

On the Wings of Prayer

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

After the Brook Dries Up

“And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.” Luke 1:16

Imagine you are in the perfect will of God. You are doing exactly what God asked you to do, in the exact location God led you to, and God has provided your every need - then the brook dries up. That is what happened in 1 Kings 17 to Elijah near the beginning of his ministry, and it can happen to you too.

In this amazing piece of history, God introduces us to Elijah the prophet. A bold and faithful messenger of the Almighty God during a time of national apostasy, idolatry and persecution. He was the example to John the Baptist of whom it was said by the angel of the Lord: *“And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias (Elijah), to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”* Elijah heard the Word of the Lord and faithfully obeyed and proclaimed it. To Ahab, King of Israel, it was a Word of God’s judgement. *“No dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.”* Famine would result. To Elijah, it was the three-fold command; *“get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith.”* There Elijah would find water and food. To the ravens, God’s Word was to feed Elijah there at the brook.

In time, *the brook dried up.*” God’s Word to Elijah was again three-fold; *“Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there.”* To the widow woman at Zarephath, God’s Word was for her to sustain Elijah. Zarephath was in Zidon where Jezebel’s father was King and Baal was worshiped. In a time of national crisis, God sent Elijah to the mission field. For three years, Ahab searched the nations and kingdoms for Elijah. And all of that time, Elijah was perfectly safe and secure in the place of service where God had sent him.

God’s commands are astonishingly simple. To obey them does not require any great ability, strength, or miracles - only obedience. Elijah obeyed God and went; the ravens did what God commanded. But the widow woman had fears and reservations. Whatever faith she had in God needed growth. She feared she couldn’t sustain herself or her son in the famine. How could she obey God and provide for this stranger Elijah? Her first choice was to ignore God’s command, keep what little she had for her family, and starve to death. She needed some encouragement from Elijah, and he assured her that God’s blessings would follow her obedience. When she obeyed God and did what was in her capacity to do, then God did what was in His capacity to do. Miracles began to be a daily part of her life.

God has given us some commands also. We find them in the Bible. Some obey God immediately. Sometimes we have fears and reservations. Sometimes we decide to follow our own plans instead. Elijah’s advice applies to us today. *“Fear not: go and do as thou hast said:”* **but first** do what God commanded you to do. When everyone in the Church does what God has told them to do, **then** we will see God do some amazing things in our lifetime.

Your faith can spread to the most unlikely people and your life can have an eternal impact for God after the brook dries up.

John Peeples, IBFI Mission Director

January/February 2022

***Bill and Sharon Smith (Brazil)** report John, a Brazilian man, who they have prayed for thirty years; trusted Christ as his Savior recently. In November, the Bible Baptist Church in Carana celebrated their 21st anniversary. It was a time of celebration around God’s Word.

***Mark and Tricia Haynes (Navajo Nation)** report their mission conference saw an increase in faith promise mission giving. There were five churches involved in the mission conference. Bro. Mark reports he has been taking a young man with him on soulwinning. The young man, Mykel, lead his grandmother to Christ! Bro. Haynes recently baptized three new converts. Please be in prayer for these new believers.

***John and Neila Yelle (Brazil)** report they had a special children's service to celebrate Children's Day. There were 38 children who came and two moms. There was a Bible lesson, games, Bible verse, food, and gifts. Nine workers helped with the activities. The Yelle's are in the process of preparing some property for a Christian camp.

***Harold and Lena Priday (Honduras)** report the new church building is near completion. The Priday's report that a medical team came to minister from Heritage Baptist Haslet, Texas. The team saw 434 patients with over 40 coming to Christ.

***J.D. and Vanessa Young (Honduras)** report they have been distributing tracts, witnessing, and helping in the church services. Bro. J.D. has had many opportunities to preach.

***True and Diana Hawkins (Brazil)** report assisting in the construction and upgrades in several church buildings in their river ministry. Two seminary students recently graduated. The Lord continues to use the seminary graduates to reach others for Christ and begin new churches. Diana had the opportunity to speak at the Ladies Fellowship. There were over 50 ladies in attendance from three churches.

***Heath and Caryssa Van Zandt (Church Planter-Rheme)** report they have passed out thousands of flyers, invitations, and Gospel literature throughout the community." The remodeling is coming along well. There were 40 in attendance for the Christmas service.

***Melissa Houston (Rio Grande Valley)** reports that she received a 2014 Toyota SUV from Worth Baptist Church. Melissa needed a dependable vehicle as she begins furlough. Melissa is offering a "Children's Ministry Workshop" to churches. If you are interested, you can contact her at her email: melijoyh@yahoo.com

***Daniel and Michelle Jones (Rio Grande Valley/Mexico)** rejoice in the 16 institutes that have been started in 5 different countries. The Bible Institute continues to train men and women who go out to teach and train others. The Iglesia Bautista Betesda in McAllen, Texas had 8 come to Christ in the last two months. The church has reached 100 in Sunday School. The church supports 34 missionaries.

***Leslie and Alba Priday (Honduras)** report that they assisted when a medical team from Heritage Baptist Church came to treat patients. The Gospel was shared with each patient. Bro. Leslie translated for Pastor Eric Crawford as he preached.

***Larry and Regina McKinney (N.A. Indians)** ask that you continue to pray for Pr. Louie and his five daughters and son. Pr. Louie's wife passed away and one of his sons this past October. Pastor Louie is the pastor of Tacoma Indian Baptist Church which was started by the McKinney's.

***Darrain & Mari Coker (Mexico)** report they have finished the first phase of their new church building. They are in the process of phase 2 (installing the electricity and water.)

***Scott and Darla Griffin (Homeless No More)** report during the last three months, they have lead 13 souls to Christ and 5 were baptized. The church is averaging 40 on Sundays.

***Jeremy & Joneia Bennett (Brazil)** are on deputation. They are doing a lot of traveling and are grateful for the hospitality and generosity of each church as they present their ministry.