



AUC NEWS

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Mission at the End of the Twentieth Century
In 1900 there was great enthusiasm in church circles for *the evangelisation of the world in our time*. This was matched by confidence that the material and spiritual benefits of Western culture would flow to people in every society. The history of the twentieth century belies such optimism. The expansion of Christianity and colonialism has been widely criticised for being oppressive and intolerant. Church attendance is in decline, other religious movements attract support, and public debate is often hostile to Christianity.

It is easy to be despondent today. Let us remember, however, that 'mission in Christ's way' does not guarantee success. The Christian community began with a small band of disciples entrusted to spread the word of grace that had claimed them in the person and ministry of Jesus.

In response to his compassion for those who had lost their way, the church's mission is to be marked by gratitude that overflows in worship and service of God. The fact that there were only twelve disciples was no barrier to their mission; smallness should be no barrier to ours!

Grace and peace to you all.

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