

**“Sending & Going” - Biblical Variations of God’s Mission Theme
Video Message from Shawn, International Worker & FPCP Partner**

Guide for Personal and Group Reflection

In May 2021, the Missions Committee introduced Rev. Shawn Harmon to the congregation as the first recipient of “Flip the Keys,” a new mission fund for those who need an initial infusion of support to help activate their response to God’s call. Shawn left for Rome at the end of May to serve among refugees and displaced peoples from Africa and Asia. Since arriving, Shawn has enthusiastically been working with the committee to form a mutuality of intent, recognizing that all believers are called into mission, and we enhance each other’s ministry through connection, care and sharing perspectives. We asked Shawn to prepare a short series of videos ‘from the field’ to offer as a resource to small groups, meetings or for personal quiet time. This is the first one.

Shawn recorded this 13-minute video on his phone while standing in front of the Roman Coliseum. In it, he urges us to consider that all of Scripture contains variations on God’s theme of mission: God is a sending God and we are God’s sent people. We are not merely forgiven and saved, but forgiven and saved to go in fulfillment of God’s purpose to love and bless the world.

Link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mqkf8wC0INNNI6_DjRLJDvYiifm89XoX/view?usp=sharing

Scripture References:

Romans 1:6-7

Genesis 12:1-3

Revelations 21:1-4

Ponder, Pray, Consider:

[Questions from the end of the video]

1. [Personal] **How important is mission to your Christian life?** What role has Scripture played in shaping your views about mission and its origin in God? How might you consider making mission a bigger part of your life? Or how might Scripture enhance how you choose to live in the world?
2. **What could help our church become more focused on God’s mission, God’s character and God’s purposes in the world?** Have we gotten lost in our own purposes, goals and determination to do things well, forgetting that it all flows from God? What can we do to focus on God’s purpose within the mission practice of our community?
3. **What variation or note of God’s mission sings to you most?**
Ex: New creation, forgiving, healing, restoring, reconciling, bringing forth justice, righteousness, calling forth holiness, obedience, sending out to the world, making disciples in our church, reading Scripture at home
What variation or note of God’s mission hurts your ears sometimes? What leaves you unsure, reluctant, wary? What is difficult or challenging?

Invitation to Pray:

Pray now – pray this week – that God’s mission may be manifest among us, that the Holy Spirit may draw us deeper into God’s mission to love, remake, call into community, bring forth life and bless the world. AMEN.