

Mission Principles: Part III

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Who IS the Miracle, the Minister, the Hands & Heart?

In this Mission Bible Study, we have been looking at some principles that our Lord Jesus has given us for being his hands and heart in the world. We have seen how these principles were lived out in the early church in Jerusalem, how they were applied by the apostle Paul, and how they have been incorporated into the Ground of the Unity of the Moravian Church. In the first installment, we saw that Jesus calls us to be salt and light in the world. Then, we saw that, according to Jesus, we are called *in* to be sent *out* into the world to serve – both steps are important!

Now we turn to **Matthew 14:13-21**, the story that we call the “Jesus Feeds the 5,000.” But, if you read carefully, you will see that there were many more than 5,000 [the women and children were not included in this number, even though, much like today, they would have been an important presence!]. Also, technically, it wasn’t Jesus who fed the crowd; no, he said to his disciples, “you give them something to eat!”

How did the miracle happen?

- The disciples saw a need [hunger].
- They brought the need to Jesus [they said they had no resources].
- He asked them to bring what they did have [5 loaves and 2 fishes].
- He blessed it and gave it back to

them.

- *They* went out and ministered.

Now go to **Acts 4:1-7**. Evidently, the early Christians understood that this kind of ministry is for all believers and not just “the ministers” [who are *they*, anyway?]. Jesus had to make sure that the disciples understood this. In Mark 9:38-41 they saw someone *else* doing ministry and they asked Jesus to tell him to stop. Why? They said he was not “one of us!” These passages help us to ask important questions in mission and ministry: who is they? Who is us? Who are we?

In **I Corinthians 12:4-11**, Paul understands that the whole body of Christ [“us” or “we”] is given gifts in order to be in ministry together. There is no “they!” Every part is important and every gift is useful for the building up of the body.

The **Ground of the Unity** confirms this for the Moravian Church. In the “Essential Features of the Unity,” Paragraphs 4 – 6, we read that the church is given “special gifts and tasks” for ministry. In this model, individuals, congregations and even provinces are “living stones” in this wonderful building that our Lord himself is constructing!

So, what are the needs around us? How can we bring them to Jesus? What resources and special gifts has God given us for responding to these needs in mission and

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ministry? Might Jesus be blessing these gifts, giving them back to us and saying, “*You* must be the miracle. *You* must be the missionaries and the ministers. *You* must be my hands and heart!”

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S.O.S Onward

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- contacting the ‘folding group’ (folding currently done at Ardmore Moravian), and
- getting the finished, folded Onwards to the post office.

The new Coordinator will have the freedom to ‘work’ the process as they find necessary to continue getting the mailing of the Onward out in the most efficient way possible.

The Coordinator and the Folding Committee not only run a pretty ‘tight ship’, but they do it prayerfully and joyfully. One leaves that hour of folding refreshed from coffee and fellowship.

If you are interested in taking on the position of Folding Coordinator for the Onward aka Mission Society, please contact either George Chiddie, or Sheila Beaman at the BWM office, 773-1732. All inquiries are welcome.