



On the Wings of Prayer

"Because thou hast been my help,
therefore in the Shadow of thy wings
will I rejoice:" Psalm 63:7

The Baby in the Manger

We thank you for your prayers, gifts and financial support for the ministries and missionaries of the IBFI. We also thank God for the greatest gift ever given on that first Christmas day.

At the age of 19 years, Spurgeon was called to the New Park Street Chapel and preached to a congregation of 100. In two years time, he was preaching to audiences of 10,000 people. I have printed this before, but it is worth repeating. I offer this excerpt from Spurgeon's first Christmas Eve sermon as pastor of the New Park Street Chapel, 160 years ago.

-John Peeples, IBFI Mission Director

Well now, I have been picturing to myself the manger, the Baby that lay in it, and Mary his mother watching lovingly over him; and I'll tell you what I thought. Those little hands will one day grasp the sceptre of universal empire; those little arms will one day grapple with the monster 'Death', and destroy it; those little feet shall tread on the serpent's neck, and crush that old deceiver's head; yea, and that little tongue, which hath not yet learned to articulate a word, shall, ere long, pour from his sweet lips such streams of eloquence as shall fertilize the minds of the whole human race, and infuse his teaching into the literature of the world; and again a little while, and that tongue shall pronounce the judgments of heaven on the destinies of all mankind. We have all thought it wonderful that the God of glory should stoop so low; but we shall one day think it more wonderful that the Man of sorrows should be exalted so high. Earth could find no place too base for him; heaven will scarcely find a place lofty enough for him. Then there is just this one thing to be said about Jesus Christ, he is 'the same yesterday, and today, and for ever.' We may change with circumstances; Jesus never did, and never will. When we look at him in the manger, we may say, 'He is the Wonderful, the Counsellor, the mighty God.' And when we see him exalted to his Father's right hand, we may exclaim, 'Behold the Man!'

From the sermon - A Visit to Bethlehem - December 24, 1854 - by C.H. SPURGEON

- **Daniel and Michelle Jones (Mexico/Rio Grande Valley)** report nine VBS held in the Jones' works in Mexico with many souls coming to Christ this year. The Fundamental Baptist Institute in Mexico has had a total of eighty graduates. The church in McAllen, TX continues to grow in attendance with five saved recently.
- **Mark and Tricia Haynes (Navajo Nation)** report souls saved and new converts being baptized. One of the men in the Haynes' work has begun a Senior's Ministry at a local senior care facility. So far, six have been saved at the facility. The Ladies' Retreat was well attended with one hundred and twenty ladies in attendance.
- **Darrain and Mari Coker (Mexico)** report God's blessings on their Vacation Bible School they had in different neighborhoods. The Coker's report God's blessing the youth camp with one of their teens surrendering to the ministry.
- **Flo Martin (Guatemala)** report souls saved and believers baptized. Several young people completed a Bible course and received a certificate of completion recently. Please remember Flo in your prayers. Her knees cause her discomfort.
- **Bill and Sharon Smith (Brazil)** Sharon will see her doctor December 4th. She has been undergoing radiation treatments for the cancer. Please continue to pray for her complete recovery.
- **Larry and Regina McKinney (N.A. Indians)** will be on furlough until May 2015. They have already visited several churches and are excited to share their ministry of how God is working through them to reach the Indian people with the gospel.
- **True and Diana Hawkins (Brazil)** have been visiting their supporting churches and giving an update of their ministry in Brazil. They will be on furlough until April.

***Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!***