

## GOD IS ALWAYS ON MISSION

John 20:21 *Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.*

They apostles were commissioned to preach the message of God's forgiveness of sins, in the crucifixion of Jesus, and of his justifying of us by his grace, through faith, so that as people—we can always live at peace, without having to justify ourselves.

We are thinking today of what we have come to call the Mission of the *church*.

### The Mission of God

It is actually the Mission of God, into which we are called to share, to participate. God's Mission began before the world was founded (Ephesians 1:4). It has a twin focus, upon on:

- (1) the purposive, fruitful care of creation (Gen. 1:28), and
- (2) Christ's work of redemption and reconciliation (2Cor. 5:19).

### Contrary Missions

Many are the evil powers, and people, set in conspiracy against God's mission (Psalm 2). Communism, Atheism, Capitalism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam are all *humanly devised missions*, which are trying to build a kingdom, but one that is essentially, opposed to God's plan, and his suffering, reigning Messiah. Even so, God's mission will triumph (Rev. 21-22).

If Christ has called you, to be his, you have a share in his mission.

During the week we had one of our *home group meetings* on ZOOM—as you do—and one of our members, Jen Collins, led the evening with a number of bible references. In particular she referred us to Jesus **continuing ministry**, today, as the Risen, and Ascended Lord! We looked at the end of *Matthew Gospel*: *'And remember, I am with you always to the end of the age'*. She also drew our attention to a story in the news from only a few days ago, where a 99 year old man, Captain Tom Moore, walked around his backyard in the UK, to raise about \$2000 to help fight Covid-19. Instead of raising that amount, his story went viral, and (1) he raised 55 million dollars, instead. Yes. Fifty five million! (2) He was invited to *sing 'You'll Never Walk Alone'* the famous song, used by Liverpool Football Club. For his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, this former RAF veteran he soon had (3) the number one hit song in the UK, (4) he broke the record for the most charity money raised by a single person, and (5) he got to speak to the nation words of hope, to continue walking. (6) He was indeed, at 99, still **a man on a mission**.

**Jesus is The Man on a Mission.** It is he who ensures us, that truly, *we will never walk alone*. He, together with the Father is on a mission, by His Holy Spirit, to bring the good news of presence, grace, forgiveness, reconciliation and love amidst a world of *many troubles*.

In Acts 13:1—5 Paul and Barnabas were sent out by the Holy Spirit, from the church in **Antioch** into the world to preach the Word of God, bringing hope to the *nations* of the world (Romans 1:1-5). They went. What an adventure it was. And still is. Jesus calls us to share in his mission. That will be in your local area; but it may include travels, to new places.

**Prayer:** *May you be empowered by the Holy Spirit to share God's message, as you live in great hope, walking with Jesus.* —**Trevor Faggotter, Clare 2020**

The Service: [https://youtu.be/\\_4by4spRm\\_E](https://youtu.be/_4by4spRm_E)

The amazing story of Captain Tom Moore. You'll Never Walk Alone.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-04-25/captain-tom-moore-number-1-youll-never-walk-alone-coronavirus/12180754>

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