



On the Wings of Prayer

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

SO SHALL YE BE MY DISCIPLES

"My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you," Gal 4:19

While we were missionaries to the northern region of Brazil, I came to the realization that the ultimate success of our ministry would depend greatly upon the relationship that our church leaders and members developed with the LORD. Church planting and discipleship is more than winning people to Christ, baptizing them and teaching them to attend and work in the church. Teaching people to "follow me, as I follow Christ" works well for the first generation, but as I was taught in Bible School, "Your people will be everything you are, only less." Like making copies of a movie on a VHS recorder, the first copy is obviously inferior to the original but still tolerable to some. A copy of a copy is so poor that few will watch it. "Our people" must become in every aspect "The Lord's People". Being less than me is a severe limitation, being less than the Lord, in practice, has no limitations, and multiplication of disciples and churches can take place. Any dependence that mission churches, ministries and their leaders have on the missionary comes at the cost of their dependence on the Lord. In most cases, it is true they will depend on either one or the other.

Church planting and discipleship on the mission field is not complete until the middle man, the missionary, is taken out of the chain of command and the planted church depends directly on the LORD. The godly example and leadership of the missionary is necessary and valuable in the process. And while they may begin as our disciples, they must end up as Christ's disciples. They may begin following us as we follow Christ, but somewhere along the way, we must step aside and allow them to follow Christ directly. There are temptations to continue financial support indefinitely and to maintain oversight of churches once they are planted. Certainly extended care and oversight can be beneficial and can produce stability in the work, but the goal of an Indigenous church plant is a worthy and biblical goal. True Indigenous Missions can be more difficult to achieved, but once obtained, it is not limited by the missionary's health, abilities or levels of foreign finances. Let us expect God to work some miracles in missions.

-John Peeples, IBFI Mission Director

February/March 2016

- **Melissa Houston (Croatia)** has had positive response to the puppet ministry. She and the church where she serves have been invited to present the puppets in the community. The Lord has given opportunities to present the gospel as a result. Please pray that the people of Croatia will be open and receptive to the gospel.

- **Bill and Sharon Smith (Brazil)** have had special church services to reach the lost and disciple the saved. Christmas program, New Year's Eve service, and Vacation Bible School have been opportunities for church member's to teach others the Word of God.
- **Leslie and Alba Priday (Honduras)** the Lord blessed the youth rally with five churches participating and seventy-five in attendance. Preparations are being made for their upcoming youth camp. The Priday's will begin furlough in April.
- **Ron and Kathy Valerio (Dominican Republic)** the weekly home Bible studies has been well received, as well as, the Bible study at a local car wash. Two ladies recently accepted Christ at the church.
- **Harold and Lena Priday (Honduras)** report the mission work is growing with plans for building a larger building. The Priday's are looking for property to buy for this new work.
- **Daniel and Michelle Jones (Mexico/Rio Grande Valley)** report the Bethesda Fundamental Baptist Institute celebrated their 35th anniversary. During their recent graduation, hundreds were in attendance with several trusting Christ. There have been eighty-three graduates from the institute.
- **True and Diana Hawkins (Brazil)** request prayer for Diana. She is recovering from surgery on her wrist and upper arm. She had spots removed from her wrist that were Melanoma. She also had a mass removed in her upper arm that was not cancerous. The Hawkins' request prayer for their graduates. Many are working in difficult conditions to reach the unreached. Please pray for the missionaries, Christians, and churches; there is much violence and uncertainty.
- **Larry and Regina McKinney (N.A. Indians)** please be in prayer for Bro. McKinney as he negotiates the price for the church building and also to have sufficient funds for the purchase. The Lord continues to bless and use the McKinney's to lead the lost to him and disciple the saved.

IBFI May Fellowship

724 North Jim Wright Freeway

Fort Worth, Texas

May 16th—19th, 2016