

Our Mission

Reading: [2 Corinthians 5:6-10](#)

Text: [Hebrews 13:12-16](#)

Introduction:

Several of us went on mission trips over the past week. Some to Mexico, some to Missouri, some recently left for another area. We had some great experiences in Ava. I know that those who went to Mexico will tell us about their experiences as well at some point. All of the kids that have gone with me to Ava said at the end of the week (whether this year or last year), “I don’t want to leave.” They’ve made new friends. They’ve experienced what it is like to depend on others as well as be depended on.

On Friday morning, our plan was to go sing at a nursing home and maybe visit a few of the elderly just to encourage them in their homes. We’ve done that before and it is always a good thing to do. We found out that a woman watching over Alex and Jordan had been working on taking down the fence around her yard for several days. This is a woman who has taken care of herself and has helped others almost all her life. When we showed up on her front porch and said, “We want to help you get this project out of the way,” she cried. There were 15-20 of us who got the job done in an hour or two what would have taken her another several weeks to do.

On Tuesday afternoon, our plan was to go visit a dairy farm. We always like to go to Robert and Joyce Jenkins house to see them. They are fun people to be around. Robert is a great cook and can do just about anything. He is now one of the elders at Ava, MO. He is probably the most humble man I know. Joyce has had a hard life, but loves her cattle and milks them every day twice a day, early morning and mid-afternoon. I asked her about where she goes on vacation. She said she doesn’t go on vacation. She can’t leave her cattle. No one can take care of her cows like she does.

When we arrived at their house on Tuesday, we could not find them. We looked around the yard. Mary went and knocked on the door. I went down to the barn where they milk the cows, but we couldn’t find them. We were a bit early, so we began to think that they had gone out for something and were not home yet. We finally heard their tractor out in another field and went over to find them bailing hay. Joyce was running the bailer and Robert was driving a truck and trailer loading the bails by himself. About 18 of us walked out, some of the boys ran out and started helping finish loading the trailer. We took that load to the barn. Then we went and got another load and took it to the barn, then went back for another. After unloading the third load, we had to leave because we had to work on something else. What we did saved Robert and Joyce a lot of work.

What you may not realize is that some of us stayed home for our mission. Often we think of a mission as something that happens over there, far away, in another land or another country. Today I want to take a few minutes to talk about “**Our Mission**.” There are basically three parts to our mission:

1. Save Souls

In [Matthew 10](#) we read what we have come to know as “The Limited Commission.” We read also in [Matthew 28:18-20](#) what we have come to know as “The Great Commission.” It is a great desire of each of us, in fact, **God** in [1 Timothy 2:4](#) “desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

When we read through the gospels, we find that Jesus had a mission. His ultimate goal was to save us from our sins and provide a place in heaven for us. But even with that we see that he had even a higher mission in mind. You might think, “What could be a higher mission than getting people to heaven?” I understand that. After all, I went to college at IBC. The slogan for IBC for years was “Into All The World By The Year 2000.” I graduated in 1986, so I was in the very middle of that. We went on soul-saving campaigns EVERY semester. Each Tuesday in chapel, we were all asked three questions, “Since last Tuesday, how many baptisms did you do? How many Bible studies did you do? How many restorations were you involved in?” I believe and always will believe that **as a church we need to be on a mission to save souls**.

2. Build Up The Saints

We do this by teaching one another, encouraging one another, loving one another, praying for one another. There is no doubt about the significance of “one another” in the scripture. Summed up: [Romans 12:5](#) so we, ...are one body in Christ, and individually **members one of another**.

3. Help Those In Need

This is often thought of as a method to help save people, but listen: [Galatians 6:9-10](#) And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season **we will reap**, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and **especially to those who are of the household of faith**.

Some might think this means we will reap souls, but how do we reap souls if we are doing good for “the household of faith?” This reaping has to do with our OWN eternal life [v. 8](#) Are we helping those in need, OR helping our selves by doing good to others? I say it is BOTH!

Conclusion:

Amazingly enough, each of these falls under **ONE category**,

- **Jesus Said It Several Ways:**

[Matthew 22:37-39](#) And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. **This is the great and first commandment**. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

[John 4:34](#) “**My food** is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.”

[John 8:29](#) “I always do those things that are **pleasing to Him**.”

- **Paul Said It Like This:**

[2 Corinthians 5:9](#) So whether we are at home or away, **we make it our aim** (goal? mission?) **to please Him**.