

# CROSSING THE GOSPEL OF GOD'S KINGDOM AMIDS THE STORM OF COVID-19

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**Abstract** - God's greatest mission is to save lost sinners from the throne of God's grace, the church, and His people should take action to be responsible for carrying out the great commandment, namely preaching the gospel Amid the Covid 19 storm. Qualitative research, namely using descriptive methods that can give a comprehensive overview of various important information collected through literature books, theological journals, and practical things that Christians can do. Amid these very difficult conditions, where the mobility of human movement is very limited, encounters between humans are very rare, the communication strategy for preaching the gospel must continue by utilizing various creativity in the form of social media, digital media, internet, gadgets, and practical things. Limited under the power and control of the Holy Spirit is expected to be a fairly effective means of proclaiming the Gospel. Cell group activities in implementing the preaching of the gospel consistently and regularly, so that the spread of the gospel of the Kingdom of God can still take place by utilizing the right and biblical strategies.

**Keywords:** Gospel, Covid 19, Strategy and Repentance.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The response of the church and congregation to the preaching of the gospel must live out the values of the Christian faith that are built in all conditions, whether good or bad at the time. Currently, for more than a year, Indonesia is battling the Coronavirus pandemic or Covid-19. Covid-19 was first discovered in Wuhan, China. This virus then spread to various countries due to transmission that occurred from travel between countries. Covid-19 was declared a pandemic by WHO (World Health Organization) on March 12, 2020. This has made Covid-19 a major concern of the world.<sup>1</sup>

The first case of Covid-19 in the country occurred on March 2, 2020. From day to day, this virus continues to spread. As of December 23, 2020, positive cases have crossed the 685,689 number. Indonesia is currently listed as the country with the most positive cases in Southeast Asia. Various sectors of life are affected by this virus. Not only the health and education sectors, but also the economic sector. The virus can be passed from person to person and has spread widely in China and more than 190 other countries and territories.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Nur Indah Fitriani, "Covid-19 Literature Review: Virology, Pathogenesis, and Clinical Manifestations." Malahayati Medical Journal, Vol. 4, No. 3, 2020, 194.

<sup>2</sup>Adityo Susilo, et al., "Coronavirus Disease 2019: Recent Literature Review." Indonesian Journal of Internal Medicine, Vol. 7, No. 1, 2020, 45.

The emergence of the Coronavirus pandemic is able to paralyze the activities of all people who are carried out outside the home, whether at school, college, work or other activities. Even places of worship have been partially closed to reduce the spread of the Corona virus. Various ways have been carried out by the government, such as physical distancing (maintaining distance), lock down, ban on going home, even in some areas PSBB (Large-Scale Social Restrictions) have been imposed. One of the preventions to stop the transmission of Covid-19 which is recommended by the government is to stay at home.

Indonesia is one of the countries that has been exposed to Covid-19. The presence of Covid-19 in Indonesia has changed the order of human life, including the closure of places of worship which will certainly affect evangelism. However, the gospel must not be absent in the midst of the wave of Covid 19. This should not hinder the preaching of the gospel. The Coronavirus pandemic should not be seen as an obstacle but as an opportunity to carry out God's mission to save the lost.<sup>3</sup> The Lord Jesus gave the Great Commission before He ascended to heaven: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And teach them to do all things that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20). Therefore, it is our obligation as Christians to carry out the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus, which is to preach the gospel.

The purpose of preaching the gospel or the good news is to bring people to come to Christ, by preaching that is always under the local culture and without losing the purity of the gospel. This is a principle guided by the Apostle Paul for preaching the gospel in various contexts.<sup>4</sup> "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14).

Evangelism is a form of love for believers to God and to fellow human beings completely for the salvation of humans and to glorify God because they are given the opportunity to be God's co-workers.<sup>5</sup> Preaching the gospel must pay attention to the context of the recipient, such as culture, ethnicity, economic conditions, and so on. In other words, the strategy of evangelism will always change according to the needs of the times. That's why the gospel must be implemented according to the current context because the gospel is not just preached but to be understood and accepted so that many people are saved in Christ.<sup>6</sup> Of course, this also applies in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic situation and conditions that are endemic throughout the world.

## **II. RESEARCH METHODS**

The method used in this qualitative research is descriptive, which provides a practical description of crossing the gospel of the Kingdom of God Amid the Covid 19 storm. In this case, the

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<sup>3</sup>Yonatan Alex Arifianto, Sari Saptorini, and Kalis Stevanus, "The Importance of the Role of Social Media in the Implementation of Missions Amidst the Covid-19 Pandemic." *HARVESTER: Journal of Christian Theology and Leadership*, Vol. 5, No. 2, 2020, 97-99.

<sup>4</sup>Soleman Kawangmani, "Contextual Apologetics Patterns for Preaching Good News to the Lesser Javanese People." *Gamaliel Journal: Practical Theology*, 2019, 60.

<sup>5</sup>Stefany John Risna Abrahamsz and Petronella Tuhumury, "The Evangelism Model in John 4:4-42 and Its Implementation in Today." *Jaffray Journal*, Vol. 10, No. 2, 2012, 104-139.

<sup>6</sup>Kalis Stevanus, "Implementing Jesus' Ministry in the Context of Today's Mission According to the Synoptic Gospels." *Fidei: Journal of Systematic Theology and Practice*, Vol. 1, No. 2, 2018, 285.

researcher tries to collect information that is relevant to the topic or problem that is the subject of research through journals and research. books that discuss Covid-19, evangelism and evangelism strategies by reaching certain communities. The research is directed to show how to do evangelism Amid the storm surge of the Covid 19 virus.

### III. THEORY AND DISCUSSION

The fulfillment of the Word, Matthew 24:14, confirms that the second coming of Jesus will only come after the gospel has been preached to all the world. The question that confirms is, the gospel now being preached throughout the world? The answer is "no," there are still quite several remote tribes around the world that have not been touched by the gospel. If so, will the end times still be long enough because it still takes decades to preach the gospel to all the tribes to fulfill this verse? Because the verse must be fulfilled. This means that the gospel must be preached to the whole world first, then Jesus will come a second time.<sup>7</sup> Then, Mark Dever explained, "Evangelism means spreading the good news that Jesus Christ died for our sins and was raised from the dead according to the Scriptures and that as the reigning Lord, He now offers the forgiveness of sins and the freeing gift of the Spirit to all. Who repent and believe?"<sup>8</sup>

Charles H. Spurgeon also declared the gospel to be good news. In the Bible there is information that men need to know and statements that will bless those who will listen.<sup>9</sup> The entire New Testament makes it very clear that the focus of the mission is on the proclamation of salvation accomplished by Jesus Christ. The saving mission of Jesus Christ was accomplished through His death and resurrection. This message was to be preached by His disciples until He came again.<sup>10</sup> Furthermore, after His resurrection and before His ascension to heaven, He commanded His followers to make disciples of all nations. Jesus sent them to all the earth to preach the gospel to all nations (Matt. 28:18-20). The Apostle John confirms this that He (Jesus) is truly the Savior of the world (John 4:42). That's what the early Christians did, they became witnesses of Jesus even to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).<sup>11</sup>

Evangelism basically has two elements, namely universality and specificity. Universal because all humans without exception are sinners (Rom. 3:23) and need to be redeemed by God's grace (Rom. 6:23), and that God wants salvation for all races, cultures, or beliefs (John 3:16). Specifically, God's salvation comes through a special Person, namely Jesus Christ, the unique incarnation of God who took away all the sins of the world (John 1:29; 1 John 2:2).<sup>12</sup>

J. I Packer argues that, "The task of preaching the gospel and making disciples does not only apply to the apostles or God's servants in the church. This is a task assigned to the whole church

<sup>7</sup>Jopie Rattu and Sridadi Atiyanto, *Is Chip Really the Fulfillment of 666?* (Bandung: Kalam Hidup, 2014), 50.

<sup>8</sup>Mark Dever, *9 Signs of a Healthy Church*, translated by Ichwei G. Indra & Jessy Siswanto (Surabaya: Momentum, 2010), 164.

<sup>9</sup>Charles H. Spurgeon, *The Right Strategy to Become a Soul Winner* (Yogyakarta: Andi, 2019), 9.

<sup>10</sup>Kalis Stevanus, "Implementing Jesus' Ministry in the Context of Today's Mission According to the Synoptic Gospels." *Fidei: Journal of Systematic Theology and Practice*, Vol. 1, No. 2, 2018, 285-286.

<sup>11</sup>Kalis Stevanus, "The Work of Christ as a Basis for Evangelism in the Non-Christian World." *Fidei: Journal of Systematic Theology and Practice*, Vol. 3, No. 1, 2020, 4.

<sup>12</sup>Kalis Stevanus, *The Greatest Call: Practical Guidelines and Methods for Preaching the Good News to the End of the Earth* (Yogyakarta: Andi Offset, 2019), 74.

collectively and also to each individual Christian.<sup>13</sup> So, it can be concluded that Evangelism is the responsibility of every believer to proclaim the work of God's salvation through Christ.

Metzger, citing Piper's statement, explains that compassion for the lost is a noble motivation for missionary work. For, without it, we lose the tender humility of sharing the treasures we have freely received. Nevertheless, compassion for the people should not be separated from zeal for the glory of God.<sup>14</sup>

John Piper also emphasized, "Don't wait until you feel love when you want to tell strangers about Christ. We have loved our heavenly Father, and we know that this stranger was created by Him, but separated from Him. So, let's take that first step in evangelism because we love God. It is not primarily driven by compassion for humanity that we share our faith or pray for the lost; but first of all out of love for God."<sup>15</sup>

At the core of the good news (Gospel) proclaimed and lived by Jesus Christ is the self-revelation of God as the Father of all mankind, as an all-encompassing and unconditional love, especially love for the lowly and destitute, for the poor and sinners, as well as those excluded from society. Under this roof of God's love, Jesus wants to gather His people and all mankind in the world. All human beings-especially the "poor and destitute"-are called to enter into the "Kingdom of God" which is the kingdom and sphere of power of God's love.<sup>16</sup>

### **Corona Virus**

The world is going through a tough time since the beginning of 2020 because it was shocked by the Corona Virus Disease COVID-19 phenomenon. Corona Virus (COVID-19), the case began with pneumonia or a mysterious pneumonia in December 2019, this case is suspected to be related to an animal market in Wuhan that sells various types of animal meat, including those that are not commonly consumed, such as snakes, bats and different types of mice.<sup>17</sup> In this case, Corona Virus is a new type of virus found in humans since an extraordinary event appeared in Wuhan China, in December 2019, later named Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus2 (Sars-Cov2), and caused Corona-virus Disease-2019. (COVID-19).<sup>18</sup>

Coronavirus is a virus that attacks the respiratory system. This virus can cause disorders of the respiratory system, acute pneumonia, to death. Covid-19 infection can cause mild, moderate or severe symptoms. The main clinical symptoms that appear are fever (temperature > 38°C), cough and difficulty breathing.<sup>19</sup> In most cases, this virus causes only mild respiratory infections, such as the flu. This virus can attack anyone, be it babies, children, adults and the elderly.

The virus can be passed from person to person and has spread widely in China and more than 190 other countries and territories.<sup>20</sup> Subsequent data developments show that transmission is between humans (human to human), which is predicted through droplets and contact with viruses released in droplets.<sup>21</sup> The droplets are splashed when sneezing, coughing, or talking and then exposed to other people. In addition, most of the transmission of the corona virus occurs through hands. The public is

<sup>13</sup>J I Packer, *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of Allah*, translated by Helda Siahaan & Rica Panjaitan (Surabaya: Momentum, 2014), 35.

<sup>14</sup>Will Metzger, *Tell the Truth* (Surabaya: Momentum, 2013), 205.

<sup>15</sup>Ibid., 206.

<sup>16</sup>Christian W. Troll, *Muslim Asks Christian Answers* (Jakarta: Gramedia, 2017), 166.

<sup>17</sup>Devia Indriyani Karyono and Rohadin, "Handling and Prevention of the Corona Virus Outbreak (Covid-19) in Indramayu Regency." *Journal of Collaborative Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 2, No. 2, 2020, 164-173.

<sup>18</sup>Safrizal ZA, *General Guidelines for Facing the Covid 19 Pandemic* (Jakarta: Ministry of Home Affairs, 2020), t.h

<sup>19</sup>Yuliana, "Corona Virus Diseases (Covid-19); A Literature Review." *Wellness and Healthy Magazine*, Vol. 2, No. 1, 2020, 189.

<sup>20</sup>Adityo Susilo, et al., "Coronavirus Disease 2019: Recent Literature Review." *Indonesian Journal of Internal Medicine*, Vol. 7, No. 1, 2020, 45.

<sup>21</sup>Diah Handayani, et al., "Corona Virus Disease 2019." *Indonesian Journal of Respiriology*, Vol. 40, No. 2, 2020, 122.

advised to always maintain cleanliness by always washing hands with soap under running water before carrying out any activities.

### ***Evangelism Strategy through Social Media***

Even though the world is being hit by the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Gospel must still be preached. Christians must take advantage of every opportunity to share the gospel. One strategy that can be used is to use social media with an online system. The media is quite influential in communicating the gospel. Digital media, the internet provide great opportunities within the church to carry out missionary outreach with the gospel wherever they are.<sup>22</sup> Using the internet as a medium for proclaiming the good news can be categorized as mass evangelism because internet media news about Christ can be channeled to many people and can also be categorized as personal evangelism because it can be done to individuals.<sup>23</sup>

The internet, gadgets and social media are no longer new to the world community, so it is also possible to spread the gospel through social media.<sup>24</sup> Evangelism through social media can be the right choice to reach parts of the world that other media cannot reach,<sup>25</sup> especially Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. Social media that can be used as a means of spreading the gospel include: Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Youtube, Line, Zoom, etc.

Churches can provide services through live streaming, recorded sermon videos, video testimonies, and status updates. This makes it easier to access evangelism content, makes it easier to communicate and socialize and information can be distributed quickly. We can do remote discipleship with very diverse and innovative content. Technological developments allow believers to evangelize in new ways, which can reach more people all over the world. Social media can be an effective medium for carrying the gospel message, and they are accessible to everyone.<sup>26</sup>

Church leaders should also teach and train congregations to be actively involved in carrying out missions by utilizing social media.<sup>27</sup> With the internet media, the delivery of the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus will be more effective. Believers can not only use the internet as a means of ministry and preaching the gospel, but also can find all kinds of information and resources needed to support evangelistic ministry on the internet.

### ***Strategy of Evangelism through Community Social Services***

The Covid-19 pandemic that is still happening today has an impact on all aspects of human life. In the economic field, not a few companies suffered losses and eventually laid off a large number of employees to reduce operational costs.

As a result, many people have lost their jobs and income, but on the other hand, the government has tried hard to maintain the stability of the economic situation but also has limitations in assisting those affected by the Covid 19 Pandemic.

In the field of education, the government's policy of implementing PSBB has an impact on eliminating face-to-face teaching and learning activities in schools, starting from the basic education

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<sup>22</sup>Yosua Feliciano Camerling, et al., "The Church's Mission Through Digital Media in the Era of the Industrial Revolution 4.0." *Misio Dei: Journal of Christian Theology*, Vol. 2, No. 1, 2020, 2-4.

<sup>23</sup>Ruat Diana, "The Role of Christian Communicators in the Strategy of Evangelism in the Era of the Industrial Revolution 4.0." *Integrity: Journal of Theology*, Vol. 1, No. 1, 2019, 69.

<sup>24</sup>Kalis Stevanus, *The Greatest Call: Guidelines And Practical Methods To Preach The Good News To The End Of The Earth* (Yogyakarta: Andi Offset, 2019), 166.

<sup>25</sup>Adrianus Pasasa, "Utilization of Internet Media as a Media for Preaching the Gospel." *Simpson's Journal*, Vol. 2, No. 1, 2015, 71-98.

<sup>26</sup>Arozatulo Telaumbanua, "E-Mission: Application of Technology-Based Evangelism." in *Prodding*, Vol. 0, 2020, 1-11.

<sup>27</sup>Yonatan Alex Arifianto, Sari Saptorini, and Kalis Stevanus, "The Importance of the Role of Social Media in the Implementation of Missions Amidst the Covid-19 Pandemic." *HARVESTER: Journal of Christian Theology and Leadership*, Vol. 5, No. 2, 2020, 97-99.



level to the higher education level. The government through the Ministry of Education and Culture issues regulations regarding teaching and learning activities to be carried out online. But on the other hand, not all people have the economic capacity and have access to the internet. With the reality of the Covid-19 Pandemic like this, all elements in society, including the church, must work together to strive for the health and welfare of the community.<sup>28</sup>

In this context, social service evangelism strategies can be carried out, for example providing assistance for patients and hospital medical personnel, educational assistance, assisting communities affected by Covid-19, and so on. This is not "Christianization", but the implementation of the work of love and salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ through the church and all believers. This states that God is concerned with the struggles of human life.

### *Evangelism Strategy through Cell Group*

The spiritual growth of a believer cannot be separated from trying to love the lost like a stray sheep. For the past decade, my family and I have lived in a close-knit Muslim environment in Asia. My daughter, who loves our neighbors very much, asked one day, "Father, can a Muslim go to Heaven?" I responded with Acts 15:11 – I said "yes": "If a Muslim had accepted Isa (Jesus) as Savior and Lord, he would have been saved, just like we are." We affirm that people are saved by faith in Christ, not by being religious. Muslim followers in Christ are our brothers and sisters in God, even though they do not change religion. Can a Muslim accept Christ Jesus as Savior and Lord? Thereby rejecting some elements of normal Islamic theology, yet (for the sake of the lost) remaining in their families and communities? Because Islam needs to live in their community, even though they are universally considered "traitors" if they join Christianity, and it is our desire, as evangelists, to see precious Muslims come to Christ, and find answers to these essential questions.<sup>29</sup> Indonesia, especially the city of Bandung, is predominantly Muslim, so it is very easy to contact them through the gospel, that's why congregations and Christians should get information from church leaders about how to evangelize Muslims in their daily lives through cell groups.

Cell group members who experience the encounter with the love of Christ provide a strong impetus to reach new souls for the Lord. This task can be done by anyone, but it will be more effective if it is carried out in a Cell group. In the Cell group, everyone is disciplined, encouraged, prayed for, prepared, and trained to be sent out preaching the gospel, reaching out to unbelievers for God as evidence of Christ's love in his life.<sup>30</sup>

The cell group must perform the function of an evangelist.<sup>31</sup> The purpose of a cell group is to multiply the number of its members. This is not possible without the awareness to spread the gospel from its members. This is where the function of the cell group as a place for discipleship occurs, where each member not only gathers but learns the truth of God's word so that they have the vision to win souls for Christ. However, crossing the gospel requires the power of the Holy Spirit, William W., and Robert P Menzies stated that although the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a starting point into the dimension of empowering by the Spirit, which has yet to be developed continuously, it is still a significant beginning in the preaching of the gospel or experience available to every believer.<sup>32</sup>

In addition, the Church must be able to maximize the power of evangelists to become a tool in proclaiming the gospel of salvation for everyone amid the Covid-19 Pandemic. The Bible clearly states that salvation only comes from God because basically, humans cannot save themselves. Sin makes humans need grace from God to be saved because humans cannot save themselves and humans sin from

<sup>28</sup>Liem Kok Han and Daud Alfons Pandie, "The Urgency and Model of Evangelism in the Time of the Covid-19 Pandemic." *Logia: Journal of Pentecostal Theology*, Vol. 2, No. 1, 2020, 92-93.

<sup>29</sup>John Travis, *Perspectives: On the World Christian Movement: Must all Muslims Leave "Islam" to Follow Jesus?* (Pasadena, California: William Carey Library, 1999), Third Edition, 660.

<sup>30</sup>Irwanto Berutu and Harls Evan R. Siahaan, "Implementing Virtual Cell Groups Amids the Covid-19 Pandemic." *SOTIRIA: Journal of Theology and Christian Religious Education*, Vol. 3, No. 1, 2020, 60-61.

<sup>31</sup>Wisnu Prabowo, "Applying 2 Timothy 1:7 Principles in Evangelism." *MAGNUM OPUS: Journal of Christian Theology and Leadership*, Vol. 1, No. 1, 2019, 30-45.

<sup>32</sup>William W., and Robert P., *Spirit and Power* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2005), 203.

the womb of their mother.<sup>33</sup> This fact shows that basically all humans have sinned without exception. In addition, the Bible also explains that a person will be saved if he believes in Jesus Christ. After a person believes and accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, he must experience a new birth. The new birth is a spiritual event in which God gives a believer new life so that he experiences union with Christ. Therefore, every believer must preach the gospel in any situation, even if the situation is considered impossible to preach the gospel. The new birth should be followed by discipleship to create new evangelists, because it only encourages people to be faithful to come to church. Amid Covid 19 pandemic the majority of churches hold worship online, so they need an evangelistic strategy to allow them to struggle to release their burdens from shackles, so that they may become disciples who grow and bear fruit, new souls, they need a special place in evangelistic training.<sup>34</sup>

Goat/sheep farming with the "Paroan" system, which is a cooperative effort in which the church acts as the funder and the farmers/breeders as implementers, organizes the planting and raising of livestock within a mutually agreed period, and the results will be shared fairly between the funders (church) and the farmer/breeder. This system is a business that can be mutually beneficial to both parties, the church does not do business, but all of these results continue to be developed to other farmers/breeders on a broader and more progressive basis. So where does the evangelism take place? For farmers/breeders it takes a long time, it can take 6 months to 1 year, so when the process is running, regularly the church (2-3 people) provides guidance to farmers/breeders and it is in these scheduled meetings that "infiltrating" the gospel can be carried out and preached. However, all of these evangelism activities are carried out in compliance with the Indonesian government's Health protocol in accordance with the Adaptation of New Habits (IMR). As Suzette Hattingh in her speech in the book *The Last Calling*, Amid her ministry program in Papua stated, as a prophet, teacher and intercessor; The author is not only aware of the importance of time but also of practical suggestions in the "Community Outreach Program" to the Papuan people, both in the field of agriculture/animal husbandry, with this program the community is reached and the gospel is preached. All of these evangelism activities are carried out in compliance with the Indonesian government's Health protocol in accordance with the Adaptation of New Habits (IMR). As Suzette Hattingh in her speech in the book *The Last Calling*, amid her ministry program in Papua stated, as a prophet, teacher and intercessor; The author is not only aware of the importance of time but also of practical suggestions in the "Community Outreach Program" to the Papuan people, both in the field of agriculture/animal husbandry, with this program the community is reached and the gospel is preached.<sup>35</sup> In addition, presenting Christianity in the context of Sundanese culture so that Sundanese people see that connection with God is the experience they need. Christianity is not the religion of the West, but the religion of everyone, including the local people. Because the Lord Jesus is the center of this belief, Christ is the creator of all things (John 1:3), and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:16).<sup>36</sup>

All believers have an unchanging task, which is to proclaim the gospel. The essence of the gospel is the Lord Jesus Christ and the gospel preached is the gospel of the kingdom of God. Thus, the purpose of evangelism is to allow everyone to be saved and have eternal life with Jesus in heaven. The goal of evangelism is to convince people to repent of their old life and accept Jesus as Lord and Savior.

<sup>33</sup>David Eko Setiawan, "Pastoral Reflection on the Concept of Salvation in Universalism Viewed from Christian Soteriology." *FIDEI: Journal of Systematic and Practical Theology*, Vol. 1, No. 2, 2018, 257.

<sup>34</sup>Neil T. Anderson, *Becoming a Disciple Making Church* (Yogyakarta: Gloria-Katalis Foundation, 2016), 270-271.

<sup>35</sup>Daniel Pandji, *The Last Calling* (Jakarta: Musterpiece Creative Publishing, 2018), vii.

<sup>36</sup>Purnawan Tenibemas, *Grounded Mission* (Bandung: Tyranus Bible College, 2011), 162.

However, the task of evangelism is always faced with dynamic complexities. There are so many factors that become struggles and challenges in carrying out the mission of evangelizing all believers. However, this challenge should not be an obstacle in preaching the gospel but should be seen as an opportunity in evangelism.

This Covid-19 Pandemic period is a great opportunity to reap souls. Jesus said to His disciples, "The harvest is indeed great." He also said, "Look around you and see the fields that are yellowing and ripe for harvesting." Because of the many souls that can be harvested, the Lord also said, "Therefore ask the Lord who is the harvester that He send workers for the harvest." The above facts encourage the church with consistent gospel preaching power to be able to translate the many harvests that are ready to be harvested because the fruit has turned yellow and ripe, so there must be workers who can reap the souls (Luke 10:2).

Jesus Christ Himself declared to His disciples, that there had been a great harvest, as opposed to a few laborers for the harvest. Therefore, ask the master of the harvest, that He sends workers for the harvest. God's power and courage to preach the gospel can only be obtained when we live filled with the Holy Spirit, besides the congregation must live in the power of praise and worship because the Holy Spirit will enable the church to increase the harvest. When we do praise and worship in earnest, there will be a tremendous harvest in a miraculous way, Paul and Silas encouraged the activity (Acts 16:25-34). Have a heart full of compassion for souls. Prayer and mercy will open the way of salvation for souls.

John Piper also explained the challenges in the time of Covid 19. The coronavirus invites us to make God an all-important and all-encompassing reality. Our lives depend on Him more than our breath. And sometimes, God takes our breath away to bring us to Him. What God is doing through the coronavirus is showing us—real and painfully—that nothing in this world can give us the security and satisfaction that we find in the infinite value and majesty of Jesus. The global pandemic robs us of our freedom to move, do business, and have face-to-face relationships. It robs us of our safety and comfort. In the end, it might take our lives.<sup>37</sup>

The reason why God allows us to experience those losses is to move us to rely on Christ and the gospel as God's strength. Or, to put it another way, the reason why He used disaster as an opportunity to offer the world the gospel of Christ is that Christ's highest and most satisfying majesty will shine brighter when He nourishes our joy in suffering.

We must rise to respond to God's call. Churches and Christians should not be busy with their agendas. God is looking for believers who will rise to respond to God's desire so that souls can be saved. The next step is to be light (Phil. 2:15). The way of life of God's people must be different from those of the world so that they are attracted to Christ through our lives. We can rise and be a light, not by our strength, but by His anointing on us. God's anointing will enable us to complete the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus. We will have power and authority, before Jesus ascended to heaven, that authority was given to His church. Let's keep the spirit in preaching the gospel Amid this Covid 19 storm wave.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

Amid the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Gospel must still be proclaimed. One strategy that can be used is to use online media. Church leaders should teach and train congregations to be actively involved in carrying out missions by utilizing social media. Face-to-face evangelism can be practiced wisely and carefully in confined communities and controlled areas. In addition, social service evangelism strategies can also be carried out. Another strategy is to do cell group evangelism.

This Covid-19 Pandemic period is a great opportunity to reap souls. The practice must be under the control and power of the Holy Spirit, live in the power of praise and worship, and have a heart full of compassion for souls. We must also rise to respond to God's call and be a light, the continuity of the gospel must continue, even amid an emergency, so that many souls can be won for Christ.

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<sup>37</sup> John Piper, *Coronavirus and Christ* (Wheaton, Illinois USA: Published by Crossway, 2020), 181.



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