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CS 502 Interaction Paper 1, Wright. Shian Der Yuan 1/28/2021

What is God's gospel? From the traditional evangelical church's view, preaching the gospel is to convince the non-believers to admit we are sinners and need to accept Jesus as a personal savior and Lord, in order to receive eternal life. The author Chris Wright surveyed both the Old and New Testaments to answer the question of what's God's mission and the mission of God's people. He mentioned that God's command and promise to Abraham in Gen. 12:1 – 3 can be called the first Great Commission, that said 'Go ... be a blessing...and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.' In New Testament, we are familiar with Jesus' Great Commission to disciples, saying "Go...make disciples of all nations..." (Matt. 28:19,20). The mission of God can be viewed as a story, Chris Wright said, "It is the story of how God in his sovereign love has purposed to bring the sinful world of his fallen creation to the redeemed world of his new creation." (e-book 556). And God's people saw their own missions are a part of God's story, participating in its last act as 'God's co-workers' (1 Cor. 3:9). Therefore, our mission of proclaiming the gospel should have a broader aspect, from converting non-believers, to further concerning the well-beings of God's creation.

I like the three-fold framework mentioned in the *Book of Disciplines*, "...the local church exists for the maintenance of worship, the edification of the believers, and the redemption of the world" (United Methodist Church 2008: 133) (lesson 1 PowerPoint p 14). Sin and evil bring their destructive effects to all creatures. The cross and the resurrection of Jesus bring a victory that will reverse and destroy those destructive effects. As Chris Wright said, "the cross must be central to every dimension of the mission of God's people – from personal evangelism among individual friends to ecological care for creation, and everything in between." (e-book 489). My question is how to find my own mission with my church from the above mentioned 'everything in between' of every dimension of the mission of God's people.