

On the Wings of Prayer

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

September/October 2020

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 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. Our goal in missions is the same as Christ’s goal for his earthly ministry stated in John 17:3, *“that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent”*.

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 an insurmountable limitation. Being less than the Lord has no limitations and multiplication of disciples and churches can take place. Any dependence that a mission work has on the missionary comes at the cost of their dependence on the Lord. They will depend on either one or the other.

Church planting and discipleship on the mission field is not complete until 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 in the process. 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. Leaving a work too soon can result in the ministry seeking direction from sources other than the Lord, and this can lead to disaster. That being said, there are temptations to continue financial support indefinitely and to maintain oversight of a church once it is 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 it is possible. It should be our goal. Once obtained, it is not limited by the missionary. Let us expect God to work some miracles in missions. -John Peeples, IBFI Mission Director

***JD and Vanessa Young (Honduras)** are making plans to arrive in Honduras in September. Please pray for open doors and wisdom as they relocate. Also, pray they will learn the Spanish language quickly and God’s grace in adapting to a new culture.

***John and Neila Yelle (Brazil)** report that their daughter Leila continues to heal after having two rods put in her back and vertebrae spinal fusion to correct scoliosis. Leila is improving and has begun physical therapy. Please continue to pray for her healing.

***Melissa Houston (Rio Grande Valley)** was able to have VBS virtually since the pandemic prohibited meeting at the church. Please pray for Melissa's health. She has a painful cyst that will need medical treatment.

***True and Diana Hawkins (Brazil)** report a long flight back to Manaus (32 hours). The Hawkins have settled in after two weeks of quarantine. Some of the church leaders in the jungle have passed away with the pandemic. Please pray for men to take their place. The churches are gradually re-opening with Covid-19 restrictions in place. Bro. True purchased three outboard motors for Brazilian missionaries who have river ministries. There are many jungle villages along the river that can only be reached by boat.

***Scott and Darla Griffin (Homeless No More)** report five souls coming to Christ recently. The Griffin's report, "we come in contact with 100 souls every Saturday."

***Harold and Lena Priday (Honduras)** report they are continuing their outreach using Zoom and Facebook. Lena's eye surgeries went well. Thank you for your prayers for her!

***Mark and Tricia Haynes (Navajo Nation)** have ministered to the community during the Coronavirus by passing out essential items. Also, hundreds of gospel tracts were passed out.

***Leslie and Alba Priday (Honduras)** report they continue with their services via Zoom and Facebook Live. Please pray for Alba who is having pain from a hiatal hernia. Also, Alba is trying to obtain her U.S. citizenship. Please pray it will be granted soon.

***Larry and Regina McKinney (N.A. Indians)** report many summer activities had to be canceled due to Covid-19. Bro. McKinney's dad Eddie McKinney passed away in July at 93 years old from the Covid. Please keep their family in your prayers.

***Ron and Kathy Valerio (Dominican Republic)** please be in prayer for the Valerio's daughter Elizabeth. She had emergency gallbladder removal surgery August 28th. Please pray for a speedy recovery.

Please pray for our missionaries health, so they can continue reaching the lost and discipling the saved!