

Is Our God Enough?

"How Far Should We Go?"

Matthew 28:16-20 ... February 24, 2019

Welcome and intro to the last Sunday in the series...Pastor Dave

We're wrapping up a four-week series of messages that were designed to let everyone at CrossPoint Church know what the church is all about. Week one we talked about the mission, vision, and core values of CrossPoint Church. Week two we dove into the family part of our vision to become a family first church where everyone belongs. Week three we hit the part of our vision that talks about reaching out into the community and letting others know about the generous love of God. And that brings us to the week four and the mission focus of our three-year vision to become: ***A family first church that supports, loves, and equips families and communities (to LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS AND MAKE DISCIPLES) here and around the world.***

Today, we're going to talk about our emphasis on being a mission minded church. So, let me first unpack that statement. It means that **in everything we do we think about those who have yet to hear the message of Jesus**. Our hope is that we can equip a group of believers in becoming so thoughtful about others that we change the culture of our church to one that is constantly thinking about reaching out to someone who does not yet know Jesus. We also believe that a part of being mission minded means **partnering with people and going to places where the message of Jesus Christ is barely heard** or in need of being declared. That bringing the message of Jesus is life changing...not only to those who hear it but, also to those who declare it. Because of that, we believe that everyone should do some kind of missional work – locally, regionally, nationally, or globally.

In order to make that possible we offer missional opportunities throughout the year at almost every age level and every skill level. When Jesus sent out the disciples, they were big on passion, deep in their belief in Jesus, and short on training. So, we believe that mission work is all about, first - being in *Love with God*, second, wanting to *Love Others* and third, helping others to become *devoted followers/disciples* of Jesus. Since that's what Jesus did, we believe that's what every Christ follower should do. **Mission work is God's form of on job training**. So, we have places and opportunities for people to jump into the deep end happening constantly. Our bi-monthly food pantry and clothing connection are places that help others right here in our community. Our Home Improvement Ministry (or H.I.M.) helps people in the Harrisburg area with minor home repairs. Starting at 5th grade – our students engage in hands on mission work close to home and sometimes – far away through planned mission trips. Both the Rutherford and the Colonial Park campuses reach out to the local neighborhoods through unique partnerships with Rutherford and North Side Elementary schools where we help teachers and students by being reading buddies, teachers' aides, assisting with projects, and doing drives for clothing or school supplies.

As a part of the United Methodist denomination we send funds and resources to people who are in need in some way. The United Methodist Committee on Relief works tirelessly around the world help people who are hit by things like natural disasters or the devastation of war. As a congregation we support a missionary couple in South East Asia who are ethnomusicologist with Wycliff Bible Institute. Their job is to help people write worship music in their own cultural language with their own instruments. How cool is that!

SIERRA LEONE TEAM:

And one of the major mission efforts that have is the partnership with a United Methodist congregation in Sierra Leone, West Africa. The relationship was started out of the need for support after an 11-year war that left the country in shambles.

We are a part of a group who visited our sister church in the village of Maboleh the first two weeks in January. We'll try to bring you up to speed on what we did in each of our 4 areas of focus, while the mission team was there.

- Spirituality
 - Pastoral development
 - Meetings with the congregational elders
 - Support of the Pastor's family
- Education

- School work including teacher support
- School supplies – slates, chalk, pencils, etc.
- Primary school construction and repairs
- Scholarship program in 2ndary schools at Makeni and Makump Bana.
- Economic
 - Women's Agriculture Project
 - Hammermill to process cassava and ground nuts
 - Piggery
 - Education – ground nut processing to avoid disease
- Medical
 - Medical supplies for village clinic
 - Medical equipment for clinic

In addition to these areas, we also make time to develop and maintain relationships helpful to the village, such as:
 Paramount Chief / District Lay Leader / District Superintendent / Government Officials

Our past projects have included

- Building a house for former pastor's family
- Building latrines for church & mosque
- Medical attention for emergencies
 - Little girl to Kissy Eye Clinic
 - Hand/finger surgery for Mohammed & Bintu

Pastor Dave will come back in and end the message for the morning with a call to mission.