

### **A Note From Ken**

Usually devotions are written to us in our personal walk with Jesus. This month's devotions are a little different. For the month of November, I wanted to share with you something in the way of helping us think outside of ourselves. Instead of feeding ourselves, my prayer is that we would use this month to think of others. That is why, in the month of November, I have tried to share a little about our missions ministry, the scriptural foundations for that ministry and some (not all) of the things you can pray for in missions.

Many people see missions as a ministry that goes to poor people in foreign places. If this is missions, then we are doing nothing more than humanitarian work. Others see missions as being about a trip. Trips are a part of missions, but they are not the gauge of a good missions ministry.

The elements of foreign places, poor people, and trips are contained in missions, but they are not an end to missions nor the purpose of missions. Missions is about strategic, long-term involvement in the least reached places on earth to make disciples. The great commission is not to share the Gospel. The great commission is to make disciples. Discipleship involves a long-term process of engagement and relationships.

In this month's devotions, you will see two parts. Days 1-13 share scriptural ideas that our missions strategy, both international and local, is based upon. Days 14-22 are some of the mission strategies, people, and people groups that we

would like to ask you to pray for in your devotion times. Prayer for Mission Daystar is on Day 12.

Thank you for praying, and if there are any questions, you can contact:

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Monday November 1

### **He is Worthy of Worship**

Psalm 67:3-4

It is amazing to consider the world we live in. Scientists tell us that light travels at 5.87 trillion miles in a year. The galaxy of which our solar system is a part is about 100,000 light-years in diameter. Think of that: at 180,000 miles per second, it would take us 100,000 years to get across our galaxy, and this is just one of about a million galaxies in optical range of our telescopes. Consider also that there are approximately 100 billion stars in optical range. <sup>1</sup>

Consider all the factors that had to be in place for planet earth just to be able to sustain life, the sun and our distance from the sun, our rotation around the sun and more. When we consider life here and the existence of the universe, it points to one conclusion: we live in a world that was created by God, not an accident of evolution and chance. Yet, there are those who choose to believe that all that exists developed as some grand chance happening out of chaos.

So, what is the point of this universe stuff? When we as Christians, consider all the information we have about the universe, the human body and more, it should lead us directly into worship of our God! If God is so vast and limitless to be able to create all that we know exists, He is

more awesome than I can even imagine. He is worthy to be worshipped, continually.

The problem comes when we forget how awesome He is and lose our focus of His limitless nature. Everyday life can have a way of helping us lose that focus. Things like bosses who are unreasonable, family struggles, our church going through changes, or when people come against us. But it is not only struggles that pull us away from worship. Good times have a way of pulling us away from worship more than the bad. When we think we have it all and have no need of God, then we tend to not worship God for all that He is.

When we fail to worship Him, for whatever reason, we become just like the atheist that say God does not exist. When we worship Him, we are acknowledging that He is worthy and He is greater than anything that comes our way good or bad.

**Challenge for today:** When struggles arise, consider the greatness of God and all that He is. Remember that He has created the universe and us and that He is so much stronger than any problems that may come our way. Spend the day worshipping God by acknowledging His awesomeness!

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<sup>1</sup> Let the Nations Be Glad by John Piper, pg 13.

Tuesday November 2

### **Why Does God Desire for Us To Worship Him?**

Read: Matt. 4:8-10, Revelation 7:9-12

Have you ever asked yourself the question, “Why does God want us to worship Him?” Many theologians agree that the highest end of man and our chief goal is for us to worship and enjoy Him forever<sup>2</sup>. We can see clearly in these passages that God wants us to worship Him. Revelation is clear on the idea that all the nations worship the God around the throne for eternity.

But when you talk about worship being our destiny forever, a question that comes up in people’s minds that we are afraid to ask. The question is one that non-believers ask quite often and seem to be willing to challenge Christians with. That question is: “Isn’t it very egotistical to desire to be worshipped for all eternity?” Isn’t this the act of a God who is selfish and only made us so He could get his needs met?

Before we begin to answer this question, we need to remember that God is not afraid of our questions. Questions are meant to take us further in our quest of knowing God deeper. There is a difference between asking a question for honest reasons and questioning authority. We are not questioning authority but instead seeking an answer to a question many ask.

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<sup>2</sup> See Westminster Confession

The obvious answer to our question of God being egotistical is: of course, it is not selfish for God to have us worship Him. Think about it in these terms. He desires to give His children that which gives them the greatest joy. “What gives us the greatest joy”? The greatest joy comes from being a part of the greatest thing in known existence. God is the greatest of all that exists. It seems inherent in most people that we love to receive great gifts. We love it when others give us important gifts. It makes us happy, even though it is temporary.

If we want the greatest gift ever, then that gift is God, Himself. By leading us to worship Him, He is giving us that which has the most value in all of existence. To have the highest, most valuable gift in all of existence is to give us that which makes us most joyful and fulfilled. Receiving anything less would only lead to disappointment and idolatry. Idolatry, because humans tend to worship and value the gifts we are given, and disappointment, because there is something greater out there that we would desire. Therefore, having us worship Him, He is bestowing on us that which will be the best for us.

Worship is for us, not God. He does not need us; we need Him. So, in order for us to understand worship, we as humans need to understand that worship is something God gives to us so that we can live happy, fulfilled lives.

**Challenge for today:** Focus on the idea that worship is for our benefit not to appease some selfish god. We are the ones who need to worship Him. Our work in evangelism and

missions is so that those who hear can experience extreme joy and happiness in knowing and walking with Him. Begin to view the people around as people who need to have extreme joy in their lives and it is our task to lead them toward the One who can bring that joy.

Wednesday November 3

### **Missions and Worship**

What is the goal of Missions? Seems like a simple question that most would say has a simple answer. When I have asked people this question, I have gotten various answers, such as missions is to help others, while others would say the goal is to present the Gospel. While both of these ideas are important, they are not the goal of missions. Understanding the goal of missions is very important, if we hope to be an effective church in doing missions and moving forward into what God has for us here at Liberty Baptist.

For a goal of missions, I like to use the one given by John Piper. He says that the ultimate goal of missions is to bring worshippers to God<sup>3</sup>. The goal of missions is not only to present the Gospel and to do good deeds, but it is to bring people to God who can be His worshippers.

As Piper says “ Missions exist because worship does not”. There is an intricate connection between worship and missions. Worship is the end goal of missions and the whole reason we go to great lengths to make sure that we do all we can do to bring the message of God’s greatness to all the nations. Where worship exists, missions can cease.

This is important to understand, because many American Christians have adopted the idea that the goal of missions is to build something or share the Gospel overseas. These are both elements of a mission trip, but these elements cannot become the end goal. If we adopt the view that missions is complete after we come home from the trip, we fall short of our goal.

Missions is more about a process than a one-time event. So, while we desire to share the Gospel and do things that help others, this is not our end goal. Like we discussed yesterday, we want to bring worshippers to Him for their benefit. We want worshippers created so they can have happiness and enjoyment forever. This is the end of missions. This is missions’ final goal: worship.

**Challenge:** Begin to ask God what role you might have in the process of bringing worshippers to Him.

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<sup>3</sup> See John Piper “ Let the Nations Be Glad”

Thursday November 4

**God's Heart is For the Nations**

Genesis 12:1-3, Revelation 7:9

It is amazing the influence a father can have over a son, without even trying. Every time I go out to mow the lawn, my 3-year-old son grabs his little toy mower and starts right in with me. When I am finished mowing and begin with the weed eater, he grabs his toy weed eater and follows right along. Whatever I set out to do, he follows right along. He sees me doing things and focusing on tasks, and he figures they must be important. If they are important to Dad, then he wants to be a part of it. He has such a desire to please his father.

In a way, that is what God desires from us. He desires us to do things that please Him. Tasks that are important to Him, He wants to be important to us. What He sets His heart upon; He wants His children to set their hearts upon. So what is His heart?

From the beginning, God has had His heart on bringing the nations to worship Him. Beginning with Genesis all the way through the Revelation, there is a thread of God's purpose. That thread is to bring people from all the nations to know and worship Him. This has always been His heart. For example, look at Genesis 12:1-3. From the beginning, God has wanted to bless the nations with Himself. We find the same idea in Matthew 28:19-20 where He desires the nations to know Him. And finally, around the throne we see

people from all nations represented in Revelation 7:9. These are just a few key passages. The word "nations" in the NAS Bible can be found over 250 times. If it is mentioned this much, the nations must be important to God.

That is why at LBC we are passionate about our missions work among the nations. If the nations are that important to God, then it needs to be important to us. God's redeeming work in the world includes all the nations. Like the son who follows his dad around doing what he sees his dad doing, we should follow our Father in doing what we see Him doing.

Friday November 5

**Who are the Nations? Part 1**

Matthew 28:19-20, Revelation 5:7

Have you ever tried to talk to someone in your own language and felt like you were talking a foreign language? They think you are saying one thing when, in fact, you are saying something totally different. One of the reasons this can happen in communication is that we have different meanings for what sounds like the same word. While we may apply one meaning to a word, they have another meaning that changes the entire context of the conversation.

Take, for example, a friend who lives on the mission field. He has discovered when he travels to a certain country that the pronunciation of his English name sounds exactly like the word they use for a demon in their language. Not too good when you go to country and introduce yourself as demon. Not appropriate for a missionary. It changes the whole way they view that missionary.

This is similar to what happens when many people read the Biblical word “nations” in the Scripture. When people see the word “nations” they think of a geo-political country. So in Matthew 28 when they hear the great commission of go into the nations, many see that as just going to a foreign country.

That is not the meaning of the word “nations” in the Scripture. When the Bible uses the word “nations” in Matthew 28, it is the Greek word “ethnos”, from which we derive the word “ethnic”. So, instead of the Bible telling us to go to countries, it is telling us to go to the ethno, linguistic groupings of people who reside in countries around the world.

Let me give an example. In the political nation of Chad, there are many “nations” within its political borders. There are the Chadian Arabs, the Omega people, and so forth. They each have their language and their own cultural characteristics that set them apart from one another. The population of Chad is somewhere around 17 million people. Chadian Arabs number around 1.5 million.

So, when the Bible tells us to go to the nations, it is not telling us to go to political countries. It is telling us to go make disciples in the different ethnic groups that exist within certain political countries.

So, what does this mean to me? When we, as a body like Liberty, begin to think and pray about missions, we need to have a Biblically-based idea of what it is God is asking us to do. It is important for us to understand that He desires us to penetrate the people group not just go to a foreign country. Currently there are 10,000+ ethnic groups in the world that have no way to hear about Jesus. Will you please pray for these groups and pray that God would use Liberty to have a tremendous impact upon those people groups.

**Challenge:** It can be hard to change our Biblical ideas if we have been thinking a certain way for a long time. As Christians, our challenge is to make sure we line up with Biblical theology and ideas. The reward of making such changes can be phenomenal. It can change the way we pray for the nations, it can change the way we look at world evangelism, and it can change the way we do missions in our local church.

Monday November 8

## **Who are the Nations? Part 2**

Psalm 67:1-3

Yesterday we saw that the meaning of the word “nations” in the Bible did not refer to political countries. It refers to ethnic, linguistic, groupings of people who share the same culture. There may be over 200 nations (As the Bible views them) within the political borders of a country. It is always good to make sure we line up with a total understanding of what God is saying to us in scripture.

Some may be asking, “So what does this have to do with me?” I will tell you. Missions theologians today tell us that there are over 10,000 “nations” in existence today who have no access to the Gospel. We call these unreached people groups or UPGs. These UPGs encompass a full 25% of the world’s population or about 1.7 billion people. When we say no access, this means that, even if they wanted to, these UPGs could not hear the Gospel. Usually there is no Bible in their language due to the fact that most of their languages are unwritten. Even if they did have it written, many cannot read. Most of these people live in countries that do not allow free expression of religion, either by the government or by the prevailing religious community.

The answer to the question of “what does this have to do with me” is simple. We are all called to make disciples among the nations. That includes UPGs. Actually, it should place a priority on these UPGs. As members of the body of

Christ and people who want to make an impact for our Lord, we should all be thinking about how we can have a part in reaching the nations with the Gospel, so they can become worshippers of His. It does not mean we must go to be involved in this work. It does mean we need to be intentional about our participation in bringing the Gospel to the UPGs of the world.

**Challenge for us:** On an individual level we can help reach the nations right here in America. How? I remember the story a friend tells of his riding the Atlanta Metro system. While riding the subway, he had many people around him and most were speaking a foreign language. He said there were two voices ringing in his head. One was his mom saying how she could not get normal food in the stores because of all those foreigners moving into the neighborhood. The other was God saying “ Oh America! You would not go to the nations of the earth and chose to focus your efforts where the Gospel exists, so I am bringing the nations to you!”

You see, God is bringing individuals here to America who are part of UPGs that we, as Americans, can never reach in their homeland. But God can bring them here where we can share the Gospel and they can be free to receive Him without fear of death. Then, when they go home to visit or in e-mails and phone calls they can share the Gospel with their people who have never had a chance to hear about Jesus.

The next time you hear a foreign language, are you thinking “those people” or are you praising God for an opportunity to reach the nations?

Tuesday November 9

### **Reaching the Nations?**

Matthew 24:14

When I worked for a large corporation we would have a lot of meetings. Being in meetings is not the highlight of the day, but they did teach me one thing that was important. At the conclusion of those meetings my boss would ask a key question: Who has point on this? As you probably already know, point is the term given to the person responsible for seeing the task to completion.

When it comes to reaching the nations, I think those of us in the church need to be asking this question to ourselves. Who has the point, or responsibility, for reaching the nations? The simple answer to this question is the church does. God has given the task of reaching the nations to the church. Read what Dr. George W. Peters has to say on this subject:

We believe that we are not out of line with New Testament thinking, if we state that the local congregation of believers stands in a unique relationship to Christ and the local assembly

becomes the mediating and authoritative sending body of the New Testament missionary.<sup>4</sup>

In other words, it is the church’s job to do missions. The church has the point or responsibility for taking the Gospel to the nations, or ethnos, and making disciples.

That is why here at Liberty Baptist we have sought to make sure that we are active in developing and leading out in mission projects that focus on reaching the nations. We have chosen to do our missions work and not farm out our missions work to a mission board or a para-church agency. This is not the case with most churches. Many churches have pawned off their missions responsibility to other groups, so they would not have to do the hard work of missions.

To illustrate this, one study has shown that when it comes to giving from churches in America, approximately 87% of the money stays right here at home. Another 12% goes to foreign places that already have churches and the Gospel. When it comes to those unreached peoples of the world who have no access to the Gospel, a paltry .03% is given by American churches to help reach the unreached.

**Challenge for us:** The exciting part of all this is Matthew 24:14. If we take our responsibility seriously in reaching the unreached nations, then we can directly participate in hastening the second coming of Christ.

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<sup>4</sup> A Biblical Theology of Missions by Dr. George W. Peters, page 219

Wednesday November 10

**Focus**

Matthew 15:22-28

This is one of the most fascinating scriptures in all the New Testament. Here we have Jesus among a group of people and, all of a sudden, a woman who was not Jewish came crying to Him for help. His response is not what we would expect. He tells her He was not sent to help her but instead to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. She asks again and this time it sounds worse. He tells her it is not good to give what is holy to dogs. Finally she gives an answer that shows she knows who He is and He heals her daughter of demon possession.

When you first look at this verse, it is puzzling because it makes Jesus look mean. But if we look closer, we can see something so much deeper. You see Jesus, upon coming to live among us, had been given a task by His Father. That task was to go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel and share about repentance and the forgiveness of sin. He had a goal and did not want to divert from that goal. In modern day language, we would say he was staying on task. He did, for a brief moment, divert from that goal to help this lady. But He immediately turned around and went back to the accomplishment of His task.

This is a good example for us to follow in church missions today. Most churches try to do as many things as possible, but are not focused on anything. I call this ping-pong. Whatever

missions project comes their way, they do it. They are very proud of how much they do. How much is not nearly as important as how well.

Instead of doing a hundred things half way, maybe it is best to focus our efforts and do a few things well, like Jesus. Ping-pong churches will have little long-term impact on this culture or a foreign culture.

In our missions ministry we have sought to follow Jesus' example by focusing on several strategic areas here and around the world. As a friend of mine says "the cross is deeper than it is wide". That is our desire, to go deep and do a great job in a few areas, instead of going wide and doing a halfway job in many areas. The results speak for themselves. Jesus poured His life into 12 men and these men, in turn, have had the most profound impact on all of history.

**Challenge for us:** How thin are you spread out in your ministry? Do you have a few things that you have chosen to focus upon and do well or are you ping-pong all over the place? Do you have a lot of half-done projects that you promised to do and cannot seem to complete, or are you completing those projects with excellence. As individual believers and as a church, we need to remember that God does not call us to do everything. We will be much more effective, if we follow Jesus and focus on a few things and do them well.

Thursday November 11

**Taking the Gospel Where it Does Not Already Exist**

Romans 15:20-21

The Navy SEALs is an amazing group of men. Several years ago, an ex-Navy SEAL was sharing some of the training exercises he had to perform. Things like swimming 5 miles in the ocean after viewing the movie Jaws; running miles down the beach with a jeep right on his heels; and exiting a submarine from 130 feet down were just a few of his adventures. All this training was for one purpose: to be able to be the first team into an area of conflict. They are the guys that land on the beach first, before all the other troops arrive.

This is a picture of what Paul was saying in this passage. He was a Navy SEAL in the Christian world. He was the first guy to go into an area where the Gospel was not present, which was almost everywhere during those days. He went to places that had never heard of Jesus and His work on the cross. He went to places where people were not only indifferent to the Gospel; they were opposed to his teaching.

Paul's desire to take the Gospel where it has not been preached is something for us here at Liberty Baptist to emulate. We have a great opportunity to be one of those churches that is the first into an area of our community or the world with the Gospel. Many times Christians tend to settle into ministries that are comfortable and safe. We end up doing the same ministry because it is safe and

comfortable for us. We also end up going to places that have already heard about Jesus many times over. The reason we continue going back is because these places tend to be in easier countries or locations.

Paul was not like this. He was willing to go anywhere and especially those places where there was no Gospel witness. We should seek to follow his lead in this adventure.

**Challenge for us:** Take Paul's desire to share the Gospel where it does not exist. Like a Navy SEAL, Paul had to go through a lot of training from the Lord before the church sent him out. It takes a lot of training to go to the places where the Gospel is not prevalent, but that is no reason for us to avoid those places and ministries. In order to see the Gospel penetrate areas here and around the world, it will take Christians who are willing to put forth the discipline and training necessary to take the Gospel to our world.

Friday November 12

**Safe?**  
Matthew 10:28

Many times when people get ready to go on a mission trip, I hear the same question. The question most often asked is, "Is it safe?" To answer that question, I would like to share what one of our missionaries said right before leaving to go to a place that some would say is not safe. This missionary wrote:

"We have been talking and praying about going to Northern Africa lately...a lot. So much is said and shared regarding our safety and the safety of the people who may desire to receive Christ as their savior. Questions constantly arise regarding our own safety, as we go to a volatile place, and a harsh climate... so many fears, concerns, and worries. God has spoken, and clearly, to me about HIS heart on the matter. It is neat! It is true!

God's definition of "safety" is totally different from ours. We sometimes "expect" God to keep us safe. That can mean many different things. Safety to us can mean that we stay healthy. It can mean that He keeps our families alive and free from disease. It could mean that He keeps us safe from enemies in this world. It can mean that He keeps us safe from danger. That He protects us from death... that He would never send us into the midst of discomfort, danger or death.

BUT Safety to Him means... saved. That's it. Those that are saved are safe. Those that aren't are in grave danger. The only kind that really matters. AND if we are safe...saved, then anything... ANYTHING could happen and we would still be SAFE! Forever! Praise God!!!!

Do not be afraid. He has promised to be with us always! AND He has SAVED us! Wow! There is truly nothing to fear. There is truly no reason to tell Him "no". He has thought of everything... even possible "consequences" when He calls. And His view of the consequences is that His perfect will is being accomplished. His ways are truly, truly NOT our ways."

**Challenge to us:** What is it that we fear? Many times, it has more to do with things that are way less important than death. It may be finances or fear of what someone thinks of us. In any case God is bigger than our fears and He is with us.

Monday November 15

**Sending Them Out**  
3 John 1:7-8

Have you ever been lonely? Not just alone, but lonely. It happens to a lot of people, whether they are married or single. Whether they are in a crowd or all alone at home. Loneliness is not always determined by our location. One of the main problems with loneliness is that it can be a prime time in our lives for Satan to attack.

If you have ever been in a lonely situation, then you understand what all our missionaries go through on a regular basis, living in a foreign culture. They pack up, leaving loved ones, their home church, friends and a familiar culture behind to serve God in a foreign place. Many times they are in places where they are the only English speakers within their whole area. Sometimes in the life of a missionary the longing for familiar places, language and people can be so overwhelming that they are prime targets for Satan's attacks.

One of the ways missionaries combat loneliness is to reach out to others. Instead of thinking of what they are missing back home, they think how can they reach out to others to serve them. Doing something to help someone else is a great way to begin to get away from our own selfish thoughts and turn our thoughts to others who need our encouragement especially if that person is ill, or less fortunate than we are in life.

At Liberty Baptist that is why we have developed a strategy called missionary support teams. These teams are designed to help our missionaries overseas know that they are loved and thought of often. While we will never be able to stamp out loneliness, we can help stem the tide of loneliness in their lives by connecting with them on a regular basis. By doing this, we feel we are also helping them ward off attacks from the enemy and, therefore, helping their ministry.

**Challenge to us:** We pray that the people of Liberty Baptist Church will remember to pray for our missionaries. Whenever I feel like complaining, I remember that we, as a church, have some dear people living in some very rough places around the world. Please pray for our missionaries.

Tuesday      November 16

### **To The Least of These** I John 3:17-18

Sometimes we Americans do not realize how good we have it. Take, for example, the man who was being interviewed by ABC's 20/20, a news magazine show. He was standing in a food line. A reporter came over and asked if he was poor. The response was of course he was; he was very poor, he said. Then the reporter began to ask things like, "Do you have a TV? An apartment? Furniture?" His reply was yes to all those questions. The reporter was quite stunned that this man felt he was poor, when he had so much.

Here in America, we do have so much. In Genesis 12, it tells us that we are blessed, so that we can be a blessing to others. When God blesses us, He does it for a reason. He gave us all that we have, not to spend it all on our pleasures, but so that we could be a blessing to others. This passage in 1 John is a good word to us here in America. If

we have been blessed, then He desires us to bless others by sharing what God has given us.

This is the basis behind much of what Liberty does through our Mission Daystar ministry. Daystar takes those things that people no longer need and give them to people less fortunate than those who gave it. It is a way that the body of Christ here at Liberty can bless others in the community.

**Challenge to us:** It is always good to remember that our blessings are given to us by God. We must always be thankful to Him for His provision. But here is a challenge for us to think through. The next time we see someone in need, instead of giving old discarded things, think about giving them something new. Giving away something you do not want is easy, but giving something of value, well that is a true test of our devotion to the Lord.

**Prayer:** Pray for Mission Daystar and the people working there. Pray that God would raise up more people and ABF classes to help on Saturdays. Pray for Carolyn Fedder as she seeks to lead Daystar.

Wednesday November 17

**Treasure**  
Matthew 6:21

You can always tell what is important to people. If something holds great value in their heart, it usually comes out in their lives. Like the guy who places great value in cars, he will usually spend a little more and get a good car and he will take great care of it. He usually parks far away to avoid any scratches from other cars and does regular maintenance on the car. It holds great value in his heart.

On the flip side, if people are indifferent about something, they will usually not take care of it. If it is a subject matter they care nothing about, they will not say a word about it. To most men, if you say something derogatory about the ballet, it is no big deal because they could care less about the ballet. Say something about their favorite team or a NASCAR driver, and you have a fight on your hands.

The same is true of churches. What is important to the people of that church is evident in what they do. Some churches have a passion for kids and pour lots of money into the kids' program. Some have a passion for youth and it is evident in their youth program. Sadly some churches have only a passion for themselves. It is evident in the way they spend their budget.

**Challenge to us:** As believers, we need to be diligent about examining our hearts to see what is our treasure. What is it

we pour money into? What is it we are passionate about in our church? One friend working in a church has said that, when they speak about missions or evangelism, his deacons do not say anything. Begin to talk about money and buildings and they come to life.

When we begin to examine our hearts and see our passion line up with His, then we know that our treasure is located in the right place.

Thursday November 18

### **Prayer for the CA People**

Shammu is quite a young man. He lives in a mud hut village in the middle of nowhere. Before he came to Christ, he was a fervent Muslim. He would go daily to the American's home to argue Islam vs. Christianity. He was also a very strong personality. He was known a very mean man in the village where he lived.

Then one day something radical happened. God reached down and grabbed Shammu and brought Him to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Shammu is now radically different. The meanest person is now one of the nicest; so much so, that the local radio station has asked him to share on the radio why he is so different. This is in a Muslim village on a Muslim radio station!

The story does not stop there. Shammu has continued to be a witness in his area, sharing his faith in a hostile area of the world. God is using Shammu. Twenty-two people have now been baptized; and God is working in many more.

This is just one of the many stories we hear coming out of the Chadian Arabs. In 1999, Liberty Baptist adopted the Chadian Arab people group. We made a commitment to work with them until we see churches planted among these people. Their language is not a written language and, therefore, most cannot read. There are some people working to develop a written language, so they can then produce Bibles.

God is doing things among the Chadian Arabs that are amazing. People are seeing visions of Christ and getting saved. Persecutions are taking place and people who have no written word and no way to read the scripture are standing with Jesus in the midst of death.

**Prayer:** Will you pray for the Chadian Arabs? Will you pray that God will plant churches among these people, so that they can know the truth of Jesus Christ.

Friday November 19

### **Pray For The Alawites**

This past year, we signed several partnership agreements. One of those agreements was to work with our missionaries to reach the Alawite people in the Middle East. The Alawite people of Syria and Lebanon are an interesting group of people. In Syria, it is a law that the president of the country has to be an Alawite person. That is due to the fact that they are a minority group. This was instituted so that the Alawites would not be totally cast aside.

While they are Muslim in basic religious beliefs, their form of Islam is very different from that of most Muslims. They read the Koran, but also have another secret book they read and live by. Americans have little knowledge of this secret book. These different beliefs have caused the Alawites to be looked down upon by other Muslims as inferior. The Alawites are perceived as “liberal” by Muslim standards. The women do not cover their heads in public and have adopted many western ideas.

The fact that the Alawites are more liberal and open to other ideas is precisely the reason we feel that we can have an inroad into reaching the Alawite people. They are open to talking to Americans and sharing ideas. Most Muslims would call Christians infidels. Alawites are not as fast to do so.

One of the ways we hope to reach the Alawite people is through a center we are developing for education and the teaching of English. Our goal is to teach English, business classes, and more in order to establish relationships with Alawite people to be able to share the Gospel with them.

**Prayer:** Pray that the various people working in the Middle East can develop strong relationships with the Alawite people. Ask God to open doors to able to share about Jesus with the Alawite people.

Monday November 22

### **Navajo Indians**

We do not have to go real far to find a people group that is in desperate need of Jesus. They are located in a different country in the middle of the desert southwest region of the United States. They are the Navajo Indians of New Mexico and Arizona. In 2004, we signed a partnership agreement to work with the volunteers in Gallup, New Mexico, to reach the Navajo Indians with the Gospel. Currently only about 2-3 % of the Navajo Indians know Jesus.

The Navajo Indians are open to hearing about Jesus. Many will say they accept Jesus, when you ask them about their beliefs in Him. The problem is they already have 46 different gods and they just add Jesus on to that number to make Him number 47. They do not understand the uniqueness of who Jesus is and what He can do in their lives. With a very

high alcoholism rate and unemployment the Navajos are in desperate need of the transformation Jesus can make in their lives.

God has given us a great opportunity to be able to penetrate a small district of the Navajo nation. God has raised up a Christian leader in the area of Church Rock near Gallup, New Mexico. This gives us an open door to be able to share the Gospel where we previously had no access.

Our end goal within the Navajo nation is to see many churches planted and people come to Christ. We hope to also be able to work with an established church just outside of Gallup.

**Prayer:** Will you please pray for the Navajo Indians that their hearts would be open to the Gospel and that we could see a church planting movement begin among the Navajo Indians. Also pray for our team working with the Navajo, that God would give them wisdom and diligence in moving them forward in their strategy.

Tuesday      November 23

### **Prayer For the Ishlyhain Berbers of Morocco**

Last year, Liberty signed an official partnership to work in reaching the Ishlyhain Berbers of Morocco. This is an unreached people group who live in the Atlas Mountains of

Morocco. They have no written language and, therefore, have no Bible in their native tongue.

The Moroccan government, while friendly to the United States, is very opposed to having the Gospel spread throughout Morocco. In fact, they have hired informants that follow the missionaries and others around to spy on them. This can make evangelism very difficult.

Another struggle in reaching the Berbers is that they live high in the mountains. The terrain is very rugged and difficult to travel on. But there are those who have answered the call to go and live among the Ishlyhain Berbers.

There are several avenues that our missionaries are using to reach these people. One is business training. They host classes that the Berber people can take to learn about business. There is a huge problem in this area with poverty and commerce. There are not many jobs available either. So we teach them how to start their own businesses in the hopes of helping them be able to have a better life.

In the process, we also teach business ethics and principles based upon the Bible. Our prayer is that we will be able to develop relationships and discussion about Jesus. In these areas, the right to share the Gospel comes through relationships.

**Prayer:** Please pray for our work among the Ishlyhain Berbers. Pray that the Gospel would go out and the people

would be receptive. Pray that our team would develop strategies that God desires us to do.

Wednesday November 24

### **Meet the Fuhrmann Family**

Meet Jacques and Kim Fuhrmann and their five kids, Samuel, Joshua, Sheila Grace, Hope and Timmy. This family served on staff at Liberty Baptist as Singles Pastor in the late 90's. After hearing a call from God to the mission field, they left our church in 1999 to live among an unreached people group in Africa.

They are currently living in one of the most difficult countries we send missionaries. Besides being 99% Muslim, the day-to-day living is difficult. Temperatures in the hot season can go as high as 130 degrees. Travel in this country is also hard. There are only about 450 miles of paved roads. The rest of the country is desert.

The people are some of the poorest on earth, but God is moving in mighty ways among these people. Since most of the people in this country cannot read, the Fuhrmann family has to find other ways to share the Gospel with the people there. They have found that radio is available to share stories of God's moving and working. They have the Jesus film translated into their language and have found that to be effective in sharing the Gospel.

God has been moving. There are 22 people that have been baptized among this Muslim group and another 30 or so that have chosen to follow Jesus. People are hearing the Gospel in the villages in this area. We believe that this area is key to the Muslim world coming to know Christ.

**Prayer:** Pray for the Fuhrmann family, as they seek to share the Gospel with Muslims. Also pray for them as a family, as they seek to thrive in a barren and hard land. Pray that God would protect their children from any harm.

Thursday November 25

### **Prayer for the Bullis Family**

Meet Wesley and Jera Bullis. They started out their young married lives as members of Liberty Baptist back in 1989. After moving to Richmond to take a new job, God began to move and call Wesley and Jera to missions. They answered that calling and followed God to work with the International Mission Board. Back in the late 90's the Bullis family reconnected to Liberty and have been a part of us for many years. The Bullis family has two kids, Joshua and Jessica.

The Bullis family has served the Central Asian parts of the world for several years. Central Asia is usually considered to be the former Soviet states whose names end in "stan." Wesley handles all the finances for all the missionaries of

this region. This is a huge task, as Wesley is grossly understaffed. In addition to that, he has to travel quite a bit in this region of the world.

The Bullis family has lived in several places, like Singapore, London, and is currently getting ready to move to the Middle East. Jera has also suffered some medical struggles over the past year.

**Prayer:** Please pray for their move to the Middle East. Pray that God will bring Wesley some much-needed help. Pray as Jera seeks to minister to ladies in her neighborhood and reach out to them.

Friday November 26

### **Prayer for The Tilley Family**

Meet Chad and Cyndi Tilley. They have 5 kids Marc, Zack, Nina, Emma, and Rebecca. Back in the late 90's Chad was serving in the Air Force and was a member here at Liberty. In 1996 Chad went on a mission trip to Kenya, Africa, and it was through this event that God called the Tilleys to missions.

Chad currently serves as a missionary pilot flying missions to remote places in Eastern Africa. Some days he flies into Sudan under extreme danger. He has to watch out for fighter jets, small arms fire, and anti-aircraft guns. The Muslim government of Sudan does not like the fact that

Chad and his co-workers fly missionaries into their country. So, they try to shoot them down.

Cyndi is a stay-at-home mom home schooling their kids and providing a family atmosphere in Nairobi. Many times she has to care for all their kids alone, as Chad is gone for up to a week at a time.

**Prayer:** Please pray for the Tilley family. Pray that Chad would be safe when flying. Pray for Cyndi as she seeks to teach their kids and manage a household.

Monday November 29

### **Meet the Ackermann Family**

Some of our newest missionaries to go out from us are the Ackermanns. Kurt and Susan have three children and have answered the call to go to El Salvador to work with orphanages in that country. Many of the kids they minister to have been abandoned or come from very poor homes.

God had called the Ackermanns about a year prior to actually being able to leave for the field. They worked in their own business and were very involved in this church and working with a local organization that seeks to help orphanages in Central America.

In El Salvador the Ackermann family seeks to help these misplaced kids by giving them a safe haven to live. They

offer skills they can put to practical use when they leave the orphanage. The kids receive a good education, but also have a chance to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Most all the workers in the orphanage are believers set on making sure the kids are led to understand how much God loves them. Some of the kids have come out of street gangs to a saving knowledge of Jesus.

**Prayer:** Please pray that the Ackermanns, as new missionaries, can acquire the language skills necessary to communicate effectively. Also pray for the Ackermann kids that they will learn the culture well and feel at home. Pray that this family will be used of God to share the Gospel among the orphans and in the community where they live.

Tuesday      November 30

### **Meet Ben**

(Last name withheld for security reasons)

Shortly after graduating from college, Ben was off and running. With a new engineering degree, Ben set out for one of the most difficult places to serve. Ben's job was to use his engineering skills to help the people in this Central Asian country. His goal was to be able to use his skills in a practical manner, while also providing the people with the good news of Christ.

Ben has been in this country for over a year now. He has done well learning the language and developing relationships with local people. He has had opportunity to share his faith and found several that are believers. Ben has also developed an oven that can be used in a practical way, using the sun for the heat. This is very practical, since wood and electricity are not in abundance in this country.

Ben recently moved to a new location to begin some work there. Since Ben is single and moving to a new location, it can get lonely and very tough at times. He has also taken on the task of teaching math to some of the locals. Ben has a great opportunity to reach a Muslim area of the world with the Gospel.

**Prayer:** Pray that Ben will not be lonely and that Satan will not be allowed to attack him. Pray that Ben is able to clearly present the Gospel and that a group of believers would rise up around Ben.