

# Read

Acts 8:26-40

Matthew 28:18-20

# Consider

Remember the incident about the Apostle Philip helping the Ethiopian eunuch understand the Scripture passage he was reading from Isaiah 53:7-8? Philip then told him the good news about Jesus and invited him to receive Jesus as his Savior. The eunuch had the heart and faith of seeking to understand the truth and yet nobody was able to explain it to him. In answering Philip's question of whether he understood the passage, he asked a very relevant and important question which has become the focal point of our missional engagement today: "How can I, unless someone explains it to me?"

This is the main purpose of our Mission Month at SCBC, to be reminded of who we are as God's people and how we should respond to God's call to go forth reaching out to all peoples of this world, to fulfill the Great Commandment that Our Lord Jesus has given us. Preaching the good news is our mission. "He spoke to them again and said, "As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." (John20:21). Jesus was giving the disciples their Spirit-filled power and Spirit-guided mission – to proclaim the good news about Jesus so people's sins might be forgiven. The disciples did not have the power to forgive sins (only God can), but Jesus gave them the privilege of telling new believers that their sins had been forgiven because they had accepted Jesus as their Savior.

Philip was one of the early missionaries. He obeyed the Lord's command through an angel to go south from Jerusalem to Gaza and there he met the Ethiopian eunuch. Obeying and responding to the Lord's call is essential to accomplishing the Great Commandment as missionaries. Like the eunuch, people need to be told about Jesus and how, through Him, they can have a personal relationship with God, through the help of missionaries.

Through the four Sundays' sermons, our missionaries and preachers have shared their rich experience of how God has led them to go through challenging times in various mission fields and how wonderful it has been seeing people of difficult life stages accepted Jesus as their Savior. Listening to life stories told by new believers is just like enjoying a nutritious meal prepared by our gracious Father who is rejoicing with us praying to and praising Him. We join our hearts with our missionaries as we work together in proclaiming the good news. They are working hard in the mission fields, and the church is praying, encouraging and supporting them.

*Deacon Samuel Chan*

# Pray

Gracious Father,

Thank you for opening our eyes to see that the harvest is ripen, and workers are not enough for it all over the world. People are desperate for hope, harmony and peace among them as they are facing diseases, wars and catastrophe all around them. Reveal to them Lord that you are in control of all situations as you are the Creator of the universe. You are the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through you. May they hear your voice and see your face as they seek you. Thank you for preparing for us this Mission Month in which we richly experience how much you care for and how deeply you love all peoples of this world. May your challenge and call on us be clearly heard to go forth in proclaiming the good news and may we respond with no hesitation to follow you in your leading.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

# Diving Deeper

Think about God's call on Jonah asking him to go to Nineveh to preach for their repentance and returning to God. What was his response? How did God change Jonah? What was the main focal point of Jonah's change?

How is Philip's response compared with Jonah's on God's call?

How do you know the will of God? How can you be sure of the call of God?

Share your experience of joining a Mission Trip? What did you learn that you would never forget?

How can we live closer **WITH** God in our lives?

How are we being **TRANSFORMED** to be more like Christ?

How is the Holy Spirit empowering us to imitate Christ in what we **DO** this week?