



THE VICAR WRITES

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Missions & Evangelism

The term 'missions' has generally been used to refer to the specific work of the church and agencies in the task of reaching people for Christ by crossing cultural boundaries; whereas evangelism refers to the spreading of the Christian gospel by preaching or through personal witness. Essentially, both missions and evangelism are part of our Lord's call for the church to fulfil His Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20. Jesus commanded us to go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that He had commanded us (Matt 28:19-20).

The church exists for one purpose and that is to make Jesus Christ known as the Lord and Saviour to the world. Hence, the aim of missions and evangelism is to make obedient disciples of Jesus Christ who will be incorporated into the church through

baptism (Matt 28:19). Its activities involve being witnesses for Christ (Acts 1:8), either through preaching the gospel (Mark 16:15), proclaiming repentance and forgiveness of sins (Luke 24:47), or through the works of signs and wonders as enabled by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:43).

As believers, we are to engage in missions and evangelism so that God's will of salvation for mankind throughout the whole world may be fulfilled and then the end will come (Matt 24:14). In this sense, missions and evangelism are not primary activities of the church to serve her members, but a means for the church to serve God. To engage in missions and evangelism is to participate in the works of God in loving the people in our community and in our world. Because God is the fountain of love—we are called to love one another (John 13:34).

