

The Unfinished Task



Andrew Abah

The scope of the task is disciple all nations. Nations in this context transcends “political entity” or “country”. It translates from the Greek word “ethnos” which means “ethnic unit”, “people” or as in the New Testament “heathen” or “Gentiles”

Jesus mandate to His disciples in Mathew 28:19 was clear – “Therefore go and make **DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age”. Heaven’s ultimate inhabitants are clearly described in the revelation of John the Apostles as indicated in Rev. 7:9-10,

“After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, **FROM EVERY NATION, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb.** “For this to be realized, God choose to put a hold to the end of the world until ...“ *this gospel of the kingdom will be **PREACHED IN THE WHOLE WORLD** as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.* Matt 24:14

If all nations as earlier defined are included in God’s program of salvation for which Jesus died for, it is important to assess the current state of world evangelization and identify the remaining task. The task seems to be increasing instead of reducing by the day. Todd Johnson, Director of the center for the study of Global Christian and Peter Crossing, an Australia Missiologist recently revealed that the total number of unreached people groups have increased from 10,000 to 13,000.

It is not as if the Church is not working. He explains that in 1975, the unreached was 16,750 but rounded to 17,000. It dropped to 12,000 in 1989 and then 10,000 in 1995 to represent the progress in world evangelization. However it was raised to 13,000 recently despite progress among unreached people be-

cause there has been awareness of the significance of the subdivisions among the ethno-linguistic peoples.

It is important for the church to be familiar with the list of these unreached groups so as to focus on them. How often we duplicate efforts while there are virgin dark lands that are staring at us and the people crying: “The harvest is past the summer is ended, but we are not saved” Jeremiah 8:20. In John 4:35, Jesus told His disciples to lift up their eyes and look. When we lift up our eyes, we will see the unfinished task – It is then we can be impacted by the compassion that Jesus had for the fainting shepherdless multitudes.

As we adjust our spiritual lenses we will be in a better position to pray rightly to the Lord of harvest. The mobilization of our legs to go will then follow and we can be assured of the Lord’s promise “anywhere the sole of your feet shall tread will be given unto you for a possession” Joshua 1:4. mf

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