



Sent, Go, Proclaim

Our family was sent to the Philippines to proclaim God's love. We went to the Philippines and stayed there for a 5-year term, then two 3-year terms. Three of our four sons were born in the Philippines. They were our glorious years of ministry. Even as we struggled with homesickness, the language, and cultural difference, we learned to love the gracious Filipinos.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, Creator of all nations. You send us, and our families, out on your mission to proclaim Your Word and love to people of every tribe and country. Help us be open to Your sending us to share the message You want us to proclaim. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WHO HAS GOD SENT?

What was God's message through the prophet Malachi?

Malachi 3:1 Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

The messenger is being sent. He (Jesus) is coming.

What was Isaiah's response to being SENT by the Lord?

Isaiah 6:8 And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

He was willing to be sent and said, "Send me."

What can we do to provide people to be sent to the mission fields?

Matthew 9:37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

We can pray earnestly that God will send more laborers – missionaries. We can also pray that we would see the opportunities that God places before us to share His love.

Who did God send for us and for what purpose?

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

God sent Jesus so that we would believe and have eternal life. Not only us, but the entire world.

FAITH TALK: What kinds of mission activities do you and your family feel **sent** by God to do in your community and church?

Encourage women to share activities they have been a part of in their lives or have seen others do in your church or community.

We were told to go to the Philippines. In this place, my husband pastored two congregations. He helped encourage church members to organize Vacation Bible School in the barrios (neighborhood) under palm trees, and children's ministry at our church. He taught Bible classes and attended youth camps as our family participated with him.

WHERE does God tell us to GO?

Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Jesus commanded the disciples to go to all nations. Even to the ends of the earth.

Mark 16:15 And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.

Jesus told them to go into all the world to proclaim the gospel.

Luke 24:45-49 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Jesus told his followers to proclaim repentance for the forgiveness of sins to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem and spreading from there. Today, we also can start with the people around us in our families and neighborhoods.

FAITH TALK: In what farther away places might you and your family support missions? How could you find out more about the needs there?

Certainly remind attendees of the mission grants of the LWML in your district and national. Don't forget to consider opportunities in your own local area. You can also look at <https://www.lcms.org/mission-and-outreach> for more mission information.

In the Philippines we proclaimed God's Good News of forgiveness in many ways. First, we needed to make friends and win trust. We listened to and learned the values of the new culture. We respected the missionaries who had come before us and built on the work they had done. Empowering and encouraging the church members to reach out to their friends and neighbors with Jesus' love was important. We learned to appreciate Filipino humor and their joy in singing. Today, the Filipino pastors oversee mission work in the Philippines. We rejoice that pastors, deaconesses, and lay leaders are being trained to proclaim the Gospel message.

What are we to proclaim (declare, speak of, teach and preach)?

Psalms 145:4-7 One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. ⁵On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. ⁶ They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. ⁷ They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

We are to declare God's mighty acts, His glorious splendor and wondrous work.

Be sure to include the awesome gift that we have been given in the Means of Grace. God has gifted us forgiveness through His Word, Holy Baptism, and the Lord's Supper. These gifts are essential in life of a Christian.

Zechariah 9:10b

He shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

We are to speak of God's peace and his dominion over the earth. (Note: the River mentioned is the Euphrates River.)

Luke 4:18-19

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

These verses share the Calling that Jesus had. However, we too can proclaim the Good News to the poor, share God's liberty for the captives and the oppressed. We can share God's Gospel message because Jesus was sent first to do the same.

Romans 10:8-10

The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Through faith, we confess that Jesus is the Lord and that God raised him from the dead to save us. Our faith and belief, as well as our confession of faith is only possible through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 5:42

⁴² And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

Like the apostles who went to the temple and house to house, we teach and preach that the Christ is Jesus. Wherever we go we can be a witness for the Lord as he provides.

Colossians 1:27-29

²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of is mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹ For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

Paul struggled with all his energy to make known among the Gentiles the mystery, which is Jesus, so people could mature in Christ.

FAITH TALK: Share some ways you can better share your faith with friends, family, and others in your life.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, we are Lutheran Women in Mission. Help us and our family be aware of Your sending of missionaries to far places and of sending us to our neighbors. May we faithfully support mission grants and give encouragement to missionaries around the world. Show us where we can go in our communities to share Your love. Help us proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Deaconess Bonnie Beversdorf and her husband Jim are retired in Valparaiso, IN. Bonnie served the LORD as a Ministry of Discipleship at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Valparaiso.

Since the pandemic she has hosted a 40 minute zoom LWML Bible class that studies new and archived LWML Quarterly Bible studies. The class meets on Mondays beginning at 10 am. To join her class contact bonniebeversdorf@gmail.com

Read more about Bonnie on page 7 of this issue.