Lord. (Matt 13:24-30, 36-43)

Jesus explained to his disciples: 'The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom (vs37-38)

Jesus saw his disciples as the ones who would bring in his kingdom and extend His rule and authority into their generation. By sending them out in the power of the Holy Spirit, he was seeding the world with 'living expressions' of His life and power. Christians today are an extension of His days on earth: 'He will see His offspring and prolong His days' (Isaiah 53:10). In other words Christians would be continuing Christ in the earth.

Sowing suggests the planned scattering of seed across the field of the world. In their going into all the world God was sowing his living Word. When we read about the believers being scattered by persecution, this was not with a view to the disintegration of the church but, in the purpose of God, to its multiplication. It was for growth and not for collapse.

God knew that the fastest way to bring his rule over the nations was to sow into the cities and towns where the people lived, new communities of His children, scattered within the community of the world. These Christian families, joined together in common life and love, would quickly grow, multiply and reach their neighbourhood, friends, and relatives with the good news.

And so it proved to be. They were so filled with the life of God that they didn't need coaxing, urging, cajoling or pleading with to run an evangelistic outreach. They were already thrilled with his rule in their life, excited about their God and so spontaneously 'gossiped the gospel'.

What's more they were fired with a sense of destiny. The command of Jesus to 'go and make disciples of all nations (Matt28:19) had pushed them out into an alien society. They didn't sit around waiting for direction. They had it; they lived in it. Obeying his command, they intended to seed the nations in their generation with disciples of Jesus.

Our own generation affords us unparalleled opportunities. Millions around the world are searching after God. The Christian Church is growing faster than ever before.

What is happening in your life and church? Are you standing on the sidelines watching the field of play, waiting for some mystical call to invite you into the action? Or has your spirit caught the sound of his commanding: 'Go! Go! Go!?' Its time to leap over the mental and religious obstacles to get where the action is. It's time to reach our world. Jesus Christ has given us everything necessary to achieve his objective.

We can heal the sick, cast out demons, lead men and women to Christ. We can see them baptised and filled with the Holy Spirit. They can then become part of the same living community of going and growing Christians.

Going is Growing

If you're not going you're not growing. Our holy huddles and cosy cuddles must explode with the zeal of God. Our nice tidy services must welcome the disruption that comes from newborn life. Go is a command' not a call. Christians everywhere need to be outward bound in their thrust to reach this generation.

The New Testament days are with us now. We are the extension of the life of Jesus in our generation. We are God's tomorrow people in today's world. Never has our generation been more ripe for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Ringing in our ears are the words: 'Go and make disciples of all.' People have become used to moving from one area to another on order to further their careers. It's time to display even greater readiness to move in obedience to his command to go and make disciples.

It's time to advance the kingdom and cause hell to tremble. It's time to escape from religious ghettos of the institutional mind and rise up in faith and power to go for God. 'You don't need a call to go. That's a command. You need a call to stay,' said Duncan Campbell.

Let's seed our nations, Let's go!