

Invite People to Christ: A relationship grounded in Jesus Christ

President Veazey, in his address to the church in 2005 said,

“We also must recover our passion for sharing the gospel with others in those parts of the world where the spirit of evangelism has waned. How do we do that? Again, it comes through spiritual formation. If we deepen our experience with Christ through creative prayer, scripture study, worship, Sabbath keeping, and life in community, we will discover the love and joy of the gospel bubbling up in our souls and flowing naturally into the lives of neighbours and friends. The key to evangelism is joyful, loving disciples who are constantly inviting others to come with them to the source of true life.” (World Conference Sermon, 2005)

In Luke 4: 18-19 Jesus offered his response to God's Spirit guiding him and offered familiar words of scripture from Isaiah.

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.”

These words of Jesus guide Community of Christ in living Christ's Mission as our Mission. We are invited to live them in Five Mission Initiatives. They are:

- Invite People to Christ
- Abolish Poverty, End Suffering
- Pursue Peace on Earth
- Develop Disciples to serve
- Experience Congregations in Mission

This year we want to give intentional focus on Inviting People to Christ. This emphasis is based on relationships: our relationship with God and how we experience the continued presence and Peace of Jesus Christ. *We will be grounded in God's spirit. We will be open to the nudge of God. We will nurture the relationships we have in our lives. We will build new relationships in our neighbourhoods and communities.*

This is an invitation to meaningful conversations and relationships. This is an invitation to listen to the stories of people's lives. This is an invitation to listen to where God is inviting us to share our witness of how God is alive and moving in our lives today. This is an invitation to invite people to be baptised and share a life of faithful discipleship in Community of Christ.

As Christians we follow Jesus who said "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (John 20.21). Go, share, invite, and receive.

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