

SENT: CARRYING CHRIST'S MESSAGE INTO THE WORLD

ROMANS 10:14-15 | REV. LITO VILLORIA

As we begin Missions Month, we are reminded that God has entrusted us with many opportunities to carry Christ's message into the world. He has opened doors for us both locally and beyond, allowing us to reach people with the gospel and strengthen other churches. These opportunities are clear signs that God is at work among us. Though our resources have sometimes fallen short, we continue in faith, trusting that God will provide through His people.

Our anchor verse this October Missions Month is Romans 10:14-15. This passage is set within the larger context of Romans 9-11, where Paul pauses in his letter to reflect on God's plan for Israel and the nations. He speaks first of God's sovereignty, reminding us that salvation is grounded not in human

effort but in God's mercy and choice (Romans 9:6-18). He speaks also of the remnant, showing that even in times of unbelief, God preserves a faithful people chosen by grace (Romans 9:27-29; 11:5).

Paul then points to future Israel, assuring us that their rejection is not final but temporary, and that their eventual restoration will bring life from the dead (Romans 11:11-15,25-27). Finally, Paul highlights the necessity of missions, declaring that salvation comes as people are sent, the gospel is preached, Christ is heard, faith is born, and lives are transformed (Romans 10:13-15).

In Romans 10:14-15, Paul begins with the truth that calling requires believing—no one can call on Christ without first entrusting themselves to Him in faith (Romans 10:14a). He then shows that believing

requires hearing, for faith comes by hearing Christ Himself in the proclaimed gospel (Romans 10:14b & 17). Next, Paul reminds us that hearing requires preaching, since salvation comes through the bold announcement of the Word of Christ (Romans 10:14c). Preaching in turn requires sending, for behind every faithful messenger stands the God who sends (Romans 10:15a). Finally, Paul quotes Isaiah to show that this sending fulfills Scripture's vision of "beautiful feet"—the messengers are lovely because they bring the good news of salvation in Christ (Romans 10:15b).

In this sermon we will be challenged to heed God's call of carrying Christ's message into the world by praying, proclaiming, partnering, and providing for His mission.✱

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PATTY NERMAL

Last month, I went to Thailand to spend a few days resting and exploring the culture. I used to think that “to be Thai is to be Buddhist,” and that the Thai people, especially in Bangkok, were closed to Christianity. But I came to realize that things have changed. In Bangkok, I met people who said they are free to choose whichever religion they want to believe in. I also witnessed openness to Christianity through emerging churches and art exhibits. In a city surrounded by temples, where gods and kings are worshiped, I was amazed to see how God is moving in the hearts of the people. At the same time, I recognized that this is just a small part of the greater mission we are called to. Many still do not know where to find hope. People go to great lengths just to have their prayers answered. The world is filled with brokenness, and there is a deep need for that glimpse of hope to be shared. And so we ask ourselves: *What are we going to do?*

As disciples of Christ, we have been commissioned to “go and make disciples of all nations.” Yet the Church continues to face various challenges in fulfilling this call. One pressing question is: *Have we truly grasped the urgency that compels us to step out of our comfort zones and preach the Gospel?* Many nations still have limited opportunities to hear the Good News because of

the lack of a Christian presence. At the same time, we may be surprised to find that even those within our immediate reach remain unreached—not because of distance, but because we often lack the intentionality to share the Gospel with them.

This Missions Month, we are reminded that as followers of Jesus, we are sent into the world to proclaim the Good News and make disciples of all nations, regardless of our background or location.

As Romans 10:14-15 challenges us:
 "How then will they call on him
 in whom they have not believed?
 And how are they to believe in him
 of whom they have never heard?
 And how are they to hear without
 someone preaching? And how
 are they to preach unless they
 are sent? As it is written, 'How
 beautiful are the feet of those who
 preach the good news!'"

We are the ones called to go, to speak, and to bring Christ into the world.

Yesterday, as we concluded the Week of Prayer, we reflected on the meaning of the Gospel and our calling as those sent into the world. We also had the privilege of praying for the church, our partner missionaries, the mission fields, and the work being done there. For the rest of the month, the Engaging Ministry invites the church to take part in the following

events and activities to help us embrace and experience the joy of being called and sent out by God:

Sent Out: The Amazing Missions Race

Join this fun and meaningful activity, and experience firsthand the joy of sharing Christ wherever you are! The tasks focus on sharing Jesus with others—whether in person or online—through prayer, conversation, and engaging with culture. These can be done anytime, anywhere: at school, in the workplace, in your neighborhood, or even at home!

Business as Missions

Business owners are invited to join this year's *Business as Mission Conference* on October 17-18 with the theme: **CHOSEN FOR GOD'S PURPOSE: BUILT TO LAST.** Its mission is to empower Christian business owners to build their companies not just for profit, but for God's Kingdom.

Missions Conference

Lastly, we invite you to join the *Missions Conference, Sent Out: Carrying Christ into the World*, here at GCF South Metro on October 25. Let's come together to explore what it means to be sent out locally, globally, and digitally.

This Missions Month, let us unite and strengthen God's mission through His Church—to make disciples of all nations! ✱

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