



On the Wings of Prayer

“Because thou hast been my help,
therefore in the shadow of thy wings
will I rejoice.” Psalm 63:7

Vessels - Empty, Borrowed, and Anointed

“And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil.” 2 Kings 4:2

The preacher's widow in 2 Kings 4 was in dire straits. She was in debt and about to lose her two sons as bond slaves to pay that debt; she cried out to Elisha for help. I believe we need to note that the answer to her problem was already in her house. In fact, from her own testimony it was all that she had in the house, “a pot of oil.” In life's changes and surprises, sometimes we get disoriented; we go into culture shock, we panic, and we fear we are without solutions; and yet all the while, the solution is already in our possession. It only needs to grow to be multiplied.

The oil is symbolic of the Holy Spirit. If you are saved, you have “a pot of oil” even though you may not realize at the moment. He is the solution to your present dilemma. Praise the Lord! The widow sought counsel of Elisha and not another. To follow wrong counsel would certainly lead to disaster. God's messenger told her how to multiply what she had. With God's blessings and her sons help and the help of her friends, she would see her debts paid, keep her sons free and have surplus to live on in the future. The borrowed empty vessels were all returned to their owners -- changed, different and better than they were received. They were all anointed with the oil that the widow already had in her house.

If you have tried to give out the Gospel, then you know that it is like the widow's oil. The more you give it out, the more you will have to give out. In fact, your pot will never run dry. That is, as long as you have an empty vessel to pour into. And where will we find these vessels? The vessels are the lives of our friends, family, acquaintances and those we meet.

Our task is clear, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” It is God's work and his power is both necessary and near. And still, the laborers are few. Where will they come from? The vessels that God used to meet the overwhelming need above were all borrowed. God multiplied the widow's oil into borrowed vessels. If you don't have the needed vessels, go and borrow them for the Master's use. We must search out those who are presently engaged in and reserved for other uses. How many people are ready for any use except to be borrowed for the Master's use? Yes, it is their own life and I have no claim on it; but from the Master's lips come the words, “Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbors.” May God Help us as we tell them; come, for the master has need of you today. God will wait to multiply His oil until we do.

They were also empty vessels. Before a vessel can be filled it must first be empty. What is already inside must be poured out. To be cleansed, prepared, and then filled -- it must first be emptied. Just as the thorns choked the plants in Luke 8:14, the cares and riches and pleasures of this life can fill our lives; so that, there is no room for God to multiply his oil in us. “Even Empty Vessels” We need for God to multiply His oil in some borrowed empty vessels today. And if the Gospel is to reach every creature, we need more than just a few. The oil stayed when there were no more empty vessels to fill. All we really lack are borrowed empty vessels. God will do the rest when we give to them what God has already given us. “Borrow not a few!”

- John Peoples, IBFI Mission Director

- **John and Neila Yelle (Brazil)** are on furlough with plans to return to Brazil in September. The Yelle's request prayer for the men overseeing the new mission work to have wisdom. Bro. John plans to start a preaching point in a new area when they return to Brazil. The Lord has opened the door to begin a new work in this area. Please be in prayer for Leila, the Yelle's daughter, who has scoliosis that causes ongoing pain.
- **Harold and Lena Friday (Honduras)** Lena had surgery on one knee on June 6, 2017. Due to complications during the surgery, Lena had to be revived. The surgeon fractured four ribs while administering CPR. Lena completed rehab and has made good progress. She is still in discomfort, so please continue to pray for a speedy recovery.
- **Mark and Tricia Haynes (Navajo Nation)** recently hosted services where several local churches and missions were in attendance. Several believers were baptized and others receiving Christ. The Lord continues to bless the works and giving victory over the power of darkness.
- **Leslie and Alba Friday (Honduras)** report six trusted Christ at Youth Camp and several rededications. Bro. Leslie is having a weekly discipleship class. The visitation program is growing with more getting involved in this important ministry.
- **Larry and Regina McKinney (N.A. Indians)** the Lord is blessing the church on the Warm Springs Reservation. There was a high attendance of 64. Several have come to Christ! Please be in prayer for their VBS in July.
- **Danny and Michelle Jones (Rio Grande Valley/Mexico)** report several of their graduates are called to be missionaries. The institute has graduates as missionaries in United States, Mexico, Guatemala, Panama, Japan, Korea, Argentina, and Poland.
- **True and Diana Hawkins (Brazil)** reports the institute in Manaus has had 245 graduates! In December, three more will be graduating. The Hawkins' continue to serve faithfully and God has blessed abundantly.
- **Darrain and Mari Coker (Mexico)** are finishing their furlough and hope to be back in Mexico August 1, 2017.

Please continue to pray for our missionaries!