



The Great Commission

By Mr. Alexander S. Brown

“Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw Him they worshiped Him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” (Matthew 28:16-20 ESV)

IF YOU have been in an evangelical church for any significant amount of time, you are probably pretty familiar with the Great Commission, and even more so if you have had any involvement at all with the support of foreign missions. It is a portion of Scripture that is memorized early on in the Christian life, and one that appears again and again throughout the life of the Church, and so it should – it is a vitally important command that Jesus gave to His Church.

However, what this short command actually means has been the source of surprising disagreement throughout Church History. At first glance it seems pretty self-explanatory, but theologians and churchmen have disagreed for centuries over what we are supposed to do in response to this command. For a long time there were many who thought that this was a command only for the eleven disciples, who fulfilled it by taking the Gospel across the known world, and so it held no real requirement for the Church. This view was predominant until William Carey, the famous Baptist missionary, published a booklet in 1792, entitled *An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to use Means for the Conversion of the Heathen*, in which he stated that the Great Commission was a commission for all believers, and not just the apostles. This challenge to the accepted view ignited the modern missionary movement, as thousands of Christians have gone to the farthest reaches of the world in order to take the Gospel to all nations.

It is because we are convinced that Carey got it right that Golden Isles Presbyterian Church supports so many missionaries around the world. We are a church that is firmly committed to seeing the Gospel go out across the globe, and to see people from every nation, tribe, people, and tongue brought into the Kingdom of God, and a church that is committed to supporting the work of full-time missions through both our financial support and also our prayer support. This has always been, and continues to be a vital part of our ministry.

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August Calendar

- 8/1 Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (AM Worship)
8/16 Stated Session Meeting (6:30 p.m. at GIPC)

Mondays at 1:30 p.m.—Women meet for prayer (Evelyn Williams' home)

Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m.—Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Dressner's Café)

The Midweek Bible Study will resume in the Fall.

Come Worship With Us!

— Sunday —

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
“A Birds-Eye View of the Covenants”

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship



6:00 p.m. Evening Worship



Children's Church, Nursery available (AM Worship)

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (1st Sunday)

Connect online at

www.gipc-pca.org

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But, is that all we at Golden Isles can do to fulfill the Great Commission? Is that all that this command means for us – that we give our money to support others who are making disciples across the world? Listen to how Colin Marshall and Tony Payne describe this in their book, *The Trellis and the Vine* —

“Traditionally (or at least after Carey), this [command to “Go”] has been read as a missionary mandate, a charter for sending out gospel workers into the world. However, this can lead local churches to think that they are obeying the Great Commission if they send money (and missionaries) overseas. But the emphasis of the sentence is not on ‘going’. In fact, the participle is probably better translated ‘when you go’ or ‘as you go’. The commission is not fundamentally about mission out there somewhere else in another country. *It’s a commission that makes disciple-making the normal agenda and priority of every church and every Christian disciple.*”

***Mission is not a work that is to be done “out there,”
but one that is supposed to characterize
every aspect of church life.***

So, for us to really fulfill this Commission we must continue to, and hopefully increasingly, support those who are engaged in full-time Mission-work, whether here in the U.S. or abroad, but we must make sure that that is not all we are doing. We must commit ourselves personally to the work of the Great Commission by disciple-making, here and now. We must make sure that as we are going, we are making disciples.

THE NEXT question is, “what does this look like?” Marshall and Payne helpfully describe it as being caught in a “web of regular Bible reading – not only digging into the word privately, but reading it with their children before bed, with their spouse over breakfast, with a non-Christian colleague at work once a week over lunch, with a new Christian for follow-up once a fortnight for mutual encouragement, and with a mature Christian friend once a month for mutual encouragement.” This constant, normal Great Commission work should characterize the lives of every regular Christian. We need to be encouraging one another in faith constantly, and looking for opportunities that surround to help other believers and to share the Gospel with family, friends and neighbors who do not yet know Christ. Mission is not a work that is to be done “out there,” but one that is supposed to characterize every aspect of church life.

GIPC stands committed as a church to the Great Commission and the work of evangelizing the nations, but let’s press on to see this Great Commission permeate every part of our own individual lives. Let us all seek to be missionaries, caught in a web of Bible reading, with our mind set on making disciples. ▪

Building and Grounds Committee

Save the Date! The next Church Work Day will take place on Saturday, September 11. *Details to follow.*

Significant Sessional Actions

Approval was given for Saint Simons Christian School to use our building for their Jubilee (Talent Show) on October 22, 2010 and for their two Awards Ceremonies, on May 26 & 27, 2011.

Women In the Church (WIC)

***Summer Break—no monthly
meeting in August***

Mondays at 1:30 p.m.—meet for prayer at Evelyn Williams’ home



Faith Promise for World Missions

Since its inception Golden Isles Presbyterian Church has made a strong commitment to missions. We believe every Christian is called to be involved in the Great Commission. We encourage every member to consider what part they are to have in reaching the world for Christ.

GIPC utilizes the Faith Promise method of giving in order to support a number of families involved in U.S. and foreign-based church-planting, discipleship, evangelism, and medical missions work. All gifts intended for missions support should be designated for “Faith Promise.”

2010 Commitments: \$39,010
(what we are trusting God to provide)

**Receipts through 7/30:
\$15,145 or 39%**

**15th Annual World Missions
Emphasis Week:
November 7-14, 2010**

True to the Bible, the Reformed Faith, and obedient to the Great Commission.
