



bits from bob....

Has God Already Sent You? October 12, 2020

There are always a number of Christians who are ready to volunteer and go when mission trips are announced. "I want to go." *What if God wants you to "go" where you are? What if he wants you to do his work right where you are? What if God has already sent you?*

When I speak about mission work, I often mention **the sent, the senders, and the "pre-sent."** Who are the "pre-sent?" Those whom God has "pre-sent" are already where God is sending them. The harvest is ready, the workers are onsite. They are in their "present" situation to be ambassadors for Christ in their spheres of influence, their communities, their work places, and their neighborhoods.

In the early days of missions, a great challenge in evangelizing the world was sending workers to places where the gospel had never gone. Today an equally great challenge is encouraging Christians who are now in place to share the gospel. Yes, there are still some places in our world where the gospel has not gone, but they are few. With the use of radio, media, and social media – the proclaimed word is available almost everywhere, with the exception of places that are closed because transmission is prohibited or limited and some very remote areas.

May I speak bluntly? The only way to reap the plentiful harvest is to have more workers. Jesus tells us to pray for workers. Our prayers should include the harvest and the harvest workers. What if we began to focus on this commandment of Jesus in our churches? What if we prayed for workers to enter the harvest field and God answered? I believe one of his answers would be, "I have already sent you!"

Imagine hundreds of Christians recognizing that God has called them. "God has touched my heart for reaching the lost! We have to do something." Can you imagine what could happen? I tell you that this is already happening all across Latin America where Christians constantly and consistently share the gospel. Dozens are present for evangelism training seminars. Latin American Christians recognize that they are "pre-sent" to share the gospel in their own countries and own cultures. Through the efforts of national Christians, hundreds are being baptized and new churches are being planted.

What if this fire took hold in the US? What if US Christians, hearts touched with the need to reach the lost, recognized that we also have been "pre-sent" into our own country where pre-COVID statistics revealed that on an average Sunday no more than 15-20% of US population attended church. What if God has already answered our prayers for workers – and we are the workers?

The harvest is everywhere. The harvest is not only abroad, not only among the poor. The harvest is not only in the northern US. The harvest is here, all around us, where we go, study, live, and work every day. Harvest workers are not a special kind of Christian with a special calling. Every Christian is a harvest worker – a missionary. "Every heart where Jesus does not yet live is a mission field, every heart where Jesus lives is a missionary." If we are Jesus' disciples, his mission is our mission and we are harvest workers, near and far!

*All this is from **God**, who **reconciled us** to himself through Christ **and gave us the ministry of reconciliation**: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation." (2 Cor. 5:18-19)*

Perhaps you respond by saying that you cannot do what I am doing – to train national workers, preach the gospel, teach the Bible, mature Christians across Latin America. OK.

What can you do? You can become a WBS teacher where you are, you can participate in Let's Start Talking virtually where you are, you can use FriendsSpeak to reach people in our city whose first language is not English. You can share the new app I wrote about last week, *La Voz Alegre*, to reach those you know who speak Spanish. In our churches are those with the gift of teaching evangelistic Bible lessons – you can invite others to study the Bible and help identify those with interest.

I want to convince you: you can "go" where you are. Perhaps what we most need is hearts to obey what Jesus said and to ask God for workers. Pray as if the harvest depended on you. You know what? It does!