

The Great Commission Is Not Some Small Suggestion

Several of the articles in this edition of the *Proclaimer* highlight how the Lord is at work through His churches to accomplish His mission of making disciples. The SBCV's mission is to come alongside local churches advancing the Gospel together to reach our neighbor and the nations. The New Testament gives us several "Great Commission" passages of Scripture that teach us about our God-given mission to make disciples of all nations.

Matthew 28:18–20 — The Authority. We should keep in mind verse 18 when we are quoting the "Great Commission" from Matthew's Gospel. "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me'" (Matthew 28:18). When we face pressures, feel fearful, or come up against opposition, let's remember that we reach out to our neighbors and the nations in the name of Jesus.

Mark 16:15 — The Objective. Christ's followers are commanded to proclaim the Gospel to all creation. The SBCV is blessed to come alongside local churches as you share Christ with various generations, various people groups, and in various counties, cities, and countries. One of the ways we want to help you impact your local mission field is through our BLESS strategy. Check out www.sbcv.org/bless/.

Luke 24:45–49 — The Message. The Scripture tells us, "Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins

should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.'"

John 20:21 — The Method. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you" (John 20:21). You are not alone! The SBCV can come alongside your church as you are sent and as you send. We assist churches planting churches, equip in evangelism, and mobilize for missions. Contact your SBCV regional strategist for more information.

Acts 1:8 — The Power. We know and must never forget that we do not serve in our strength or power. Jesus promised, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

We have numerous opportunities in the months ahead for you to join with others in prayer and encouragement. Also, consider praying for those on mission by using our 52 Sundays resource, available at sbcv.org/52sundays.

Keep pressing on!

Your brother in Christ,

Brian Autry