

BEC REFLECTION PAPER FOR OCTOBER 2017

MAIN THEME: BE DISCIPLES OF HOPE

Sub-theme: Witnessing Beyond Borders

God calls and sends out his people into the world. All believers are called to share the good news of the gospel, though some are specially commissioned by God, confirmed by the church and compelled by the gospel message to missionary service.

Opening Hymn: A Call To Christians

1. A light within the world
You send us to impart
To those who know You not
Yet love You in their heart.

2. Your love and light, O Lord,
Yes, witnesses are we,
To bear the light of Christ
For all the world to see

Refrain:

We come with you, O Christ
In answer to Your Call;
Through love we give All.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

3. Have mercy on the world
That sin and strife may cease;
Extend your reign, O Christ,
You are the King of Peace.

Opening Prayer: Invite a member of the BEC to say the opening prayer

DIALOGUE

Jim, an elder at a church, was to oversee the evangelism of new people that moved into the area. Sun Lee and his family were Vietnamese refugees who had recently been moved into the area. They had no possessions, knew no one, and needed help in every way. Jim began by helping them to get food and then spent much time finding Sun Lee a good job. Jim wanted so much to tell Sun Lee about Jesus Christ, but he didn't know Vietnamese and the refugees knew very little English. Both men sought to learn the other's language so that they could become better friends. One day, Jim felt that he knew enough now to tell Sun Lee about Jesus. Jim began to explain about God and Jesus to Sun Lee, but the more he talked, the more confusing it seemed to get. Sun Lee would repeat in Vietnamese a little of what Jim said in English. Finally, Jim was so frustrated that he decided to give up trying to communicate until he had learned more Vietnamese. Sun Lee at this point blurted out, "Is your God like you? If he is, I want to know him." Jim explained that Jesus Christ was greater than he was, far greater. Yet Sun Lee wanted to know more about Jesus Christ if he was like Jim! Jim had thought for all these months that he was not communicating the gospel. But he was, with the greatest form of communication a person can use—the example of a life filled with Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS FOR SHARING

1. We are living in a society without borders. Do you have friends from a different race, culture and religion? Do you visit them during their festive seasons?
2. Do you have any similar experience as Jim in the above story?
3. Please share stories of how you witness Christ in the communities where you live and work.

DISCERNMENT (Acts 5:29–32)

But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Saviour, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

Reflection

1. The 12 Apostles witnessed Christ beyond borders. How are we witnessing Christ today?
2. Do we limit our witnessing only within the church or with people whom we are familiar?
3. Can we go beyond these borders by getting involved with the current issues of the nation?

Deeds

In every group or nation, there is an ever-increasing number of men and women who are aware that they themselves are the artisans and originators of the culture of their community. Throughout the world a sense of both autonomy and responsibility is constantly growing that is of the greatest importance for the spiritual and moral maturity of the human race. This becomes clearer if we consider how the world is becoming more unified and how we have the duty to build a better world in truth and righteousness. In this way we are witnessing the birth of a new humanism, one in which man is defined first of all by his responsibility toward his brothers and sister toward history. (GS 55)

As a BEC what can we do to witness Christ in our neighbourhood?

Concluding Prayer: Invite another member of the BEC to say the closing prayer

Closing Hymn: Go Tell Everyone

God's Spirit is in my heart,
He has called me and set me apart.
This is what I have to do,
what I have to do.

He sent me to give the Good News to the poor,
Tell prisoners that they are prisoners no more,
Tell blind people that they can see,
And set the downtrodden free
And go tell everyone the news that the Kingdom of God has come,
And go tell everyone the news that the Kingdom of God has come.

Just as the Father sent me,
So I'm sending you out to be
My witnesses throughout the world,
The whole of the world.

Don't worry what you have to say,
Don't worry because on that day
God's Spirit will speak in your heart,
Will speak in your heart.