

# PAPER PRESENTATION

**Topic:** Whether the reunion movement a success or a failure?

By,

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“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 what I have commanded you” (Mt 28: 19-20), is the universal mission command of Jesus addressed not only to all the Apostles and their successors, but also to all the faithful who received Baptism and Confirmation.

The Malankara Catholic Church had been very successful in fulfilling the Mission Command of Jesus in the past: it has brought over 400, 000 Faithful through reunions of groups and individuals into the Catholic fold, and about 100,000 people are converted from other religions. Through the concerted efforts of the Hierarchy, Priests, Religious and the Laity, the Church has spread into all the continents, especially through the migrations to the West. In addition to the General Education, the Malankara Church attached great importance to the Technical, Medical and Paramedical Education, so that its sons and daughters could find jobs in every continent.

This has contributed to the material well-being of our people, but unfortunately the missionary growth of the Church has become stunt, on account of the growing secularization and want of sufficient motivation in all sections of the Church.

The Church is born of the evangelizing activity of Jesus and the Twelve. She is the normal desired, most immediate and most visible fruit of this activity: “Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations.” Now, “they accepted what he said and were baptized. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.... Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.” - Having been born consequently out of being sent, the Church in her turn is sent by Jesus. The Church remains in the world when the Lord of glory returns to the Father. She remains as a sign - simultaneously obscure and luminous - of a new presence of Jesus, of His departure and of His permanent presence. She prolongs and continues Him. And it is above all His mission and His condition of being an evangelizer that she is called upon to continue.

We could see both success and failure in the whole chapter of the reunion movement. Since we couldn't convert the whole orthodox community into the catholic faith, the reunion possess a failure aspect. If the whole orthodox came into union with Catholic Church it would be of course a great movement in the history itself. Then the growth would in a very different way and its importance would be very relevant to the present world. Another failure face of reunion movement is now seen in the present scenario. As we evaluate the mission works of church, it has decreased a lot. We may think that the whole energy is being spent for some other purposes than to the fields of words of God. Sometimes we are forgetting the fact that the present world situation lacks spiritual leaderships. Instead of converting our eyes to the busy world system we have to concentrate on the village systems, that means we have identify the needs of poor people. Then only the true realization of reunion will come into exist.

Its success face lies here, we get liberated from all uncertainties within the church and able to realize the true faith and imitation of Jesus Christ. After this movement a spiritual renaissance happened throughout both in Kerala and in India. Even though the

reunion happened only with the five members now the condition is totally different. If we analysis the present status of Malankara Church from what I mentioned above it is a really amazing fact that as our late pope Blessed John Paul II<sup>nd</sup> said our church is the fastest growing church in the world. Now all the early applications made by Arch bishop Mar Ivanios to the Holy See were got approved.

Even though there are many more aspects of the same topic, since the time is very less, let me conclude my paper. As we are the future generation of the church let us ponder on this topic and decide whether the reunion movement laid by Servant of God Mar Ivanios a success or a failure....