

Mission Sunday
Interview Vietnam Team
We are all missionaries
Matthew 28:16-19

Vineyard Area Leaders national conference

- A. Our church receiving two awards at the conference. One award was recognition that our church was one of the top givers, per capita, to the Vineyard Association. We give 3% to Association each year. The money is used to strengthen churches and develop new churches within the US and around the world. Right now there are almost 700 U.S. Vineyard churches and 2,700 Vineyard churches around the world in 102 nations.
- B. The second award was for "Effective Evangelism." Last year in 2018, we saw 66 people make decisions for Christ and baptized 28 people. That was double the national average for Vineyard churches! This Easter we have a chance to work together and see many people experience God for the first time. Let's begin to pray RIGHT NOW, and ask God who He wants us to invite to church this Easter. We are believing for 600 people to be here and 20 people to get saved and baptized.

Easter offering

- A. This Easter we will be taking our special offering again. This will be our 29th year of doing this. We have been giving this entire offering away to helping the poor, both locally and in foreign missions. So far we have given away \$1.3 million.
- B. This year we will be giving the entire offering away again to three different mission programs our church is involved in. You can designate your offering to go any one or all of these three.
- C. **Haiti:** Last year was our first year doing this. For \$180 you can feed one child one meal a day for an entire year. We sponsored 160 children for the past year. We talked about this a couple of weeks ago and how this feeding program has now moved from being on the street to being done now in a nice new clean nutrition center.
- D. **Amazon River in Brazil:** We started doing this two years ago. The cost for one water filter is \$195. We have delivered 169 filters so far. We will be skyping our missionary in Brazil in 4 weeks.
- E. **Vietnam:** For the past 10 years we have been buying wheelchairs now @ \$50 each and sending them to Vietnam with a team from our church. So far we have sent 5,709 chairs and praying and believing we will cross into 6,000 chairs this year.
- F. Our Vietnam team have just returned and I thought it would be good to hear from them how the trip went. Could we have our Vietnam mission team come up front?

Interview

Henry: How many trips has this been for you? Why do you keep going back?

Michael: How many trips has this been for you? Tell us about the young lady that you were able to pray with, to receive the Lord.

Bob: How many trips has this been for you and Jenny? Why do you keep going back?

Jenny: I saw you posted this picture of the guy on the bench, and said, "Maybe next year." How do these chairs get distributed? Who decides who gets them?

Henry: How many chairs were you able to distribute on this trip? How many distributions do you do a day? What happens at the distributions?

Michael: What would you say to someone who is sitting there and thinking that they might like to go on this mission trip sometime?

Bob: Tell us about the man who got saved, got a chair for his mother, they prayed with him.

Jenny: What is going on in this picture with the eyeglass distribution.

Dave: Closing

- A. Vietnamese is a hard language to learn but you can be a bi-lingual person even if you only speak English. If you are struggling trying to communicate with someone in your life try speaking the universal language of kind deeds done with love. You can truly break down walls with kind deeds done with great love.
- B. Thanks, guys. If you have any questions about this trip talk to either of these guys. They can help you out.

Talk a little about Vietnam

- A. We send our chairs and work with Pastor Vu. He has quite a story growing up in Vietnam and being persecuted as a Christian. He has planted 10 churches so far. He uses the wheelchairs as an opportunity to go and visit people and start Bible studies and then churches.
- B. Is there a need for mission work in Vietnam? Vietnam is only 7-10% Christian, and most of these are Catholics! Less than 2% claim to be born again Christians! 90-93% of the 100 million people who live in Vietnam are either Buddhists or Atheists. If you want a good job, which would be a government job, you have to denounce your Christian faith. You cannot have any relatives for three generations that are Christians. Outside of the major cities, there is oppressive poverty, there are no freedoms, and there is religious persecution.
- C. In the US there are about 350,000 Christian churches, which is one Christian church for every 1,000 people. In Vietnam, there is 1 church for every 100,000 people!¹ That would be like taking three communities here, Pickerington, Reynoldsburg, and Pataskala and there being only one church!
- D. The need to preach the gospel in this country is real, but the need to care for the poor is also real. I love the fact that we get to do both of these with our mission projects.
- E. Let me encourage you to be praying about our Easter offering this year. You can purchase a wheelchair for \$50 that will be sent to Vietnam. You can purchase a clean water filter to be distributed along the Amazon River in Brazil for \$195. You can decide to feed a street child in Haiti for \$180 a year. These are three truly amazing ministries!

Since we are talking about missions I thought I would talk about one of the greatest missionaries of all time Saint Patrick.

- A. Today is Saint Patrick's Day (Picture 3 leaf clover) March 17 is believed to be the day he died.
- B. Most people don't realize that Saint Patrick was a real person. He was a missionary

¹ <https://omf.org/asia/vietnam/about-vietnam/>

to Ireland. He is credited with totally transforming that island from paganism to Christianity around 450 AD.

- C. At age 16 (around A.D. 400), he was kidnapped from his home by pirates from Britain coast and carried off to Ireland to become a slave. It was during this captivity that Patrick gave his life to God and became a deeply devoted Christian. After six years, he escaped; upon returning home, he received a call (in a dream) to preach the Gospel to the people in Ireland. He heeded that call and went back to Ireland. Although there were a few Christians in Ireland at the time, it was Patrick who spread Christianity throughout the land and brought an organized church into existence. During his 30+ years as a missionary in Ireland, over one HUNDRED thousand converts were baptized and over 300 hundred churches, schools, and orphanages were started. Ireland became a Christian country because of his tireless work.
- D. Irish people wear a shamrock on St. Patrick's Day because, legend says, St. Patrick used its three leaves to explain the Holy Trinity. (The Father, the Son, and the Spirit as three divine persons who are one divine being, God.)
- E. Such a great story about going back to a people who mistreated him and bringing them the good news of God's great love. If you ever want to read more about Saint Patrick, he wrote an autobiography towards the end of his life. It is called "Confessions." It is a great read!

Jesus called us all to missionaries. Matthew 24:16-19

- A. Some may be called to go to foreign countries, like our Vietnam team. Or Brazil or Haiti or some other country. But even if we are not called to go to another country we are still called to be missionaries wherever we live, our community, our workplace, our schools, our neighborhoods.
- B. Who was Jesus speaking to here? Only the rich? Definitely not the poor, or the young or the old! Was He speaking only to the trained professionals instead of the average person? Who was He speaking to?
- C. Surely Jesus was talking to all of His followers, everyone. In the Vineyard, we refer to this as, "Everyone gets to play." The ministry is not only for professionals. We all get to participate.
- D. But how? Paul said in 1 Corinthians 3:7, "some plant, some water and some get to reap." I think Paul was saying we don't do this by ourselves. God uses many different people over a period of time to bring a person out of darkness into His light. We get to be a part of this. This is what is so great about being a part of a church. We get to work together in advancing God's Kingdom. It is not just on one person. I think one of the easiest ways to fulfill this great commission is to invite people to church on Sunday, especially on special days like Easter. Then when they come God uses the worship team, the preacher, and everyone to help them experience God's presence and eventually get saved!
- E. Now, some are called to advance God's kingdom in foreign countries, like Vietnam, Brazil, Haiti, or another country. But even if we are called to another country are still called missionaries wherever we live, our community, workplace, schools, or neighborhoods. Everyone is different but we all get to participate.
- F. Sharing God's love, evangelism, is the result of fellowship with God. It should be the overflow of what is doing in our lives that we share with others. It is not some canned,

rehearsed presentation. I see this is as a command but I also see this as an invitation. Not so much as a have to, but a get to. We are invited to work with Jesus to bring God's kingdom to this world. Doing this will give our lives meaning and purpose as we get to help others find God.

- G. We live in a broken world. People may not always tell you that they are broken, but without Jesus, as the Savior, they are broken. Only Jesus can heal, restore and forgive us our sins. Only Jesus can reconcile us to God our Creator.
- H. It does not matter what your particular vocation or career is, we are all called to be missionaries. Wherever we are, we are to keep an eye open to helping people find God and receive forgiveness for their sins. When we read the gospels all kinds of people became missionaries. A tax collector, these were NOT well-liked people, a prostitute, and woman who had been married five times, there was even a guy who was full of demons and Jesus cast them out and he went back into his hometown and he became a missionary to the people in his town. All throughout the gospels, you will see that there's a connection to following Jesus and becoming a missionary.
- I. When Jesus called each one of us to follow Him it wasn't just to make us a better person or a better husband, or better wife, or a stronger or smarter person. Jesus' goal for us isn't simply to follow Him and allow Him to make us better people. His goal is for us to follow Him, and help Him to advance the Kingdom of God by being missionaries.
- J. When we become Christians something happens inside of all of us. We begin to realize how great God is and how good it is to know that all of our sins have been forgiven. Then we begin to think about others, our friends, our family, our relatives and we want them to experience what we experience. Many of us became missionaries without even realizing it. It flowed out of us. Sometimes though over the years that passion and zeal seem to die down. We need to ask God to reignite that flame.

Summary

- A. Jesus gave a clear command. This is called the "Great Commission." This is not a command given just to the 11 apostles. This is not a command given to just preachers. This is a command given to all of Jesus' followers. But I think it is also an invite to work with Him. But this is our product: Transformed lives. We are in the people building business. "We build people." We are to be making disciples, followers of Jesus Christ. We don't do this alone, we do this together. Some plant, some water, and some reap, but we all work together.
- B. We have all been called. We each fulfill our calling in a different way. Some people are comfortable talking to people about their faith. Some are not, but I think we all need to be part of fulfilling the great commission. We can all invite someone to church, especially on Easter.