

***Theology of mission,***  
**By His Grace Bishop Antonius Markos,**  
**Bishop of African Affairs**

**A Summary By Therese Hanna**

**CHAPTER 1:**

GO THEREFORE! I SEND YOU! EVANGELIZE! BE MISSIONARIES! BE WITNESSES FOR ME IN... THE REMOTEST PARTS OF THE EARTH!

Many Orthodox Christians believers may not be aware that the commandment exists, straight from the mouth of the Lord. "Go Therefore!!" Perhaps this non-awareness is due to our inadequate knowledge of the divine commandments contained in the holy Bible. Perhaps our Sunday school servants focused on commandments that dealt with our relationship with God rather than the commandment regarding missionary: GO! EVANGELIZE! BECOME WITNESSES! GO OUT AND BEYOND! BE MISSIONARIES! I SEND YOU, PROCLAIM!

The Lord assures us that this evangelism will influence all of creation. Once a person has been reborn, the mind and attitude are changed; the person's approach to God's creation also changes. The Bible says: "A righteous person regards the life of his beast." Proverbs 12:10.

The living church works, struggles, and grows in faith and numbers, by two means:

- 1-Biological Growth (MODALITY)
- 2-Evangelical Growth (SODALITY)

The first baptism took place, the first bishops, priests, and deacons were ordained, first churches, were founded. When they grew

spiritually strong in the faith, the establishment of churches began.

Evangelism does not constitute a part of the spiritual responsibility within the church; rather, it is its pillar; it is its backbone, and its foundation. Not all those who serve within the church may be called evangelists, BUT IT IS POSSIBLE TO RE-DIRECT THE CHURCH FROM THE BROAD WAYS TO THE NARROW WAYS.

The importance of evangelism: THE PASTORAL BISHOP SAYS THAT HIS DIOCESE IS HIS WORLD; THE EVANGELIST SAYS THE WORLD IS HIS DIOCESE.

**\*\*Do not say that you are unable to influence others. For as long as you are a Christian, you are able to influence others, because this is the essence of Christianity. \*\***

It is a contradiction to say that you are a Christian but you are unable to do anything for others; it's like saying the sun is unable to give light. If yeast is incapable of leavening the dough, is it possible to call it "leavening"? By the same token, a Christian who does not work for the salvation of others, is he/she a Christian? Christianity and serving others are inseparable, like the sun which cannot be called a sun if it does not radiate light. Christianity cannot exist without love for the salvation of the human race. We have one ultimate goal which is above all goals: TO SAVE THOSE AT RISK.

If you saw a blind person who was about to fall into a pit, would you not rush to extend a helping hand? How can we then help watching our brethren fall into similar dangers without reaching out, with a helping hand, when they are about to fall into the eternal pit? Treat the souls of your brethren who are suffering the same way you seek treatment for yourself. If we do not win over these souls, there will be no salvation for our own souls.