

Mission, the Living God, and Who we are for

An important foundation for all mission is seen in Jesus' prayer in John 17, what He announced after His resurrection in John 20, and what He proclaimed in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5. It is about us being sent into the world as He was sent into the world. *John 17:18-19* "**As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.**"

Joh 20:21 So Jesus said to them again, "**Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.**"

Mat 5:13-16 MKJV You are the salt of the earth,...(14) You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden... (16) **Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in Heaven.**

This Week at CHC

03/08/10—03/14/10

Wednesday: Revolution church open house 7:00pm

Friday: Spring break for CHC begins

Sunday Morning Corporate gathering 10:00am

Everyday Mission



Everyday when we walk into the world we are on a mission from God. We are on a mission trip every time we leave our house. Mission is everywhere all the time. Whether it is across the street, or across the ocean, it is all mission. It is everywhere, both far or near.

Acts 1:8 but you will receive power when the

*Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses **both in** Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."* The mission mandate is "**both**" far (Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost part of the earth), and near (Jerusalem).

Mission and the Living God

All mission is about the "Living God" being revealed. God is alive! He is not an ancient creed or religion. He is the "Living God." This is at the heart of all mission for His people. We are connected to the Living God, and out of that connection He is revealed in the earth. Consider some of the Scriptures about the Living God.

Psa 42:2 My soul thirsts for God, **for the living God**

Hosea 1:10 And in the place Where it is said to them, "You are not My people," It will be said to them, "**You are the sons of the living God.**"

Romans 9:26 "AND IT SHALL BE THAT IN THE PLACE WHERE IT WAS SAID TO THEM, 'YOU ARE NOT MY PEOPLE,' THERE THEY SHALL BE CALLED **SONS OF THE LIVING GOD.**"

2Co 6:16 For we **are the temple of the living God;** just as God said, "**I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.**"

1Ti 3:15 but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the **church of the living God**, the pillar and support of the truth.

Heb 12:22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the **city of the living God**, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels,

1 Peter 2:5 you also, **as living stones**, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood

We are to be "living stones" walking with, and revealing, the "Living God." The big word that at the center all of this is "living." **Our living experience of the Living God is vital to mission!** If we have the Living God inside of us, there should be a passion to reveal Him.

The Living God expressed through living stones

As Christians labor to see the Living God revealed, they can often begin from a wrong place. Christians can begin with what they are against, rather than Who they are for. This affects the way a Christian comes across to people.

Mission, the Living God, and Who we are for Pg 1

To the culture around us we may sound less like bearers of good news and more like Groucho Marx in the film Horse Feathers.

I don't know what they have to say, it makes no difference anyway—whatever it is, I'm against it! No matter what it is or who commenced it, I'm against it! Your proposition may be good but let's have on thing understood—whatever it is, I'm against it! And even when you've changed it or condensed it, I'm against it. For months before my son was born, I used to yell from night till morn, whatever it is, I'm against it! And I've kept yelling since I commenced it, I'm against it!

Mission is everywhere all the time. Whether it is across the street or across the ocean, it is all mission.

Our life together in Christ being projected to this world isn't only about what we are against. It is more about Who and what we are for. We must ask ourselves the question, “does the world that we are trying to reveal the living God to know us more from the perspective of what we are against, or what we are for?” Even more than what we are for, Who we are for, because He is behind what we are for.

Consider God's perspective and even the Ten Commandments. He is against certain things because He is for the best things. “Thou shall not” is because the nature of sin robs people of the fullness of what He intends “be fruitful and multiply.” We do point out what we are against, but it is only from the foundation of Who and what we are for. God and His Kingdom provides the best life possible! This is important in mission. We don't just identify what we are against but speak of and live out Who/what we are for. *Psalms 71:15 My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness And of Your salvation all day long; For I do not know the sum of them*

It takes living stones to reveal the Living God



1 Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood

God refers to His people as “living stones.” This is the opposite of “dead” stones. Only living stones can reveal the Living God. The only way living stones can maintain the “living” aspect to them is to walk in a real, vital relationship with the Living God. **Our first objective is to be alive in God!** We do not ever want to come to the state of existence that Jesus identified was in the church in Sardis. They should have been alive but were in fact dead. *Revelation 3:1-2 "To the angel of the church in Sardis write:... 'I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. (2) 'Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.*

God's Spirit arranges things so that unbelievers stub their spiritual toes on living stones. This results in impact in mission.

This is a condition that Jesus identifies can happen to His people. We can have the name that we are alive but the reality is that we are dead. He exhorts them to “wake up and strengthen the things that remain.” Deadness is a dullness that is like being asleep. There is no magic formula to maintain a state of being awake or alive. It only comes about as we walk everyday with the Living God. Jesus identified it in His resistance of the devil in the wilderness temptation when He said, “man shall not live by bread alone, but by every **word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.**” Proceeding means that comes forth now.

As we walk with God in a vital relationship we will maintain the state of being a “living stone.” In our mission in the earth, living stones can reveal God's glory. People on the roadway to hell are more inclined to stub their toe on a living stone. Dead stones pose no problem. You can have thousands of dead stones on the pathway and people just walk right over them. When you have living stones on that pathway, even just a few, the Spirit of God will see to it that people stub their toe on it. The stubbing of a spiritual toe is symbolic of making an impact. When we stub our natural toe our whole being is impacted during those moments. God wants to impact unbelievers in a similar way, through living stones.