

This Sunday, in the second part of our Nation Changers series, we were reminded of our call as followers of Christ to impact the nations of the world. Steve interviewed:

- Ross Miles, who has recently taken over the running of [SBCI](#) (Satellite Bible College International). SBCI was pioneered by Erling Rasmussen and John Ronaldson who were passionate about equipping individuals to share the Gospel. SBCI training material is used in 28 countries in Africa and is available in various languages, including English, Zulu, Portuguese and Arabic.
- Natasja Foster, who started [Bibles Beyond Borders](#) following a mission trip to Malawi. The vision of Bibles Beyond Borders is to bring the Bible to as many people as possible within Africa – particularly communities where Bibles are scarce. To date, they have distributed over 14,000 Bibles to countries including Malawi, Ethiopia and Rwanda
- Tiba Kasambala, who has partnered with Bibles Beyond Borders to link business and ministry. Tiba is Zambian living in Hillcrest and is married to Amon, who heads up Focus on the Family.

Following on after the interviews, Chim shared a challenging message which he began by reminding us of the inheritance that God has blessed us with at CityHill Church - that we are a 'base church' from where the Gospel of Jesus will go out to the ends of the earth through Church plants and mission trips. This is much like the Church at Antioch (Acts 13) which had the following characteristics:

1. A church that is rooted in the word, a place of discipleship through teachings
2. A place of worship, ministering to the Lord
3. A place where God highlighting people to "go" (much like Paul & Barnabas)
4. A church that served as 'senders, with everyone involved in some way.

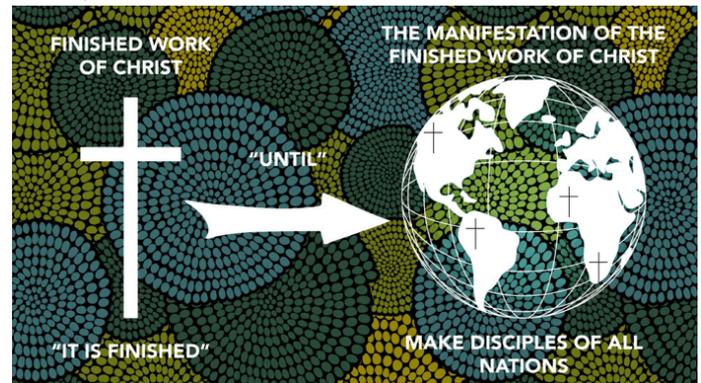
We are currently already showing the fruit of this inheritance, but we are trusting that there is much more to come!

Several centuries before Christ was born, David prophesied about what happened after the glorious ascension of Jesus: *"The Lord says to my lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." The Lord will extend your mighty sceptre from Zion, saying, "Rule in the midst of your enemies!" Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy splendor, your young men will come to you like dew from the morning's womb. The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." The Lord is at your right hand; he will crush kings on the day of his wrath. He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead and crushing the rulers of the whole earth. He will drink from a brook along the way, and so he will lift his head high."* Psalm 110:1-7.

In this Psalm, David speaks of God making a "footstool" of the enemies. To understand the context, it's important to know that in those times of war, when a kingdom was defeated, the victorious king would place his foot on the

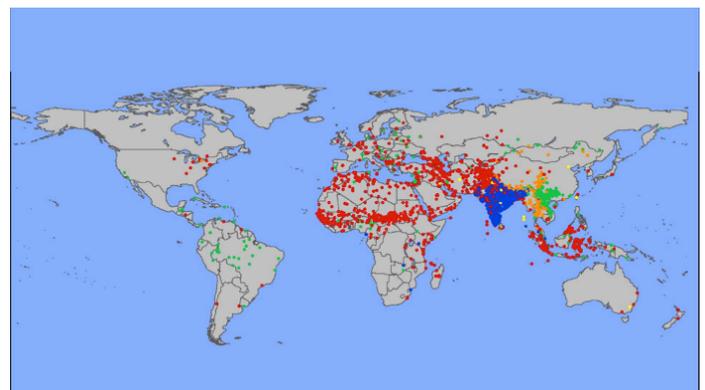
head of the conquered king. For all of us facing the struggles of life and the reality of evil in this world, this should give us hope. Jesus will make Satan his footstool. He gives total victory over the enemy, sin and the evil of this world

But what is meant by UNTIL Christ's enemies become His footstool? Surely the work of the cross means that Christ did everything there was to be done to save humanity - to free all nations from the captivity of the enemy? Well, there's the victory, and then there's the enforcement of that victory.



Today we're living in the era of 'UNTIL'. In reality, there is nothing more that Christ has to do. Christ's work on the cross is being manifested. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19) to go and make disciples of all nations is the process making of His enemies His footstool. That's what the 'UNTIL' is. And 'UNTIL' means that there's still work to be done.

On the map below, the different coloured dots represent 4,761 ethnic/people groups where less than 0.1% are followers of Christ.



Psalm 110 speaks of Jesus being seated at the right hand of the Father, but how do you sit and fight? The answer is in what follows: *"The Lord will extend your mighty sceptre from Zion."* Zion is the Church and the extension in this context is the sending out from the Church. It's the Church that the Lord works with. We are His plan - what a privilege it is that we get to enforce the defeat of the enemy by preaching the Gospel to the nations.

We can't be spectators, sitting back and doing nothing. We are called to go (to the nations), give (to missions) and pray (for the nations). *Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.* Matthew 9:38

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Icebreaker (Choose 1)

- If you could live for two years in any country in the world as part of a church plant team which country would you pick? [presume that you could easily learn a new language!]
- Share a story of how visiting a different country/city/place changed your perspective on the world.

Questions For Groups (Choose 2 or 3 questions)

1. What from Sunday's message had the most impact on you? How were you specifically challenged?
2. Which of the following most accurately describes your view on sharing the Gospel?
 - a) It makes me nervous and uncomfortable
 - b) It feels like an imposition, so I avoid talking about it
 - c) I'll answer questions if someone asks, but I don't bring it up
 - d) I try talking about it on occasion when I think it's appropriate
 - e) I talk to strangers about God regularlyHow could you grow in confidence in sharing the Gospel?
3. Have you ever asked, "God, do you want me to go on a mission trip?" If not, why? What would be your very first thought if God answered that question with an unmistakable, undeniable "Yes"?
4. According to the Joshua Project website (<https://joshuaproject.net/global/progress>), the world population is 7.67 billion people in 17,075 people groups. Of those, there are 4,761 people groups (= 1.84 billion people) where less than 0.1% of the people in those groups are Christ-followers (frontier people groups). What does it do to you to think of living in a place where there is such low Gospel reach? How do you think Christ views those people groups?
5. Read Matthew 28:18-20. There doesn't seem to be an "opt out" clause in the Great Commission.
 - a) Where do you see fear or apathy in your life hindering God's call to make disciples?
 - b) How does the promise of Jesus' continued presence as you make disciples change the way you see this remarkable calling?
 - c) God may not be calling you to go to another country just yet, but that doesn't mean He hasn't called you to participate in getting the Gospel to the nations. If you don't go physically, what are some tangible ways that you can be an engaged "sender"?

PRAYER POINT

- Pray for those who are not yet Christ-followers and for personal opportunities to share the Gospel.
- Consider picking an unreached people group (see <https://joshuaproject.net/>) and praying for them as a group over the next few weeks.

ACTION POINT

What is your part to be in reaching the nations? Spend some time with God asking Him what He wants you to do. Below are some possibilities:

- Pray for a specific people group
- Support the CityReach mission trips with prayer and giving
- Go on a mission trip yourself
- Sign up for a Nation Changers project