



for 1700 years, always there had been the falling away. The sinning. the losing of hope.

Still Jesus gathered, first twelve, then seventy, instructed them, sent them out to bring in a new day of faith, of obedience, the kingdom, the rule of God.

Pardon to person, face to face, Jesus changed the world. Before his crucifixion with the seventy and the twelve, then after his resurrection with at first a few, then more and more Jesus set out to win the heart of every one. Realistically, he had not a chance. He was but a poor <sup>man</sup> ~~xxx~~ from Galilee, his ~~ambassadors~~ were fishermen, and tax collectors. One by one they shared the treasure that was in their hearts. He sent them out into every place where he himself was about to come, we read, and he did. Through the words of his witnesses Christ came to people in Israel, and Greece, and Rome, To people in India and Africa, The circle became ever larger, spread ever wider as Jesus came through the witness of those whom he sent. He who hears you, hears me, and he who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects him who sent me. This he told his followers.

Now you are the ones who are sent. Our Lord Jesus Christ has sent me to appoint you to go to every place where he himself is about to come. For he intends to come to the very place where you work, the very home where you live. His plans include visits to the school which you attend, the swimming pool where you swim, the ~~saxxax~~ baseball field where you play. In each of those places there are hearts to be won, people who desperately need to be turned from fear to faith in Jesus Christ. Your life touches people who are overwhelmed by the chaos of their living, who need to know of the Lord who can order their existence. Your days are spent with people who must soon walk through the valley of the shadow of death, who need to hear that the Lord will be their shepherd.

Who am I you ask? You are the people for whom Christ has died. You are the people who know that as Jesus was raised from the dead, so God will raise you. You are the onew who have known a Lord who has been your help in time of need. You are the people who have been loved, in the name of Christ. You may not have all the right words, or understand everything perfectly, but you know what Christ means to you. You do the speaking, The Holy Spirit will do the convincing.

~~As it is for America, so it is for the church of Jesus Christ. There is danger that we simply feed off yesterday's witness and might of heart. And our enemies rejoice.~~

This day then, the Lord sends you out ahead of him, into every place where he himself is about to come. Amen.