

“Why Not?”

Matthew 9:35-38

The Rev. Dr. Douglas C. Hoglund

The Woodside Church

February 10, 2019

Charlie was not a Presbyterian. So why did God send this twenty-five year old Mennonite to pastor the tiny Woodside Chapel? We'll never know. But thank God He did.

Back then the chapel was almost completely surrounded by fields. From 1917 to 1953 thirty-two Princeton seminary students were literally sent out to the fields here to work for the Lord. Princeton still calls this Field Education. By 1946, one year after World War II, things slowly began to change. That was the year Charles Brackbill, Jr. arrived.

Charlie loved the people here and they loved him back. They were accepting and tolerant and knew how to break in student preachers. Charlie called himself an agitator – in a good way. He couldn't understand why this chapel wasn't a full-fledged Presbyterian Church. “Someday,” he said, “there might be a town at this crossroads.” Not being Presbyterian he didn't know the procedure for commissioning a church. Recalling those days, Charlie writes,

Apparently my questioning (agitation?) got the ball rolling in something called the “Presbytery,” and this from a still lowly Mennonite boy who had no idea that these guys had a BOOK (of Order) without which nothing that was made was made.

During the first few months here, Charlie Brackbill convinced the Presbytery of Philadelphia to charter the Woodside Presbyterian Church. It happened on Sunday evening, April 28, 1946 with eighty charter members. Later, Presbytery executive James Galey came to be a guest preacher at the newborn church. He was about to walk up the aisle with Charlie to start the service when he had an urgent need. One problem: there is no bathroom in the chapel. Frantically they searched for a key to the Grange hall across the street. As a result, it was unanimously decided that the second building project of Woodside would be a two seater outhouse. Charlie decided to play the farmer. He used a scythe to clear all the weeds for the outhouse. He threw them in the fire and discovered, too late, it was poison ivy. Two weeks and many bottles of calamine lotion later, he learned you don't stand downwind from burning poison ivy. Charlie drew a spiritual principle from it. “I was the itch, the agitator” that helped the tiny seedling of Woodside start to grow.

Charlie left in 1948. He changed from Mennonite to a Presbyterian pastor and became a pioneer of religious broadcasting in the exploding field of television. It would be another sixty-one years before he returned to Woodside for the dedication of our new building in 2009. After the service he wrote to me,

As one of the many Princeton students privileged to serve at Woodside, I could not imagine how it would grow to what it is today. Who could have possibly dreamed in the '40s that this little crossroads farming community and church would become what it is.

Later, I had the privilege to interview Charlie at his home. He shared with me the key to his amazing sixty year ministry:

I was not afraid to challenge the system. I had a vision and was able to motivate others. My frustration was waiting for people to catch up. The crowd would say, “We never did it that way before. Why do we have to change?” I would say, “Why not?” It’s rare today to find someone in the PCUSA asking, “Why not...?”

I think we shall all be like Charlie. When it comes to being the church of Jesus let’s not ask, “Why?” let’s ask “Why not!” Today, the day we celebrate paying off the mortgage on this church home, is a great day to ask, “Why not?” As we look to the future, let’s ask, “Why not be the Church Jesus wants us to be?” He models the Church for us in Matthew 9.

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. Matthew 9:35

Let’s break this apart. The Church is not an institution which stays in one place. It’s a movement. It moves into every city, town and village. It spreads. It scatters. Jesus doesn’t sit and wait for people to come Him. He goes to them. Many think of the church today as a building, a day of the week, an organized religion. Jesus leads a movement of people.

Did He spend time in buildings? Yes. Absolutely. He was “teaching in their synagogues.” This means He opens scrolls and teaches from God’s Word. In the synagogue they prayed, they sang, they worshiped, they learned, they served just as we do today in this building every day of the week. Yet this is only one third of what Jesus does.

Next, He is “proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom.” “Proclaiming” can also be translated as “preaching.” Unfortunately this may give you the image of a street evangelist shouting at you. At the University of Michigan there is a central square called The Diag in front of the library. When I was a student there preachers routinely shouted at students telling us we were on the highway to hell. The only ones who stopped to listen were AC/DC fans.

This verse is not that. When a new King ascended the throne often an announcement of good news went out from the monarch. The King might declare a forgiveness of all debts, freedom to captives, food for the starving. Imagine your reaction if you suddenly learned you don’t have to take finals this year, you don’t have to pay taxes this year, you are getting free healthcare, your credit card debt, all your debt is gone. That is real good news. It’s an announcement of relief, release, deliverance, freedom. Jesus begins His ministry in His hometown with just such an announcement of the good news of His Kingdom.

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor. Luke 4:18-19, quoting Isaiah 61:1,2

So the Kingdom of God is where

- The poor are set free from crushing debt, hunger and hopelessness
- The poor in spirit are set free from crushing sin, shame and guilt
- The prisoners are set free from unjust incarceration and the revolving door of recidivism

- The prisoners of addiction are set free from slavery to drugs, drink and desire
- The blind are set free to see the beauty of this world
- The bigoted blind are set free to see the beauty in those they judged and hated
- The oppressed are set free to live as equals with others
- The emotionally oppressed are set free from mental illness and the fear of others
- All nations, all tribes, all races are set free to love God and be loved by God

This is the Kingdom Jesus announces. This is the Kingdom Jesus brings. This is the Kingdom He invites you and me to join. This is the Kingdom He wants you and me to invite others to join.

For Jesus, these are not just words. The third act of Jesus is “healing every disease and sickness.” Jesus practices what He preaches. He travels the whole area opening blind eyes, feeding hungry stomachs, cleansing outcast lepers, eating with sinners, restoring broken bodies and driving out demons. In His Kingdom He heals the ultimate diseases of sin and eternal death. Jesus teaches, frees and heals. He calls people to faith, to follow Him. And those who follow Him, those who are citizens of His Kingdom invite others to join as well.

Yet sometimes Church people look at those outside Church with judgment, with condescension, with indifference, with rejection, with self-righteousness, with fear. Not Jesus.

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Matthew 9:36

This verse lets us peer inside Jesus, to see what He is feeling inside. The word “compassion” does not mean He felt sorry for them or pity for them. It literally means He felt their pain in His gut. It moved Him. It grieved Him. It distressed Him. Why? They are “harassed and helpless.” The translation doesn’t do it justice. “Harassed” is *skullo* which means to be skinned, flayed, ripped, mangled. “Helpless” is *ripto* which describes something thrown down to the ground, flung away. It’s an outcast, lying weak and powerless on the floor. How did this happen? Jesus says they are sheep without a shepherd. When sheep don’t have a shepherd they are vulnerable to attack, prone to wander and get lost, exposed to thieves, threatened by disease. They need a shepherd to gather, guide and defend them, to heal, feed and nurture them.

Open your eyes and look around our community, around the Delaware Valley and you will see people who are spiritually, emotionally even physically skinned, flayed, ripped and mangled, people who are outcast, downcast, down for the count and unable to get up. Struggling marriages, divided families, the unemployed, the under-employed, the deep in debt, gang members, cancer patients, AIDS sufferers, illegal immigrants, homeless neighbors, ethnic minorities, runaway teens, trafficking victims, the mentally afflicted, addicts, prisoners, agnostics and atheists. What would Jesus do? He would move among them. He would teach, free, heal.

That is what the Church is supposed to do. I ask, “Why not?” “Why not be the Church Jesus wants?” On September 13, 2009, the Dedication of this building, the first time Charles Brackbill returned to Woodside, we welcomed another special guest: George Gallup, Jr. Nationally known as the head of the Gallup Poll, Mr. Gallup is also a devout Christian who studies and surveys

the Church. In his sermon, “Let Revival Begin” he asked, “Why not be the Church Jesus wants?” Mr. Gallup said a major roadblock to revival is

A failure on the part of churches to reach out to the very margins of society. Church people do wonderful work within their comfort zones. But where is the hand of mercy when it comes to working with the so called outcasts of society: drug addicts, the homeless, persons with AIDS, and the like?

As Woodside celebrated the creation of a new fifteen thousand square-foot box, God sent a prophetic call to go beyond it. Don’t hang out and stay warm in the box. Use the box to keep others warm. Move out of the box to teach, free and heal. Mr. Gallup concluded,

Revival can start anywhere. It takes only a spark. It can start here with your new building which can be a place of transformation as people seek to walk still closer with Jesus Christ. The good news is that sainthood is alive and well countering the lukewarmness we sometimes find in the church and knocking down the roadblocks to revival. Just think of what benefits there would be for society if in the next 10 years we were able to increase the percentage of everyday saints from 10 to 15 percent. Great things lie ahead.

So what happened in the ten years since George Gallup gave us that challenge? Today Woodside is teaching countless children and teens to follow Jesus through the Woodside Christian Preschool, Adventure Club, Discovery Kingdom, School of the Rock, Vacation Bible School, Push the Rock Sports Camp, Club 56, Fusion and Ignite. We host our homeless neighbors through Code Blue and Family Promise. We serve meals to our hungry neighbors once a month through the Dinner Ministry. We take the Gospel into prison and offer quarterly Recovery worship services for those seeking freedom from addiction. We leave to serve our communities through the Church Has Left the Building, assemble thousands of meals with Rise Against Hunger. We launched a new congregation which is serving in Parkland under the leadership of Pastor Greg Penza and we are helping revitalize Anchor Presbyterian Church led by Pastor Leah Miller. We are a different church since the day we opened this building in 2019. It did spark a revival. Yet we are not done. This is only the beginning. What is next?

It’s time to throw out the Church. You heard me. Jesus wants to throw out the church. This is how He ends the passage:

Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” Matthew 9:37-38

Princeton Seminary sent Charlie Brackbill to the fields around us. Jesus is sending us to the same fields only this time they have houses on them and people living in them. There is an overwhelming number of people in the greater Philadelphia area Jesus wants to teach, free and heal. There’s a huge harvest. There’s a lot of work. What’s the problem? Not enough workers.

What’s the solution? Pray for Jesus to throw out the Church. The translation says, “Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore to *send out* workers into his harvest field.” But the real word is *ekballow* – it means to “throw out” forcefully, sometimes violently. *Ek* means “out” and *ballow* means “throw” as in ballistic. It’s the word used when Jesus casts out demons and throws out the money changers. Do you get the picture? Jesus doesn’t want to send us out. He wants to throw the

Church out into the field. Why? Because the harvest is out there and it's in the harvest field we will find the workers we need. As we make friends, offer help, free prisoners, open eyes, heal bodies, lift up the outcasts they will join us to help teach, free and heal others.

For the last 1700 years we've been working hard to get people into the Church. I call it the Addition Church. We build buildings, offer worship services, Sunday schools, youth groups, church suppers to get people into the Church. The Addition Church worked well for 1700 years because it was surrounded by a Christian Culture. Unfortunately, in case you hadn't noticed, we no longer live in a Christian culture. It's been disappearing since 1960 and it's picking up speed. That's why so many of our Addition Churches are declining. No matter how hard we try, less people are coming into the church. That's why many churches are closing their doors.

It's time to be the Church Jesus wants. Jesus wants to throw out the Church – to drive us out of the building into the world. This is how the Church began in the first three centuries. This is how the Church grows in places around the world where it does not have a Christian culture. This is what I call the Multiplying Church. On this day twenty years ago I was in India. I spent time with a mission called The India Gospel League. It was 1999. They had a vision of starting 1,000 house churches, each with twenty-five baptized believers and a lay pastor by the year 2000. By the time I arrived they passed their 1000 goal, 2000 goal, 5000 goal, 9000 goal and they were working on their 12,000 church goal. I was on the New Church Development committee of our Presbytery at the time. Do you know how many churches we started in 3 years? ZERO. Today, twenty years later, India Gospel League reports they have started 90,000 house churches in a non-Christian culture. Where did they find the workers? Out in the Harvest.

What is a Multiplying Church? It meets in tiny groups – 2 or 3. Jesus says,

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them. Matthew 18:20

It meets any day or night of the week. It meets out in the world, not in a church building. It doesn't cost anything. It needs no budget. It needs no pastor to run it. It goes out and makes friends with non-believers instead of waiting for them to come in. It does all the things a church does – worship, teach, free, heal. It reads only the Bible. It's led by the Holy Spirit. It loves God, loves people and makes disciples. When it reaches 4 or 5 it starts a new group. Each one is a complete church. It may start slowly but over time it will multiply if the Holy Spirit is in it.

This, I believe, is where Jesus is calling us to go next. Now here is my promise to you: at Woodside we will keep doing Addition Church – the Church you know and love. We will continue doing the Addition Church with excellence. But if you feel Jesus calling you to be part of the Multiplying Church, if you feel Jesus wants to throw you out of the building to work in His Harvest, then write the word "Multiply" on the back of your Connection Card.

I wish Charlie Brackbill could be here to today. He went to be with the Lord on February 19, 2017. I know he would be even more amazed and overjoyed to see what you've become in the last ten years. But Charlie would not be surprised because, from the very beginning, he knew that when other churches say, "Why?" Woodside says, "Why not?"

A church led by seminary students? Other churches say, "Why?" Woodside says, "Why Not?"

A church with a Christian preschool? Other churches say, “Why?” Woodside says, “Why not?”

A church with multiple styles of worship? Others, “Why?” Woodside says, “Why not?”

A church with multiple Growth Groups? Others say, “Why?” Woodside says, “Why not?”

A church with multiple mission trips? Others say, “Why?” You say, “Why not?”

A church that leaves the building to serve multiple mission causes? Others say, “Why?” You say, “Why not?”

A church that hosts the homeless, feeds the hungry, helps the addicted, visits the prisoners, comforts the grieving, builds homes for the poor? Others say, “Why?” You say, “Why not?”

A church of tiny groups of 2 or 3 which multiply all over the Delaware Valley to teach, free and heal? Others say, “Why?” You say, “Why Not?”

Jesus says, “I want to throw you out into my harvest.” Others say, “Why?” What do you say Woodside? “Why not?”

Thanking Our Mission Partners

When we dedicated this building to serve Jesus Christ a little over nine years ago we had no idea all the ways the Lord would use it to further His mission. It is a joy for me to see how many different missions, ministries and Growth Groups gather in this place every day and night. I especially recall one Sunday. That winter we hosted Code Blue in February. When I arrived Sunday morning at 6 am our guests were finishing breakfast and departing. Next we had two worship services and Sunday School followed by a Recovery Worship service and lunch, Junior High youth group, a new members class, Higher Ground worship service and when we were done we pulled out the cots, cooked up a meal and welcomed our guests for another night of Code Blue. And I believe God smiled. I know I did.

Today's celebration would not be complete without thanking our ministry and mission partners who do such great work in and through Woodside's home. As I call you name and ministry would please stand and I ask everyone to hold their applause until the end.

Representing **Advocates for the Homeless and Those in Need** and **Code Blue** is Board Member and current Woodside Elder **Hilary Walp**. Since we opened the building you've hosted our homeless neighbors for a month every winter with Code Blue. We were open 24 of 31 nights last month for a total 608 guest stays.

A Partner of AHTN is the **Shared Meal Mission** or, what we call the **Dinner Ministry** represented by Woodside member **Susi Meade**. Since we opened the building you've welcomed our neighbors for a dinner every second Monday. They will break bread in this room tomorrow night.

Since Code Blue is only for adults leaders in Lower Bucks wanted to host homeless families through **Family Promise** represented by Woodside members **Rob and Lena Beaven**. We are looking forward to welcoming them again for at least four weeks this year after Family Promise relaunches on March 17.

A number of years ago one of our Growth Groups partnered with leaders from other churches to form **Christian Life Prison and Recovery Ministry** represented by **Bob Sofronski, Nancy and Joe Lion, Royce and Zaneta McKelvey, Dave Geyer and Woodside members Scott and Michelle Burgess**. You have called people to bring the Gospel behind prison walls through powerful worship services. Since we opened the building you've offered four Recovery worship services and lunches every year. In this room powerless people are finding freedom from addiction through the power of Jesus Christ. You hosted a **Symposium** on how to fight the growing plague of opioid addiction. You've also reached out to offer Recovery Coffeehouses in other locations including St. Mark's church in Frankford.

From this place you've gone forth to work with Habitat for Humanity in Trenton and, more recently with **Habitat for Humanity Bucks County**. We are honored to have Habitat Director **Florence Kawoczka** and Resource Development Director **Candace Clarke** with us today. We are also excited to announce that the first weekend in June we invite everyone to help us build the walls of the Faith Build House in Morrisville in our parking lot.

We are privileged to partner with the **Bucks County Opportunity Council** and we are honored to have its **Director Erin Lukoss** with us today. BCOC provides an incredible number of services

to those in need including help with tax preparation, utility bills, home repairs, resume and interview training and so much more. They also put on a Poverty Simulation in this room. They recently presented Woodside with its Community Connector Award and we are excited to partner with them as they prepare to open their brand new Center in Bristol on March 7th.

For decades Woodside has maintained a strong partnership with **The Foundation for Peace** represented today by Board Members and Woodside members **Bob Broeze, Kelli Regan and Bruce and Judy Jones**. Many have gone forth to serve in the Dominican Republic and Haiti through the Foundation for Peace and funds from building campaigns have supported a number of projects. I also want to acknowledge The Bahamas Mission Trips led by **Ken Parker and Dan Schaal**, the Appalachian Service Projects trips led by **Scott and Patty Lieb**, the Hands of Christ South Carolina trip led by **Sandy Stewart**.

Since we opened the building you launched a new church led by **Pastor Greg Penza** that now is sharing the gospel and making disciples in **Parkland** and you helped revitalize **Anchor Church** led by **Pastor Leah Miller** who grew up as a disciple of Jesus here at Woodside.

Because we opened the building you were able to assemble in this room 30,000 meals for hungry people through **Rise Against Hunger**.

Finally, since we opened the building you've taught, loved and challenged countless children and teens to follow Jesus through the Woodside Christian Preschool, Adventure Club, Discovery Kingdom, School of the Rock, Vacation Bible School, Push the Rock Sports Camp, Club 56, Fusion, Ignite.

Over the last twelve years you gave away 10% of the funds from all the building campaigns to:

- Build homes with Habitat for Humanity in Trenton and Bucks County

- Launch the Middletown Campus

- Support Family Promise

- Assist Syrian Refugees

- Dig Wells in Africa and Haiti

- Train leaders and women's healthcare workers in Mozambique

- Construct a Health Center in the Dominican Republic

- Provide scholarships and Bibles for Prisoners and those in Recovery

- Purchase cots for the Homeless

- Support the Bucks County Homeless shelter

I ask all the ministry and mission partners I've mention to stand. If, at any time, you served with one of these ministries or missions would you please stand. If you are still seated, would you please talk to someone who is standing and join the team!

Thank you Judy

February 10, 2019

Unquestionably one of the true leaders of mission and ministry at Woodside is Judith Jones. Bruce and Judy joined Woodside on October 29, 1995. When I asked why they chose this congregation Judy I hoped she'd say our dynamic worship, our commitment to mission, the superb preaching. She said, "I can walk to it." For the last twenty-three years I've repeatedly thank God they bought a house so close to here. Bruce and Judy are the dynamic duo of Woodside. Bruce built the building and Judy paid the bills. And though that's a simple explanation of a very large undertaking, it is only a portion of all Judy has done to move the Kingdom mission of Jesus forward at Woodside.

When Judy first came to Woodside she joined a Bible study – the one and only Bible study we had. She is still leading that Bible study. Yet nearly every one of our 40+ Growth Groups can be traced, in one way or another, back to that original group.

Judy is passionate about mission. She soon became an elder and led our mission committee. She and Bruce launched the Dominican Republic mission trip in 2002(?) with the Foundation for Peace and she has been on nearly everyone since. She is deeply committed to the Dominican people and served many years on the Foundation's board.

Judy is highly organized. You look on Wikipedia under organized and you'll see her picture. I am so thankful she uses this exceptional gift to serve as Woodside's Clerk of Session. Everything is done decently and in order and she takes it as a personal slight if, when the Presbytery reviews our Roll Book and Session Minutes they do not give her the coveted gold star of approval.

Yet even more essential was the moment when she answered God's call to use her organizational gifts and skills to serve as Woodside's Administrator. It was a very tumultuous and difficult time for our church and nation. 9/11 had just happened. We had serious financial problems. I'll never forget the moment when Judy walked into my office and said, "I would like to take the Administrator's job." Chaos and uncertainty were transformed into peace, progress and praise to God. I may be the pastor of Woodside but for the last seventeen plus years Judy has been the central nervous system (not that she was nervous). Everything flowed in and out of the office. And the greatest mission of these years was to get this mortgage paid off. She kept us focused on the goal, she kept our eyes on the prize. And here we are today!

As the finish line came into sight last year, Judy informed me of her decision to step down from the position of Financial Administrator and Facilities Manager. A measure of her effectiveness is the fact that it's taken 4 people to carry on all the tasks she once managed as the Administrator. When she told me of her decision she quickly added that she is NOT retiring. "Retirement" she tells me, "is not in the Bible." I said, "Did you check the Message translation?" By the time I reach 67 I sure hope they add it.

What she means is we may change jobs but God never stops calling us to serve until the day He calls us home. The Scripture verse that sits by Judy's desk says it all:

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11.

The Lord always has plans for Judy and Judy follow His plans. She will never retire from serving the Lord. As long as He keeps calling, she will keep answering and serving. And we are all blessed because of her.

Judy is very embarrassed by all this attention and it took quite a bit of convincing for her to let me share these words of thanks and allow us to publically thank her. She also does not want a gift and, of course, there is no gift that can adequately express our thanks. But I know that after Jesus, her family, Woodside Church and the Dominican Republic there is one thing she loves: the Phillies. And so, as a small sign of our great thanks Judy, we'll be sending you and Bruce to a few games of your beloved Fightin' Phillies.

Judy, we know Jesus has great plans in store for you, plans to give you hope and a blessed future and we are so grateful we get to share that future with you.

Charlie Brackbill – not Presbyterian, student pastor at Woodside chapel – agitated to get them to be a chartered church – Jim Gaylee – needed to use a bathroom – second building project of Woodside was a two seater outhouse – CB got poison ivy

He was an itch – an agitator– “Why don’t we…” Challenge to 1948, – went on to get the denomination into Radio and TV never came back until the dedication of this building 2009 - amazed at what this has become

What kind of church are we to be?

Jesus –

Cities, towns, villages

Teaching, Preaching, Healing

Sometime in synagogue but mostly out

Preaching Good news of the Kingdom – freedom to love God not idols, cancelled debt

Healing disease – physical and spiritual and emotional

Jesus looks at people – compassion

Skinned and put down, weak lying

Sheep scattered without a shepherd – prophets said kings were bad shepherds

George Gallup

Every day saints – strong in belief, strong in serving

What will happen ten years from now?

Code Blue

Dinner Ministry

Recovery Services

Church Has Left the Building

Rise Against Hunger

Adventure Club, Discovery Kingdom, School of the Rock, Push the Rock, 5&6 Club, Ignite,

Fusion,

Mission causes we support

Mission causes we serve

Harvest abundant – plenty of work to do

Workers are few

Ask the Lord, master harvester to throw out workers

Addition vs. Multiplication

Charlie Brackbill – attended the I have a dream speech

I have a dream

Over the last two weeks I've been calling many pastors to ask for their support for the Habitat for Humanity home we are building in Morrisville. Again and again these pastors say, "We'd like to help. But we don't have many members. We are mostly elderly people. We are just trying to keep the doors open." And I want to say to them, "While you are trying to keep the doors open, do you think you could walk through them and work in Jesus' harvest field?"

35 Καὶ περιῆγεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὰς πόλεις πάσας καὶ τὰς κώμας, διδάσκων ἐν ταῖς συναγωγαῖς αὐτῶν καὶ κηρύσσων τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τῆς βασιλείας καὶ θεραπεύων πᾶσαν νόσον καὶ πᾶσαν [a]μαλακίαν.

36 Ἴδὼν δὲ τοὺς ὄχλους ἐσπλαγχνίσθη περὶ αὐτῶν ὅτι ἦσαν ἐσκυλμένοι καὶ ἐρριμμένοι [b]ώσει πρόβατα μὴ ἔχοντα ποιμένα. 37 τότε λέγει τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ· Ὁ μὲν θερισμὸς πολὺς, οἱ δὲ ἐργάται ὀλίγοι· 38 δεήθητε οὖν τοῦ κυρίου τοῦ θερισμοῦ ὅπως ἐκβάλῃ ἐργάτας εἰς τὸν θερισμὸν αὐτοῦ.

35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages,

teaching in their synagogues,

proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and

healing every disease and sickness.

36 When he saw the crowds,

he had compassion on them,

because they were harassed and helpless,

like sheep without a shepherd.

37 Then he said to his disciples,

“The harvest is plentiful

but the workers are few.

38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore,

to send out workers into his harvest field.”