



All one in Christ

THE UNITED CHURCH OF ZAMBIA

SYNOD MISSION AND EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT

2022 MISSION SUNDAY SERMON OUTLINE

UCZ THEME: ALL ONE IN CHRIST (JOHN 17:21)

BIBLE READINGS: ROMANS 10:13-15; MATHEW 25:35-40,

MATTHEW 28:18-20,

THEME: "OUR ROLE IN THE CHURCH'S MISSION"

1. INTRODUCTION

Greetings to all in the name of Christ Jesus.

In 1996, during the Presidency of H.E. Mr. FTJ Chiluba, Zambia was declared a Christian Nation and the same was enshrined in the preamble of our Republican Constitution, even though there still exist a variety of other religious expressions. However, even though our Nation is called a Christian Nation, there are many people out there, especially in the rural parts of the country who are unreached with God's word. This means that, we have work to do. This work cannot be done by one person, but by all of us getting involved. The United Church of Zambia has indeed planted many Congregations country wide and it is still planting those to come. While Congregations in the urban set-up are able to reach out to their own people, the opposite is what we see with the rural Congregations.

They have no capacity to reach out to their own people. This is due to lack of resources that are needed for this task.

However, the question is, what is your role in the Church Mission? As we Celebrate Mission Sunday today, we shall reflect on a Theme Titled, “**Our Role in the Church’s Mission**”.

2. BIBLE EXPLANATION

In the gospel according to Matthew, we see that before His ascension, our Lord Jesus Christ commission the twelve disciples in what we commonly refer to as the Great Commission.

As a Church, the UCZ has actually done well in Evangelism though much still needs to be done. However, Evangelism must not be confused with mission. Evangelism is **sharing the Gospel with a person who is not a believer yet**.

On the other hand, mission refers to the work of **establishing a viable, self-sustaining Christian communities** (often called church planting and support systems) among a group of people who do not already have such. While we have Congregations even in the remotest parts of our Nation, we must now, as a Church, **provide resources** to these Congregations in order for them to evangelize their own people without neglecting those that are resourceful because mission is wider. It is not our Mission, but God’s mission.

To do this, we must all get involved. There are three ways we can be involved in the Church Mission and these are:

- To **Reach Out**
- To **Equip Those Involved**
- To **Support The Mission** (Pray, Send, Fund).

(i) REACHING OUT

You will agree that, there are people in the rural and shockingly so even in urban areas of our Nation who are rarely reached. Often time's mission in our Church is very much seen in the urban set up. This explains why most of these rural Congregations look at themselves as being alienated.

However, the concept of Missional Congregations now espoused is not meant to establish a Congregational Focus Church locally, but that a Congregation with a missional mind or spirit, could look within and around itself to find what resources are available to do mission within its local context while on the other hand lobbying for support from those with other resources beyond what they already have.

We have however, seen some positive strives of mission where some youth groups, the MCF and WCF are reaching out too, to many in very remote places. This must be **intensified** if the gospel is to be preached to all. There are also those individuals whom **God has called to reach out to many and have also voluntarily and generously continued to do so at individual level.** If God calls you to engage in some way **directly with an unreached** people, take it up and do the work! Don't look at how people or what people may say, but listen to that voice of God and obey.

(ii) EQUIP THOSE TO GO AND REACH UNREACHED PEOPLE.

This is where a lot of our effort is and must be invested. Despite our presence in many Rural parts of our Nation, many people are not yet being evangelized. It takes you and me to do that with adequate resources.

Our focus as a Church must be on equipping people, both for rural / urban evangelism as well as for Church missions.

This can be done by adopting many ways, and one such way is through our UCZ printed materials. Urban Congregations, Individuals, Groups as well as families may donate to MED, materials which are urgently needed in most rural Congregations, materials like Hymn books, Catechumens Hand books, Bibles etc. You can even buy three hymn books. That can help a lot to our brothers and sisters who don't have them.

(iii) SUPPORT THOSE WHO ARE INVOLVED IN MISSIONS.

Where there is a mission, there are people involved. You will agree with that without support, the mission of the Church may be impossible. Support is needed from all Christians if we are to achieve this. From time to time, Congregations, groups, families as well as individuals can support the mission by providing the resources needed. Support may also be in form of prayer; praying for those involved so that the mission is accomplished. The truth is that, much of the Church's (UCZ) **current spending, activity and efforts** are on people who have **already been reached**. While we must **strengthen what we have**, we must **not lose sight** of the **unfinished work waiting for us** (*Reaching out and giving support to the unreached*).

This is the more reason Paul says, *“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?”*

Brethren! we are all urged to take responsibility and do something, especially about the rural Congregation who need our support to reach out to their own. Your contributions, in any form and your partnering with the UCZ Mission and Evangelism Department can make us more forward and preach the gospel as well as to do the Church's mission.

3. POINTS OF REFLECTION

(i) You have a Role to play in the mission of God

Beloved in the Lord, Paul said, to the Romans *“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?”*

We have a role to use our resources prudently and invest in God’s work. We need to support the mission of God and Church (**Missio dei and eclessia**) for the gospel to reach out the less privileged and down trodden in society. God has blessed us with various resources no matter how small for a purpose so that we may carry out his mission to all Nations.

(ii) You are strategically positioned for Gods mission

In the gospel according to (Mathew 25:35-40) we hear the writer expounding on the right mission for God. The writer further qualifies those undertaking Gods mission to have their places in the kingdom of God for carrying Gods mission efficiently and effectively. This is because they fed the Hungry, gave drink to the thirsty, welcomed and clothed the naked. Not only did they visit the sick in hospital, but also the Prisoners. Brothers and sisters in the Lord serve God faithfully in His mission and don’t leave it to few individuals. We are all called and position rightfully to fulfill God’s mission.

(iii) Arise and shine with your resources in the mission of God.

Beloved in the Lord! I encourage you to rise up and do Gods mission with all our efforts and resources.

If mission refers to the work of establishing a **viable, self-sustaining Christian** community, then we can make that happen. Arise and be part of the Christians in the UCZ who made a difference in supporting the Church missions.

Amen.

**THE MISSION AND EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO THANK
REV. BULAYA COLLINS, MINISTER IN CHARGE OF UCZ ALL SAINTS
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FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2022**

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