

THE CANADIAN MISSION FIELD

THE LESSON: AND NOW, OVER TO YOU

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.
And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
(Matthew 28:18-20)*

Those first disciples shared the Gospel with all those they encountered. In every generation since, faithful Christians have “guarded the trust”, carrying the message of Jesus Christ with them wherever they went, whatever challenges they faced. Through the saints of the Church of every age the Gospel has been preached. It has been carried by ordinary Christians fleeing persecution, by believing tradesmen travelling for work, and by missionaries intentionally setting out for that very purpose. It has been carried by men and women whose sins and failures have left a fractured legacy, as well as by people of great virtue who were an unqualified blessing to the societies in which they lived.

There were many times when people believed they had reached “the ends of the earth”, and yet there was more to be done, there were more people loved by God who needed to hear his message. And so, in God’s perfect time, the Gospel also reached Canadian shores.

*“These all died in faith... And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of...”
(Hebrews 11:13, 32)*

Together we’ve only scratched the surface in exploring saints of the early Church, monastics, and saints of the medieval, reformation, and modern periods. And what more can be said? For time would fail to tell...

- of **Robert Wolfall**, who celebrated the first Anglican service of Holy Communion on Canadian shores in 1578.
- and of **Charles Inglis** (1734-1816), Canada’s first Anglican bishop.
- and of **John West** (1778-1845), missionary to the Red River settlements.
- and of **Henry Budd** (1812-1875), the first Native Canadian to be ordained as an Anglican priest, and who translated both the scriptures and the Book of Common Prayer into the Cree language.
- and of **John Horden** (1828-1893), first bishop of Moosonee, who led worship in the languages of his parishioners, including Cree and Inuit.
- and of **Robert McDonald** (1829-1913), missionary to the Western Arctic, who developed a dictionary and grammar for the Gwich’in language, also translating scripture, the Prayer Book, and many hymns into that language.
- and of **Edmund James Peck** (1850-1924), missionary to the Inuit of Baffin Island, who documented the culture and history he encountered, also developing an English-Inuktitut dictionary.
- and of the countless other founders, benefactors, missionaries and saints of the Church in Canada, from that day to this day.

*“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’...
For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.”
(Hebrews 3:13-14)*

And now, consider this: someone you know has shared the Gospel with *you*, even if it is through the simple act of inviting you to participate in this lesson. So now here you are, in this place and time. The mission field awaits a new generation of saints. How will *your* story read?

AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Each morning and evening, follow your own rule of prayer.

(IF YOU DON'T HAVE ONE, TRY SAYING THE MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS FROM THE "FORMS OF PRAYER TO BE USED IN FAMILIES", WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 728 OF THE BCP. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A COPY, YOU CAN LOOK IT UP HERE: [HTTP://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER.](http://prayerbook.ca/resources/bcponline/family-prayer))

Review today's lesson. Choose a line of scripture or a phrase from the lesson that you find edifying, inspiring or instructive:

Throughout this week, spend some time prayerfully reflecting on the phrase you've chosen. Over the course of the summer, continue to reflect on the mission field in which you live, and how you can best serve God in it.

- AND/OR -

Take some time to pray through the following prayer.

O eternal Lord God, who holdest all souls in life: We beseech thee to shed forth upon thy whole Church in Paradise and on earth the bright beams of thy light and heavenly comfort; and grant that we, following the good example of those who have loved thee and served thee here and are now at rest, may at the last enter with them into the fulness of thine unending joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(PRAYER FOR THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS, PAGE 56)