

On the Wings of Prayer

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

Ye Shall Receive Power and be Witnesses

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:8

If the name of the Great Commission was taken from Acts 1, it would probably bear the designation Commandment. We are commanded to be witnesses for Jesus Christ. In this passage, God emphasized four people groups and an order in the commands.

The first two groups represent “our people”; Our home town and our home country. It only seems natural to reach our home town and to extend that outreach to those beyond our home town until we reach our entire nation. The third group gets a lot more complicated. While Samaria is near in proximity, it couldn't be further away in our affection. Samaria represents those people we know of and have had contact with, but also, those we do not like in the strongest sense of the feeling. People that we least desire to have contact with. Some quickly come to mind; this is your Samaria. And we are to be witnesses unto the uttermost part of the earth. In the uttermost part we will find people similar to our people, as well as, our Samaria along with a host of other people. While we may begin in our Jerusalem, a mature Christian and a mature Church will be endeavoring to witness to all of these at once. A large portion of our witness will be through prayer, support, and involvement in Missions and Missionary Ministries.

In John 14:15 Jesus said, *If ye love me, keep my commandments*. In Acts 1:4 He commanded his disciples *that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father*. The commandment to *Go* has the prerequisite of having the power of the Holy Ghost. There is a time to wait and a time to go. A time to receive and a time to give what you have received. A time to prepare and a time to do what you are prepared to do.

While we may be tempted to witness only to our Jerusalem in our own power, the truth is, we cannot be effective witnesses anywhere in the world without the power of the Holy Spirit. In our own power, the simplest task for God is beyond our ability. When God is with us even the impossible task will become possible. Waiting on God will give us His direction, His timing, and His power. It is worth the wait!

John Peeples,
IBFI Mission Director
Psalm 16:11

*Tyler Yates (Mexico) arrived in Mexico on May 28th to officially begin his ministry in the Yucatan Peninsula. In February, a retired couple who are doctors, participated in the medical missions team outreach in Mexico. During the outreach, many were helped physically and spiritually – seven came to Christ!

***John & Neila Yelle (Brazil)** had eighteen campers participate in the youth retreat. There were twenty-one ladies who attended the monthly ladies meeting. Three adults came to Christ recently.

***Zack & Charish Doty (ABCP)** request prayer for Zack's dad for salvation. In the last twelve months, Bro. Zack has had three close family members pass away. Please pray for the families comfort and strength.

***Tony & Melissa Roa (Rockwall BC)** In January, Bro. Tony was called as the pastor of Rockwall Baptist Church. Please pray for Bro. Tony as he leads the church and for Melissa and their children as they serve in this new position. Bro. Tony reports a good attendance of 50 on Resurrection Sunday.

***Melissa Houston (Rio Grande Valley)** request prayer as she makes preparations for Vacation Bible School. Plans are being made to take children and teens to summer camp. Also, a local women's shelter will be ministered to in hopes some of the ladies will come to Christ.

***Daniel & Tammy Coates (Guatemala)** hosted the Medical Missions Team from Heritage Baptist Church in Haslet, Texas. They were able to minister to physical, as well as, spiritual needs of 700 people who came for help.

***Jeremy & Joneia Bennett (Brazil)** report five people were recently baptized. The Bennett's request prayer for Lucas and Fernanda discipleship.

***Leslie Priday (Honduras)** report thirty youth attended camp this year. There were counselors and preachers who taught the Word of God. It was a five day youth camp.

***Darrain & Mari Coker (Mexico)** report twenty coming to Christ during soulwinning and at church in recent months. The Coker's request prayer for spiritual growth for the new believers and the church congregation.

***Daniel & Michelle Jones (Rio Grand Valley/Mexico)** have seen several come to Christ in McAllen in recent days. The Jones' took a trip to Columbia for a mission's conference. Five came to Christ at the conference.

***Harold Priday (Honduras)** reports his mother passed away March 19, 2024. She was 101 years old. She was a faithful servant of the Lord and will be missed by her family.

***Larry & Regina McKinney (North American Indians)** Recently, three people have trusted Christ in the McKinney's ministry at Tacoma Indian Baptist Church. The McKinney's have purchased a church van through special offerings they received.

***Bill & Sharon Smith (Brazil)** recently celebrated the 17th anniversary of the church in Alvorada. Many came to the anniversary service from the four churches the Smith's started in Roraima, Brazil.

***Scott & Darla Griffin (Homeless No More)** report an average attendance of 45 on Sunday, 20 on Monday service, and 30 on Wednesday service. The Griffin's rejoice in the 18 that have come to Christ.