



On the Wings of Prayer

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

Finding Jesus

In Luke 2:41-52, we find an interesting story in the life of Jesus; that in some respects is played out over and over again in the lives of believers today. When Jesus was twelve years old, he was left behind in Jerusalem while Mary and Joseph returned home without him. The process goes like this: having Jesus, losing contact with Jesus without realizing it, awaking to the fact that Jesus is not with you, seeking Jesus, and finally restoring fellowship with Jesus.

For twelve years, Joseph and Mary may have had a sense that they were in control of Jesus. It was them who cared for Jesus, provided for him, made decisions for him. That all was going to change. They assumed when they decided to leave Jerusalem that Jesus would follow. They had fulfilled their obligations there and moved on to their other plans. They left and never noticed that Jesus tarried in Jerusalem, no not for a whole day. This game of 'Lead and Follow' is a common struggle for most Christians and that includes pastors and missionaries.

It is interesting to note, that while they only walked away from Jesus for one day; it took three days of sorrowing and searching before they regained fellowship with Jesus. And then the Bible states that there was amazement, questioning, and complaining on the part of Mary and Joseph. The most important part in the story may be verse 49, where Jesus responds to Mary's complaint with the words, "How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" If you find that you have traveled the entire day without the presence of Jesus, it need not take you three days of sorrowing to find him. You will find him directly, if you look for him "about the Father's business."

-John Peeples, IBFI Mission Director

January 2016

- **Daniel and Michelle Jones (Mexico/Rio Grande Valley)** report an average high attendance of 75 this year, 70 souls trusted Christ, 30 baptisms/membership, and 25 completed the discipleship program at their church in the Rio Grande Valley. Please remember Michelle in prayer. She is recovering from two recent surgeries.

- **Daniel and Tammy Coates (Guatemala)** request prayer concerning recent robberies at the church. Vacation Bible School was a success with several children trusting Christ. The mission work, the Coates assist, continues to grow and see souls saved. They ask prayer for Bro. Elvis who leads the mission work.
- **Don and Flo McMillan (Brazil-Retired)** request prayer for Bro. Don's health. He had a stroke in September. Recently, tests reveal fractures in some vertebrae and lesions. The churches the McMillans started in Brazil continue to go forward and continue to reach the lost.
- **Bill and Sharon Smith (Brazil)** report three graduates from their Bible Institute last month. Please pray that these will be greatly used of the Lord.
- **Mark and Tricia Haynes (Navajo Nation)** report their mission conference was a success. More has been committed to missions this year than ever before. At a recent revival, with the help of Greater Waco Baptist Church, 300 were in attendance. The gospel was preached and souls were saved.
- **True and Diana Hawkins (Brazil)** report 243 graduates from the Bible Institute in Manaus since 1973. Many who have graduated from the Institute have become pastors and missionaries and faithful Sunday School teachers.
- **Darrain and Mari Coker (Mexico)** report souls saved and church members being disciplined. The Lord has blessed the church mission program. The Cokers request prayer for spiritual growth for their congregation.
- **Larry and Regina McKinney (N.A. Indians)** report twenty first time visitors in one month. Please continue to pray for Regina as she fully recovers from her surgery.

IBFI May Fellowship
Fort Worth, Texas
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