



Family Newsletter

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Going About The Father's Business Together



Dr. Gene Burge
President, BMFP

Often times missionaries feel like they need to give glowing reports in their prayer letters. Many feel that to give less would cause their financial support to be in jeopardy from churches. I believe supporting churches need also to know the burdens and hardships that missionaries sometimes carry so they can pray more effectively for them.

I remember a dear missionary gave a report of how God had used his family to start several churches in a foreign country. He shared that the Lord was blessing and his first congregation grew. Most of the people in that church he led to the Lord personally and were being discipled. One Sunday morning he was preaching a message on the only way to heaven was through Jesus Christ. A woman who had professed Christ stood up and challenged the pastor on Christ being the only way. She said that He was not the only way but stated that Buddhism was their religion and they would not forsake it. She walked out; and her family with her. One by one the congregation left until only one person remained.

You talk about being discouraged! He indeed was, and really needed the prayers and encouragement of his supporters. He had to start over again, which he did. Today they have a strong congregation again but it didn't come without travail. He mentioned that some people contacted him and stated that he should not put negatives like that in his prayer letter but only the positives. If that be so, how would his supporters know the urgent need that they had in order that they might pray effectively for them.

My suggestion to missionaries is not to be whiners or beggars but to be honest and share burdens as well as blessings. I really believe that people who love missionaries will want to rejoice with them in the blessings and victories but those same people want to pray for them when their burdens get heavy. The Apostle Paul said in II Corinthian 1:11, "Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf." Missions is a team effort; our Lord, missionary families, and their supporters. You have a very important part in missions.



The Father's Business
by
George Alquist
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"And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" (Luke 2:49)? Missions is about souls; eternal souls. Souls created by God, loved by God and estranged from God because of sin. The eternal souls of men are the reason why God the Father sent (John 3:17; John 8:42; I John 4:10) the first missionary, the Lord Jesus Christ, (Mark 1:48) to the mission field (Matt. 13:38) of planet Earth.

When God looks upon men, He does not primarily see the body but the soul (I San. 16:7). Too often we see people as humans only and not as eternal souls. We allow so many of the ugly things of this world to obscure the beauty of the soul. We permit the physical to detract us from the spiritual. We lose sight of what it cost the Triune Godhead to secure eternal salvation and exhibit a spiritual penury by counting the cost to us to obey the Great Commission as too much.

Like a physician with a cure for cancer, the Apostle Paul was out-of-breath for souls seeing himself as a debtor (Rom. 1:14) to all men to take to them the failsafe cure for sin – the gospel of Christ.

In these last days, with the icy fingers of the Laodicean period strangling churches with lukewarmness, the need for missions, and missionaries, is greater than ever before. Men and women and boys and girls for whom Christ died are languishing in pockets and corners of the world without the Gospel of Christ; the destination of their eternal souls lying in the balance. I think God's challenge to Isaiah is as poignant today as it was when it fell upon Isaiah's ear for the first time, "*Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?*" – Isaiah 6:8. Indeed, who will go and who will enable them to go? "*How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach, except they be sent?*" – Romans 10:14-15.

(Continued on next page)

The Father's Business
By
George Alquist
(Continued from front page)

How do we fare concerning our Lord's parting command? "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." – Mark 16:15. The entire world cries out to us, "Come over...and help us" – Acts 16:9. Baptist Missions to Forgotten Peoples is dedicated to the call of missions; the call of God to go and the call of humanity to come! We are called upon to *love the unlovable, touch the untouchable, and to reach the unreachable*. This we can do by the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. Missions is becoming the forgotten call and the lost and dying world around us the forgotten peoples. There is no greater cause, there is no greater joy and there is no greater reward than those who have been saved because we cared (I Thess. 2:19). When the Lord Jesus was a boy and his mother and Joseph realized He was not with them on their journey home, they found Him preaching in the Temple. When asked by them what He was doing He said, "How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" When the Lord Jesus Christ comes for us at the rapture of the church, where will we be found and what will we be found doing? Baptist Missions to Forgotten People is dedicated to the enlisting, encouraging, engaging and enabling of men and women around the world to missions. This is the Father's Business!

News From the Field

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I have really been burdened for the unsaved husbands of the ladies in the assemblies. Unfortunately, many are drunkards and have no interest in spiritual things. When we go on visitation, I try to either share the truth with these men or at least give them some literature. We were at one lady's house who has been praying for her drunkard husband's salvation for years. I had never met her husband before, but I felt a strong leading of the Spirit to just give him a tract. I asked him to please read it. Deeply looking me in the eye, he nodded his head and promised to read it. Two days later, this man was on his death bed with severe Jaundice and other liver issues. The entire assembly began to earnestly pray for his physical and spiritual condition. Our Father's Son chose to answer the prayers and this man recovered. He has since gotten saved and has faithfully been at every assembly meeting for over 2 months now. I praise the Lord that He chose to take a small and rather feeble attempt to share the truth through written form to help save a precious soul literally on the cusp of an eternity in hell.

It has been encouraging to hear about spiritual growth in the lives of those we have invested our time. Back in 2015, I was able to lead a crippled man to Our Father's Son. He's been faithfully coming to the assembly ever since. Well, last week I asked Brother Kumar about his spiritual growth. Brother Kumar told me that this man

actually works hard to invite people (especially his old, worldly friends) to come to the assembly to hear about the One that has changed his life. Because of his previous lifestyle, he has connections with rough men who would never listen to me...but are listening to him.

Patti Carmen
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Our school year has started well, and our new students have adjusted. The laughter of the children brings joy to my heart. One of my students approached me recently, asking how a person knows for sure he is saved. After counseling him for salvation, he prayed and received Christ as his Savior. Praise the Lord! What a great way to start off the school year. Please pray for all our students that they will continue to grow in the Lord and serve Him faithfully.

Our Wednesday night program, Missions In Action (MIA) started a few weeks ago. We are averaging 40 children each week and 2 have received Christ as Savior. Please pray for our van ministry and that we will continue to see children coming to Sunday School and MIA.

Editor's Notes

Missionary Peter Cameron Scott had a vision to establish mission stations from Kenya to Lake Chad in Africa. He contracted a near fatal illness in French Congo. While recuperating in England, he laid plans and gathered a team to reach into central Africa. The team arrived in Kenya in October 1895. A year later Scott died. The year after that most of his original team died. The Lord used this dire situation to spur the hearts of many to follow in their footsteps and to soften the hearts of African peoples.

Missionary: As Dr. Burge exhorted above, don't hide difficulties and discouragements from God's people. Rather, take the time to share how God worked through them and God will use both to His glory and honor.

Christian: What will it take to get Americans out of the pews and into the mission fields of a lost and dying world. As Pastor Alquist accurately proclaimed above, The Lord commanded us to go and the world is crying out for help.

—Matt Quitter

"The command has been to go, but we have stayed - in body, gifts, prayer, and influence. He has asked us to be witnesses unto the uttermost parts of the earth...but 99% of Christians have kept pattering around in the homeland."

- Robert Savage