**NEW SERIES: Boot Camp for Mission: equipping the saints**

**The Great Commission: Christ’s Command**

**Mark 16:14-20 (Rom 15:14-21)**

Matthew has Great Commission, but Mark gives more detail about what Jesus’ disciples can expect in that mission.

Maybe not original to Mark’s gospel, but in line with its message of belief and unbelief – and draws on other gospels and NT passages. A summary of what life on mission really was for the first believers?

**Jesus rebukes disciples for lack of faith despite testimonies. They meet Him, then believe. He is exalted and then equips them, sends them out to share the gospel, with protection and signs following.**

**Note** Faith & discipleship no easier for first believers than for us!

Emphasis on belief – those who believe will...carry out the great commission. A command – the marching orders of everyone who has enlisted in the body of Christ.

Salvation depends on belief, not baptism. BUT baptism is essential for true obedience to Christ as His disciple.

Great promises of gifts and abilities to those who believe and act accordingly, who step out in obedience and faith. **Won’t see if we don’t go!**

The Holy Spirit is for all who believe; He seals us and is both a deposit and guarantee of our inheritance in Christ. BUT is that all He is and is for?

Jesus promises that those who go out in His Name to preach the gospel will see these signs and practise these wonders. The gifts of the Spirit aren’t meant simply for use within the Church, but to build us up in Christ and equip us in our mission to do what He says.

If we don’t see the signs and wonders evidenced in other parts of the world, perhaps it’s because we have privatised our faith too much and hidden it from a needy and lost world.

**“I do want you all to feel that it is not the end, though it may be the beginning, of Christian life to come and hear sermons. Scatter as widely as ever you can the blessing which you get for yourself; the moment you find the light, and realize that the world is in the dark, run away with your match, and lend somebody else a light.” (Spurgeon)**

We do what we can and Jesus through His Spirit does what only He can! Word followed by wonders. **Signs follow believers, not the other way round.**

The Lord’s work was finished when He ascended, but ours goes on!

This series will introduce the teaching that Will received and shared on his mission trip to Tanzania with SOMA last term. The aim is to encourage us to believe that Jesus is true to His word, that He will go with us and confirm our words with Holy Spirit boldness and signs and wonders.

Will discovered this for himself in Tanzania...are we willing to learn and discover, too?

As we understand the power and truth of the Gospel to change lives, as we heard at the baptisms last week, we can expect to be changed ourselves and see others changed through sharing this truth.

Most people come to faith through a friend...will you trust enough to be that friend to someone?

Don’t know enough, not confident enough, never been used by God in this way? **Then this series is for you!**

The talks will encourage and equip even the faintest-hearted of us to take small steps of faith to share what we know to be true with those who want and need to hear.