

On the Wings of Prayer

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

God's Purpose on Earth

In Numbers 14, Israel refused to go in and possess the Promised Land because of fear they could not win the battles involved in such a quest. In God's conversation with Moses, He reveals a very clear pronouncement of his purpose in calling Israel. God had called the nation of Israel to perform his will. When they refused to obey his leadership, God told Moses that he would smite Israel with the pestilence, disinherit them and make of Moses a greater nation mightier than they. Moses interceded for Israel and pleaded with God to show his great mercy and forgive their iniquity and transgression.

From Moses' intercession and God's response, it is obvious that they both understood God's purpose for Israel. Moses pleads Israel's case on the grounds that Egypt would not have reason to believe in God's glory if they heard that God had saved Israel from bondage in Egypt only to kill them in the wilderness. God called Israel for the purpose of proclaiming the glory of the LORD to all the earth. Now that they had refused to obey his leadership, what purpose did they serve? God's purposes would be better served to raise up another people that would perform his will and show his glory to the entire Earth.

After Moses' intercession, God proclaimed “I have pardoned according to thy word: But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.” God had pardoned disobedient Israel, but he had not given up on his purpose. Israel would continue as a nation, but they had failed in their purpose. The next generation would carry on in their place, forty years later.

Four hundred years later, God would find “a man after his own heart” in David. God would make another nation of David's descendants, not a descendant of Moses or of the tribe of Levi, but of the tribe of Judah. It is interesting that Caleb the son of Jephunneh was of Canaanite ancestry and was the faithful representative of the tribe of Judah of Numbers 14. Though Caleb is not in the direct lineage of Jesus Christ - other gentiles that were grafted into the tribe of Judah are, including Rahab and Ruth. And by the Son of David, Jesus Christ, God raised up another nation to show forth his Glory to the ends of the Earth.

David understood the purpose of God for him. In the beginning of his ministry as he faced Goliath - a descendent of the giants that instilled fear in the 10 spies in Numbers 13 - he said that God would give him victory so “that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.” (1 Samuel 17:46) In Psalm 72:19 David, after a long ministry of seeking to complete God's purpose, ends his prayers with these words “And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory; Amen, and Amen.”

With all this in mind, it seems like a simple task for me to understand my purpose in life. Have you figured out yours?

-John Peeples, IBFI Mission Director

May/June 2018

**Please remember to bring your gift cards for the missionaries to the IBFI May Fellowship.
They are always a special blessing to them!*

Daniel and Tammy Coates (Guatemala) recently celebrated their church, Iglesia Bautista La Esperanza, tenth anniversary. They had a special baptismal service with nine believers being baptized. Also, nineteen others trusted Christ the following week. The Coates are now on furlough. Please pray for traveling mercies.

Ron and Kathy Valerio (Dominican Republic) report two adults accepting Christ recently and six being baptized. There was good attendance at a recent men's prayer breakfast.

Daniel and Michelle Jones (Rio Grande Valley/Mexico) report they are training eleven men through the two institutes in the Rio Grande Valley. Many more have been trained in the Bible institutes in Mexico started by the Jones' or pastors they have trained.

Bill and Sharon Smith (Brazil) report having several special church services while Pastor Cecil Thayer from Massillon Baptist Temple was visiting recently. Pastor Thayer preached several times and Bro. Bill interpreted. The Smith's request prayer for the Brazilian pastors that are in charge of churches the Smith's have started over their years in Brazil.

Darrain and Mari Coker (Mexico) have a new outreach ministry in a neighborhood outside of town. The Coker's were invited to begin a Bible club for children. The Lord has blessed with some coming to Christ. Praise the Lord! Recently, in the church service a young lady came to Christ. Four are awaiting baptism in the near future.

Larry and Regina McKinney (American Indians) report a good attendance at the church Valentine's banquet. The Good News Club is going well with fifty children in attendance weekly. Last month, the McKinney's work on the Warm Springs Reservation hosted the Native American Baptist Fellowship.

John and Neila Yelle (Brazil) had fifteen first time visitors during the past few months. The Yelle's are working in two congregations presently. Please be in prayer for these new works.

True and Diana Hawkins (Brazil) the Bible Institute in Manaus will have three graduating. So far, 260 have graduated over the past 45 years from the institute. The Hawkins' continue their ministry of assisting national pastors with church building construction. The three camps were well attended—children's, adolescent, and youth.

Leslie and Alba Priday (Honduras) report a good turnout for youth camp. On Resurrection Sunday, they celebrated a sunrise service.

Ted and Karin Johnson (Medical Leave-Mexico) please continue to pray for the Johnson's health needs. Karin's father recently passed away. Karin has finished her cancer treatments and is on the road to recovery.

Flo Martin (Guatemala) please be in prayer for Flo. She is now 86 years old. Her health is deteriorating rapidly. The family appreciates your prayers during this time.