WORLD MISSION

Devotional

DIOCESE
OF
WEST TEXAS

5th Edition
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Grace to you and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord!

Thanks be to God for drawing you to serve as missionaries and to assist the whole Diocese of West Texas in reclaiming our calling to be a missionary people.

Jesus makes plain the necessity of doing for others, for the sake of the Gospel and for the spread of God's Kingdom. In his teaching and actions--and in the movement of his life--Jesus leads us to "get over ourselves" and love others as he loves us. He tells us that anyone in need is our neighbor and that in caring for others we are caring for him. He shows us in his miracles that grace and mercy--and the power of God's love--are available to all. As he washes his disciples' feet, he teaches us that no act of kindness and compassion is too small or beneath us.

This life and mission to which we are called as followers of Jesus is captured in our Baptismal Covenant when we are asked, "Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?"

Wherever you go as part of a mission team and in the Name of Christ, you will find Jesus in the people you serve and in those you serve alongside. You will find that Jesus got there before you! His Spirit will be moving to draw you closer in friendship to those you meet and to bind you with joy and encouragement to your fellow team members. Jesus says

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that in laying down our lives we will receive real life. In the many small sacrifices you will make during your mission and in the many ways you will offer your time and your talents, you will indeed find life as our Lord promises. You will be given grace and strength to bless others...and you will be blessed so much more by them!

Finally, when you return home, you will likely be different and look at those around you differently. (Pray that this is so.) One of the gifts that missionaries receive is to become a means by which their home churches are rekindled to serve Christ locally.

Thank you for offering yourself in the service of Christ and his Kingdom. Day by day, may you "walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God."

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Bishop David Reed
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TEAM LIST

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PRAYERS

Praying A.C.T.S.

• Adoration
• Confession
• Thanksgiving
• Supplication

Praying with A.C.T.S

Use scripture to assist you if words don't come easily. This can be the springboard for your own conversation/contemplation. Scripture may trigger new ways to pray with this format, i.e., new words for praising God.

Journaling using this format can bring clarity and can be used for review on "dry" days. It also helps structure journal entries if writing is difficult. It is the best way to keep track of answers to prayer and the work of the Holy Spirit in bringing forth "fruit" in your life.

When praying aloud for someone, this format keeps everyone on track and relieves the burden of finding the "right" words. It keeps the prayer focus on God and his interface in the person's life. In a group setting it allows for multiple expressions of praise, thanksgiving, and supplications and is comfortable for most people.
Praying the Psalms through A.C.T.S.

Adoration

Psalm 8  "O Lord our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth."
Psalm 18  I love you, O Lord, my strength."
Psalm 19  "The heavens are telling the glory of God..."
Psalm 29  "Ascribe to the Lord..."
Psalm 45  "My heart overflows with a goodly theme..."
Psalm 47  "Clap your hands all you peoples..."
Psalm 48  "Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised..."
Psalm 84  "How lovely is your dwelling place..."
See also Psalms 113, 117, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150

Confession

Psalm 51  "Have mercy on me O God according to your steadfast love..."
Psalm 38  "O Lord do not rebuke me in your anger of discipline me in your wrath..."
Psalm 139  "O Lord you have searched me and you know me..."

Thanksgiving

Psalm 40  "I waited patiently for the Lord, he inclined to me and heard my cry..."
Psalm 65  "Praise is due to you God..."
Psalm 75  "We give thanks to you O God..."
Psalm 92  "It is good to give thanks to the Lord..."
Psalm 96  "O sing to the Lord a new song..."
Psalm 103  "Bless the Lord O my soul..."
See also Psalms 66, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 111, 118, 136

**Supplication**

Psalm 16        "Protect me O God, for in you I take refuge..."
Psalm 25        "To you O Lord I lift up my soul..."
Psalm 42        "As a deer longs for water..."
Psalm 55        "Give ear to my prayer..."
Psalm 56        "Be gracious to me O God..."
Psalm 59        "Deliver me O God..."
Psalm 16        "Hear my cry O God, listen to my prayer..."
Psalm 86        "Incline your ear O Lord, and answer me for I am poor and needy..."
Psalm 88        "O Lord, God of my salvation, when at night, I cry out in your presence, let my prayer come before you..."

See also Psalms 130, 142, 143
Team Prayers

In the Morning

From Psalm 51

Open my lips, O Lord,*
    And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,*
    And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence*
    And take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Give me the joy of your saving help again*
    And sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*
    As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

Amen.

A Reading

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
(I Peter 1:3)

A period of silence may follow.

Sharing from the morning devotion is encouraged at this time. Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect (or other prayer printed in this devotional)
Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

At the Close of the Day

Psalm 134

Behold now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,*
You that stand by night in the house of the Lord.
Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the Lord.*
The Lord who made heaven and earth bless you out of Zion.

A Reading

Lord, you are in the midst of us and we are called by your Name:
Do not forsake us, O Lord our God. (Jeremiah 14:9, 22)

Lord, you now have set your servant free*
To go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,*
Whom you have prepared for all the world to see
A Light to enlighten the nations,*
And the glory of your people Israel.

Team sharing followed by prayers for others and ourselves may follow. It is appropriate that prayers of thanksgiving for the blessings of the day and penitence for our sins be included.

The Lord's Prayer
The Collect (or some other prayer printed in this devotional)
Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless us and keep us. Amen.
30 Days before Departure

*It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth. Isaiah 49:6*

In a modern World Mission sense, one might reflect on this passage as follows:

It is not enough to sit comfortably in church on Sundays and reflect upon our honorable deeds among the like-minded. We must also go forth to serve the needy and shine the light of the Gospel upon the unchurched, wherever in the world they may be found.

God's truth for today:______________________________
Jesus said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:7-8

When we started our ministry in Honduras, I do believe we were called by the Holy Spirit, but I'm not sure who was in charge of the veterinary team--the Holy Spirit or me. I made lists, deadlines, worried, set objectives, and, to be honest, did very little praying or listening to see what the Holy Spirit or the Honduran people wanted.

As the years progressed, I was amazed at how easy this ministry was done when it was God's work, not mine. Yes, things did not happen overnight...but sometimes they did.

A few years ago, a nurse and her husband went into the schools to make some observations. The second day, she said that some of the children could not see the computer screens of the XO laptops provided by The Owen Project. Also, she felt sure they didn't have a sufficient diet. The government supply to the schools was always short.

After returning home, we agreed the problems of poor eyesight and malnutrition were clear needs. We ordered a machine to check the children's eyes, not having the cash to pay for it. In the next week, a donor gave us a check within $100 of the amount of the purchase. The donor didn't know the cost or the need. If that was not the Holy Spirit at work, then what is?

God's truth for today:________________________________________________________
28 Days before Departure

All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord and all the families of the nations will bow down before Him. Psalm 22:27

As Christians who love and want to serve the Lord, we long for all the world to know what the love, grace and power of Jesus has done in our lives and can do in the lives of everyone.

As missionaries, we do not have the opportunity to reach all the ends of the earth or meet all the families of the world. But today, God has given you and your team a special place and a special people with whom to work and share the love of Jesus.

As you go through this day, remember all the amazing things that God has done for you. Share them with your mission partners and ask them to share with you what God has done in their lives. Then in this special place where God has called you, you can bow down together in praise and thanksgiving for His goodness and never failing love.

Together you will be planting seeds of love and understanding and God will make them grow in wonderful and sometimes unexpected ways. Pray that these seeds will be planted all around the world so that all of God’s people will know and worship Him, bringing all of us together in the power of His love.

St. Paul quotes Isaiah in Romans 10:15, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news." How beautiful your day will be as you share the good news of Jesus!

God's truth for today__________________________________________
27 Days before Departure

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. Revelation 7:9

This vision relates to those of every nation, tribe, people and language who have accepted Christ as their Savior and who stand equal before him, having trusted their lives to him throughout the trials they have encountered during their time on earth. They are equal in purity and are celebrating his triumph over all evil. All are his valued servants, and none of them stands above another.

If we can accept one another as equal citizens of this world and focus on Christ’s example, helping one another to the best of our abilities, and allowing others to help us, then we do not need to fear whatever may happen to us.

God's truth for today_________________________________
26 Days before Departure

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15

I can’t think of any missionary, involved in any type of ministry who would not be inspired by this scripture. In Honduras, Guatemala, and now Nevis we practice a kind of “preaching” that is called “The Way of Saint Francis”.

Legends tell of the boundlessness of Saint Francis’ love and wonder, a love so great, so compelling, that birds and other animals were drawn to him. His gentleness and care “spoke” to every creature.

I believe that Christian love, love for one’s neighbor and all of creation, is distinctive and immediately recognizable when practiced with humility and abandon. Along with XO tablets and laptops, we take the gospel of love to rural school children and we hope that our “way” might touch a part of them that is full of joy and hope.

God’s truth for today________________________________
Christy grew up in an atheist household and was taught that there was no life after death. She believed this life on earth was the only chance to really live. That started to change when her five year old son was suddenly and tragically killed. The questions bubbled up, and the work of God began in her life. As her friends, my husband, and I surrounded her in belief, she struggled to find her own. We prayed for her, and we asked our faith community to do the same.

Sometimes our belief in the power of the transformative love of Christ, proclaimed on behalf of another, provides the hope for them to move forward through the questions of faith. When they can’t believe it for themselves, we believe it for them until they can. We surround them in love and affirm their way to the cross, holding their hands until they can walk on their own.

Christy started coming to our church’s worship service and to fellowship events. She still has so many unanswered questions, but she joins a devoted community of Christ as she seeks the answers. She is learning to walk in faith, and she is experiencing the power of God in community as the Church envelopes her in the love of Christ. And it will be a glorious day when she decides on her own to fully believe. For now, we surround her with the power of God and believe for her until she is able to believe for herself.

God's truth for today_____________________________________

25 Days before Departure

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.
Romans 1:16

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God's truth for today_____________________________________

16
24 Days before Departure

*People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."* Mark 10:13, 14.

Jesus was often criticized for spending his valuable time with children instead of important, influential leaders. He absolutely loved the children and poor people who really needed him. Spending time with them must have been a blessing to him as well. The children loved and trusted Jesus because he took time to be with them. I'm sure his love for them gave them a wonderful sense of security just being beside him. The children can trust Jesus while adults find this childlike trust much more complicated with our doubts and fears. We are full of distractions.

A friend recently asked my advice on a first mission trip. My answer as an artist best describes the analogy of mission, painting, and faith. When I begin a painting, the canvas is white and blank. It takes prayer first, then courage to strike out into a blank idea of outcome. When I leave the leading to prayers, I can see God's plan.

We are called to see with new insight--like a child who trusts God's fatherly leading. This "new" seeing is the faith part, letting God lead. There are universes of color and form yet to be discovered. This seeing is not unlike a child's willingness to trust, imagine, love.

Wonders are unfolding.

God's truth for today

17
23 Days before Departure

For this I will extol you, O LORD, among the nations, and sing praises to your name. Psalm 18:49

For what do we thank God, and why do we praise him? I thank God for life, for creation, those whose lives are closely linked with mine, my husband, children, family, friends, fellow followers of Jesus, and those people God puts in my path across the world who I never dreamed I would meet and come to call friends.

I praise God because praise turns my heart toward seeing God at work in my life and in the life of the world, in creation, in people, and because it turns my heart into an instrument of gratitude for the blessings that flow out of those relationships. From the friends I have broken bread with in Belarus who remain in my prayers and in my life, especially the babushka and the beekeeper who light up a remote village with laughter and joy, to the people reached by the ministry of Isle of Hope. I thank God for the children who capture my heart in Haiti, and the relationships I have made there that continue to change me and form me to understand more about what it means to be the Church.

I thank God for continuing to call me into the mission of the Church: to spread the reconciling unconditional love of God to all people far and near, in the church, in the community, and in the world. I praise God for the promise that wherever I go, God is already present, simply inviting me to be the hands, feet, eyes, ears, and heart of Jesus, seeking and serving the Christ in the other. What a humbling and transformational invitation for which I am thankful.

God's truth for today_______________________________
22 Days before Departure

Now the Lord said to Abram "Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you." Genesis 12:1

Have you ever heard the voice of God speaking directly to you – perhaps like the voice of Morgan Freeman booming from a cloud-shrouded mountain? Probably not, at least not me or most people I know. Yet Abraham, like Moses and many other characters in the Bible apparently did receive such messages directly from God. But in the millennia since, it seems that God has changed from direct voice callings to using other less direct methods of communication.

In my experience, most of God’s messages come through other people. God called Abraham to leave his comfortable home, family, and country to go to a foreign land. God promised that he would be greatly blessed and would bring God’s blessing to the new nation he would establish. Abraham said “yes.”

Jesus calls us to step out of our comfort zone into an unfamiliar land and people, trusting in the Holy Spirit. We, too, are promised that we will be blessed and will be the instruments of blessing to those strangers we serve.

We learn from Abraham that God does not require perfection. We need only to have faith that God knows and will overcome our shortcomings to discover what surprise blessings he has in store for us and those to whom we are called.

God’s truth for today________________________
21 Days before Departure

“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” I Peter 2:24

It is not easy to take on or carry the suffering of another person. We can become flooded by needs and grow numb inside to human suffering—even our own. How do we follow the example that Jesus gave us of suffering with others that we might know God’s healing in our lives?

One summer day in Western Oklahoma two pick-ups pulling horse trailers pulled into the gravel parking lot of Whirlwind Mission. I watched the horses being unloaded, and then I noticed an elderly Cheyenne woman in bright clothes heading my way, none other than Margaret Behan, a member of the Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers. She was beginning a 1,400 mile journey to retrace the Northern Cheyenne Exodus of 1878 where members of her tribe died escaping forced relocation.

We met behind the mission; she took my hands and began to cry remembering the stories of her Cheyenne people who suffered on the reservation. This was the first time I felt one person carry so much generational pain for others.

Later Margaret said “It is through remembering and dialogue that we begin to heal.” Listen this week in your prayers about how God is inviting you to enter the pain of another person because it just might be your pain God is wanting to heal.

God's truth for today__________________________________________
20 Days before Departure

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9*

24/7. We know that phrase: Personal injury lawyers are ready to take your call; customer service at your bank; emergency medical care; Walmart--24/7. And, how about you—a mission-minded person. Are you 24/7? Even Jesus didn’t do 24/7. Think how often he pulls back from the crowds and takes a little break. But then Jesus is right back in the middle of it—seeing the crowds without a shepherd. And that is why he called you and sent you to mission work.

It can wear you out. You love the Lord and the people he has sent you to serve, but the trip is ending. You haven’t got much left in you. It is times like this that you need to take a deep breath and remember exactly what you are doing.

The vocation of all Christians is grounded in sharing the love of Jesus Christ—whose love for us is the model for everything we do in his name. And in the unpredictable environment of mission work, you can’t always control the timing. But St Paul's counsel can help: “Let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart” (Galatians 6:9).

So, model your mission life on Jesus: He knew his limits, sought rest, prayed to his Father, and then went out again. The duty of Christian generosity can be exhausting; so plan your 24/7 to make the best of the work that God puts in your path: rest, pray, sleep, eat, go with Him.

God's truth for today__________________________________________
Then He said to them, “The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” Luke 10:2 (NKJV)

I have made seven mission trips to Africa. The journey is long and arduous - especially when flying for 20 hours in coach. I dread being driven for hours over miles of rutted, rough roads that leave me tense and sore from bracing myself against being thrown about. I find no joy in this part of mission. It takes a clear calling to keep on doing this year after year. I am not surprised Jesus would say the laborers are few. This is not easy work.

And yet the harvest is plenty. The testimony of those whose lives are transformed by new hope and direction that only Jesus can give is overwhelming. We teach life skills, technical skills, and open the Scripture to them. That the Holy Spirit would take our humble efforts and use them to reap such a harvest makes the sacrifice of the journey seem so small. We watched a boy become a man who is now a university graduate and beginning medical school. A girl completed business school, and now this young woman has a good job supporting herself and other family members. A young man completed technical school and is a certified electrician, committed to honor Christ with his tithe to his church and offerings to help pay the school fees of those who follow him. A water well we raised money for has opened the door for the Gospel in a city where the only other source of water was from a cult that sold it as “miracle water." Being set free from this oppression has opened many hearts to the One who provides “living water."

Do not doubt that you are making a difference. The harvest is great. Your sacrifice is not wasted. You are loved by the Lord of the Harvest and by those you serve.

God's truth for today______________________________
18 Days before Departure

Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” John 20:21

“Peace be with you!” What a wonderful word from Jesus. Wonderful when he first gave it to his frightened disciples and to us. But peace is much more than you might think. It is a serious word from the Savior, and it means, “May God give you every good thing.” Powerful words from our powerful Lord. Words we can receive with joy because when we are receiving what Jesus gives, we have everything needed because we are being sent into mission.

We are carrying every good thing to the world Jesus redeemed. “As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.” And this means three things for the Church:

First, it means that Jesus needs us. That is humbling isn’t it? He is the Head, and we, the Church, are his Body...doing the works that he did and even more (John 14:12). Jesus has a purpose for your mission work, and he is looking for you to do his work. You really are his mouth, feet, hands. But don’t worry, he has given you every good thing you need.

Second, it means that the Church needs Jesus. Without our sender, Jesus, we have no message, no power, no strength, no leader. Jesus needs us, but we are totally dependent upon him. Let him be your daily bread, lead you, feed you, encourage you, and bless you with all those good things he is giving us daily. There is no mission without him.

And third, it means that we, the Church and Body of Christ, are sent in the same way that the Father sent Jesus. So, like Jesus, we can only be his agents by giving him the same obedient love. “Here am I, send me!” (Isaiah 6:8)

God's truth for today_________________________________
17 Days before Departure

*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2:13*

We tend to think sometimes that as Americans we are automatically Christians or that being born into a Christian family makes us believers--sort of an hereditary privilege. And then Jesus appears in our lives with his invitation to become a child of God, gently reminding us that God doesn't have grandchildren.

Yes, we, too, were once far away needing God's grace and forgiveness just as much as anyone who has not yet heard the Good News. And since we've been brought into the family of God, he now calls us to reach out in his love and share the bounty he's given us in his Son, Christ Jesus.

I remember standing once in Canterbury with a young Ugandan woman who'd come there for a conference. With an anguished look on her face, she asked, "Why do you have so much, and we have so little?" Without going into all the political aspects coloring the issue, I reminded her of all the ways in which the Ugandans have shown us their richness in love, relationship, and especially, in Christ Jesus.

We all can share in the joy of being God's children even as we work together to bring more into this complex and wonderful family. We've all be "far away," but the same precious blood has brought us together as one in him.

God's truth for today__________________________________________
16 Days before Departure

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit-fruit that will last-and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.
John 15:16

Far too many times in life, we hear the unfortunate message that tells us: The more we do - the more we accomplish - the more hours we serve - and the more we “go,” the closer we will get to our Creator.

In the past year though, I have seen God in a whole new and much more authentic way. While in the quiet, in the stillness, and while I allow myself to just sit with God, I am reminded that our Creator isn’t One who chooses us based on our accomplishments or how much we are doing. If we read various stories in the Bible, we see each character filled with flaws, mistakes, hang ups, depression, anxiety, and many of the same things we face today. We see that even as the disciples argued over who ranked best, Jesus quieted them and told them that they did not understand.

We are all chosen, and we all have gifts that God has planted within us, which we can share with others. Your gift may be to love one person, while another person’s gift might be to invite the stranger over for dinner. Instead of exhausting ourselves, I’ve noticed that when we sit in stillness a bit more often, we are reminded that we are enough. Today, and even tomorrow, instead of trying to constantly “do,” I urge you to sit a little longer in silence. Sit and rest -- and perhaps when you go, go a bit slower, with a few more deep breaths. Notice the world around you, and while you’re at it, be sure to notice the God who is choosing you and who has always chosen you.

God's truth for today_______________________________
15 Days before Departure

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!” Isaiah 52:7

Isaiah 52:7 reminds me of the DWTX “Threads of Blessing” ministry in Uganda. This ministry holds annual 5-day needlework workshops for over 200 women from 11 regions of Uganda. The workshop is held at the Nebbi Diocese located in the mountains of northwest Uganda.

These workshops are designed to encourage women to gather as a community, learn organizational skills and help develop their self-confidence. The women work on their needlework pieces, learn new techniques, and hear testimonials and reports on revolving funds they are creating and managing. They also worship, pray, dance, and sing praises to God for all his blessings.

Women call the proceeds they receive from their work “blessings” or “gifts.” They use these funds to pay school fees for their children, buy seed, and build homes for their families. They are also able to provide medical care for themselves and support for orphaned children in their care.

Testimonials include: “I am grateful to God for the gift of my hands;” “God is creating a Sisterhood of Friendship that is crossing tribal boundaries;” “Threads of Blessing reminds me that I can explore the talents that God has given me;” and “The teachings I am getting have changed my life.”

Last year, the ToB returned $43,500 to the women in Honduras and Uganda in needlework sales and scholarships. Being a team member has dramatically changed my life and my spiritual journey with God and his Son Jesus Christ.

God's truth for today________________________________
14 Days before Departure

*He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”*  
*Psalm 46:10*

Be still. What power lies in that small commandment. It seems so small; isn’t being “still” our natural state? Shouldn’t it come so easy to us? We are human beings . . . . shouldn’t being still be a relatively easy thing to master? Yet it is one of the most difficult things for me to do.

I was blessed to be a part of a mission team sent on an exploratory mission trip to Navajoland. Exploratory. A listening trip – to listen and see where God is calling us to partner with our new friends in Navajoland. A time to go and “be still” with God in a new land. Now I am good at jumping in with both feet when it comes to doing things – I can paint, I can build, I can clean with the best of them. I am quite comfortable as a human DOING. But as a human BEING? It was a daunting challenge.

But I found that when I remembered the scripture AFTER the comma, “and know that I am God”; when I remembered who was calling me to “be still”, it became much easier to just be. It became much easier to listen with the ear of my heart, to see with open eyes. To see where God is exalted among the nations and exalted in the earth. One of the highlights of our trip was when I had a few free moments and went and sat outside against a wall, with the dusty wind blowing about me, and closed my eyes, and practiced “being still”. God came to me, right there, and I wasn’t so busy DOING, that I missed him.

God’s truth for today________________________________
13 Days before Departure

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

Mission trips force us out of our comfort zones, often starting with several long airplane flights and van rides to out-of-the-way places. It’s a comfort knowing that we cannot go where God and God’s love are not realities. That doesn’t mean it’s always easy. There is no running water in the Mission House in Goli, Uganda, and a green mamba snake may appear in the washroom (ask Helen Schnelzer about that).

John 3:16, the “gospel in a nutshell” and the “football game verse” (fans hold it up at games), expresses the good news of God’s universal, sacrificial love! God loves all the world, all the forgotten corners and peoples of the world. And God’s love is a self-giving, sacrificial love that goes to the cross for us, and for them. And we have the gift right now of ultimate life, wherever on earth we are.

Nicodemus is a Pharisee, in control. But he’s not totally satisfied because he seeks Jesus at night. In the dialogue leading up to v.16, Nicodemus keeps missing the point, exasperating Jesus. Jesus wants Nicodemus to listen to the Spirit; to allow himself to wander into the unknown into a new life under God’s control and providence. It doesn’t seem to work, but somehow Jesus’ words soaked in, for Nicodemus later helps Joseph of Arimathea with Jesus’ burial.

John 3:16 feels very familiar. But Leslie and I were blessed with a fresh experience of it in a UK parish the Sunday before writing this devotion. The vicar, Greg Cushing, is a close friend from Ridley Hall. Mid-service, he announced he’s leading us in singing the John 3:16 song with hand motions! The motions were unknown to Leslie and me, but we were up-front and joined in clumsily, inspired by this rugby-star-turned-priest and his big grin, we all jumped out of our comfort zones into the Spirit’s joy.

God’s truth for today

28
12 Days before Departure

...and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. Luke 24:47

In all three synoptic Gospels, Jesus instructed his disciples to carry the gospel to all peoples. In Matthew 24:14, Jesus even told the disciples that the gospel being preached in all the world as a witness is a prerequisite to the end. In Romans 15:20-21, Paul stated his aim, which was “to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, last I should build on another man’s foundation, but as it is written: ‘To whom He was not announced, they shall see and those who have not heard shall understand.’”

God’s desire, that all nations should glorify him, will be fulfilled. As disciples of Christ, we are commanded to bring the light of Christ into the dark places where people do not know him. In giving us that command, Jesus has made us co-laborers with Him, empowering us by the Spirit, to bring reconciliation to the nations.

Currently, there are an estimated 7,000 unreached people groups in the world who have never heard Jesus’ name and are in spiritual darkness. Some of them are here in the United States among the immigrants and among university students. People in need of Jesus are living right in our own communities.

The mission of the Church is to make him known so that all peoples will serve and glorify God. But, “How then shall they call on him whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things.’” Romans 10:14-15.

We are living in an unprecedented time in world history, a time of explosive growth in the spread of the gospel. Let us not waste this opportunity. Go, pray, and send, for God’s glory.

God's truth for today______________________________________________
11 Days before Departure

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. II Corinthians 5:20 (NKJV)

The dictionary offers the following definitions for reconcile: cause to coexist in harmony; make or show to be compatible (a landscape in which inner and outer vision were reconciled); make compatible, harmonize, square, make congruent, balance.

All too often on our mission trips we get caught up in the details of what we plan to accomplish only to discover that God has his own plans. Usually our plans miss some factor that we failed to consider or plan for, or we get caught up in some grand idea that turns out to be impractical to implement.

The Sunday before we departed on our sixth Band and Bible Mission, our church held a Jazz Mass. “Amazing Grace” was performed in an unusually captivating way. I decided that would be a wonderful arrangement for our mission. Well, despite my careful attention to the innovative meter, all three bands we worked with performed it in the traditional meter. It was obvious that my plans were not congruent with God’s. Had I attempted to force my innovative interpretation of this old spiritual, harmony would have ceased, and discord would have prevailed. Needless to say, I followed the lead of players in the bands, reconciling my plans with God’s, and our experiences were glorious.

Coincidently, the Bible lessons of the mission focused on God’s gift of grace and so, “Amazing Grace” became the theme song of the mission. When we “relax, and go with the flow,” God is amazing in his directions for our lives and wonderful things happen.

God’s truth for today

30
Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Psalm 105:1

No matter which version of Psalm 105:1 you read, it is all summed up in two phrases: Thanks should be given to the Lord, and tell others his deeds.

I completely relate this psalm to mission work, work done in the name of the Lord serving people. Whether we are digging water wells, serving food, hosting VBS, helping animals or people medically, we are serving his people.

Share what you are doing with others. Get ready to praise the Lord, not just in words but also with your actions. Make the glory of God known in personal praise, working praise, and global witness. Many times the work is hard, and the weather is hot. There are language and cultural barriers. Pray for strength and grace that the Holy Spirit will work through you to do his work. Be an evangelist. You do not have to quote the Bible, but praise God and share his works. Sing and play with the children. It is his work. You are his instrument. When you do, you are sharing his deeds. Give thanks; call out his name; rejoice; sing.

In the many years I have done mission work I have seen first-hand how this comes full circle. One day walking along the railroad tracks I saw the local priest take off his shoes and put them on another's feet. Upon returning to the church, there were 3 new pair of shoes sitting on the church step in the same size. Another time, giving out school supplies, I knew there were not enough to go around--but the priest said, "Just keep giving." And everyone received. We are just his instruments.

God's truth for today_______________________________
9 Days before Departure

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!” Isaiah 52:7

The first five words of this verse instantly bring to mind the grounds of the Nebbi Diocese (Uganda). During my first visit to Nebbi, I was amazed at this view overlooking the Congo. It is a view I never tire of and continue to photograph. The lush green and beautiful flowers are a true testament of God's creation. The locals in this area are blessed with wonderful fruits and vegetables that are available for sale along the roadsides.

During the annual women's Threads of Blessing workshop in Nebbi, it is very common to look around and see dozens of women sitting in the grass, visiting with each other while their hands are busy with their embroidery. When we return home and begin inventorying several hundred pieces of embroidery, it is amazing that most of their pieces depict children playing and daily tasks being accomplished outside enjoying God's creation. I truly believe God's hand guided the powers that be in selecting this particular area for the grounds of Nebbi Diocese.

When talking with friends about Uganda and showing them photos, they are amazed. In thinking of Africa, most assume more of a savanna terrain and not the lush mountains. I often wonder what the "locals" think of their surroundings - do they assume all of Uganda resembles Nebbi? I imagine most of them never have the opportunity to travel far from this area...maybe I'll ask this question on a future visit!

God's truth for today______________________________
8 Days before Departure

...and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

How we picture our relationship with God is quite interesting, and it generally evolves over time. I have witnessed at least four different images of my relationship, and in each God and I take on different metaphors.

The first image is “God is King, and I am a servant." The King is benevolent but demanding. The servant obeys orders and bows and honors the king because he is of a completely different and lower ‘social order’ than his Majesty.

The second image is “God and me as friends." This image develops easily during summer camps and at Cursillos and is quite a relief from the stringent and distant relationship when God was seen as a King. The friendship metaphor feels like God is on my side to help me with my problems.

The third image is “God and me as lovers”. Most religious language doesn’t go this far even though the church is called the bride of Christ. Here one would know and live with God in a way similar to that of marriage: two persons giving themselves to each other without reserve or hesitation.

The fourth image is “God and I are one.” This is the stage of Galatians 2:20 where there is no separation between Christ and himself. Paul’s self has ‘died,’ and what has arisen in its place is the life of God. Paul and Christ are one, and Paul becomes a clear reflection and expression of the life of God in this world – mimicking the Incarnation of God in Jesus.

This fourth stage is the goal of discipleship even while the others stages are worthy in and of themselves. Even an oak tree starts as an acorn!

God’s truth for today______________________________

7 Days before Departing

*God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.* Hebrews 6:10

It has been two weeks since we came back from our mission in Guatemala. I am still in "mission mode." For those of you who have done this, you know....sleepless nights and the struggle to get back into "normal life." My heart is still trying to figure out the lasting imprint I left on those we treated. I think, since I have done this before, it will get easier, but it really does not.

Never in my wildest dreams had I thought I would be blessed in this way. I have had a chance to build relationships, and that is such a treasure. Tomas, the young boy at the market, who followed me after I bought book markers and was interested in who we were and what we were doing. Eventually, we hired him to translate Quiche to Spanish and learned he is fluent in English as well! Sally and Erv, full time missionaries bring to action Christ’s teachings. Karina, who I'm now training for dental assisting. And the people .... Cati's house, seeing those children running through the corn field to hang around Jorge's neck, absolutely priceless.

We treated around 400 patients. Every trip is filled with its uniqueness, admiration to see each team member at work. The doctor carefully educates and advises each person she sees; Jorge puts children at ease so the dentists can work on them. Thinking of the nurses brings a big smile to my face.

Still, I constantly have to remind myself of the starfish story, and be content that I have made a difference in those few we helped.

God's truth for today_______________________________
6 Days before Departing

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!” Isaiah 6:8

Isaiah’s commissioning is one of my favorite selections from the Old Testament. It is full of mystery, awe, and grandeur. All of this awesomeness is juxtaposed by little, mortal Isaiah. There are angels flying around proclaiming the power and glory of God. Their voices shake and darken the temple. Witnessing all of this, Isaiah has a moment of shocking clarity. In the midst of the heavenly host, he understands how limited and impure he is. As if all of this is not overwhelming enough, Isaiah is then touched by a glowing coal from God’s altar.

So, when a voice asks, “Who will go for us?” I would not blame Isaiah if his motivation for stepping forward was one of terror: “Yes, me, I’ll go; anything to get me out of this fearful and awe-full place. If I don’t leave now, God only knows what’ll happen next!” Of course, we don’t know exactly what is going through Isaiah’s mind, but we do know that he stepped forward and offered himself.

What about you, Dear Reader? Why are you “going?” You are embarking on a mission to be, like Isaiah, one who is sent. What is it about this work and this call that appeals to you? Conversely, what is it about this work and this call that repels you?

I think the wisdom of Isaiah’s response is its simplicity. He does not try to be eloquent or give a reasoned and systematic answer. He simply says, “Here am I. Send me.” All that matters is our willingness to answer the call. You have done that! Amen.

God’s truth for today_________________________
5 Days before Departing

*He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Mark 16:15*

What is the Good News? The Good News is that **nothing** can ever separate us from the love of God! God came in the human form of Jesus to tell us and to demonstrate to us that he wants to be with us, walk with us, know us, listen to us, help us...be in *relationship* with us.

He proved that there is nothing that we could ever do, no sin that we could ever commit, that would separate us from his love. We could even murder Jesus in the most cruel, torturous, unforgivable way, and yet, still, he forgives us and loves us.

God continues to call us into relationship with him to know the purest forms of joy, no matter our circumstances. This is great news! He tells us to go to the whole world and proclaim this to every creature.

In mission, we live that good news with others... by walking with them, knowing them, listening to them, helping them and being in relationship with them. In that love journey, we become of one heart and one mind with him, with each other, and with those we are called to serve.

God's truth for today________________________
4 Days before Departing

_He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world._ 1 John 2:2

If your loved ones were in harm’s way, would you willingly risk your own life to see theirs continue? It’s a tough question. And it’s one Jesus answered while bearing the cross in the dusty streets of Jerusalem on the way to his death.

In that moment, he wasn’t thinking of himself, but rather the people he was saving. It’s that absolutely selfless love that saved us. In that moment, he bore all of our sins on his shoulders. Despite the pain, ridicule, and condemnation, he persisted for the betterment of all of us.

Personally, it’s incredibly hard to fathom that kind of love. He allowed himself to be tortured and persecuted so we could prosper knowing that his sacrifice was our saving grace. Wow.

To put it in simpler terms, think of his sacrifice for our sins as a meaningful and honest “I love you.”
Then I saw another angel flying in mid-air, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth – to every nation, tribe, language and people. Revelation 14:6 (NIV)

Two parts of this proclamation stand out – “eternal gospel” and “proclaim….to every nation, tribe, language and people.” Simply put, the “Good News” is for everyone, and it needs to be proclaimed to all, but how does this mandate apply to us? Surely, we are to be recipients, but are we also to be the messenger? Clearly, we are to be both.

Spreading the Gospel is a “team sport.” As Bishop Folts is fond of saying, “There are no Lone Rangers doing the Lord’s work;” the Gospel is to be proclaimed by the Body of Christ. “The body is a unit, though made up of many parts; and though all of its parts are many, they form one body. ...you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part. In the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues.” (1 Corinthians 12:12 & 27-28)

Yes, we are both the recipient and the messenger. This is especially true for those who engage in mission around the globe. When the Threads of Blessing team supports the Women’s Conference in Uganda every year, the miracle of multiple gifts comes into full force. During this annual event, the Body of Christ is vividly manifested in many languages, skin tones and gifts. This mixture produces an extraordinarily telling of the Gospel and the changing of lives. The Bishop is right, proclaiming the Gospel is a “team sport.”

God's truth for today__________________________________________

38
2 Days before Departing

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. Matthew 24:14 (KJV)

Debating current end-time prophesies is not my thing. I trust the Lord when he says “no one knows the time,” so I decided not to write about that in reflecting on this verse. What did come to me in prayer about this devotional is the profound gratitude I have for the “end” of our mission trips.

Sure, I’m happy to get back safely to all the comforts of my home and loved ones (including having clean water whenever I want it), but more than that, I’m always changed by my experience on mission. My heart softens seeing the faith and love of my Honduran brothers and sisters, even in the face of tragedy and lack in their lives. And, if I let that softness prevail, I can allow my beloved mission team partners to minister to me in ways I never expected.

Such was the case several years ago when in the corner of a large hotel lobby in Tegucigalpa, on the last day of our mission trip, I was overcome by the deepest grief over the passing of my beloved sister and nephew in a horrific automobile accident 15 years earlier. I thought I had “moved on” from this sorrow, and I was shocked at how emotional I became sharing their story with my team as part of our devotional that day. As I let my team’s prayers and love wash over me, I was finally really healed, able to breathe deeper and feel calmer than I had in years. I praise God for that healing and for teaching me in a very special way that sometimes the end of something can be a great beginning.

God's truth for today_________________________________
1 Day before Departing

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. 
Acts 13:2, 3 (NIV)

Being called to mission is something I never imagined would happen to me, but it did. I have now been in the mission field for 11 years. Typically, we are called to serve in the Diocese of SE Mexico, where our congregation has a companion church. My husband and I have been “set apart” for mission, and each time we go and our trip is blessed by our congregation, I do feel the Holy Spirit moving not only within me, but in the things we do. We also have a prayer group that prays for us while we are in the mission field. Amazing things happen through these prayers.

Having hands laid on us and our congregation sending us out to serve the Lord in the Mexican community we serve is more powerful to me than words can describe. While we may not perform the miracles that Barnabas and Saul perform, we do get to witness miracles both large and small while serving God’s children.

“Being Sent” to the mission field from our congregation is a humbling, yet powerful, way to serve God. Having hands laid on us brings our congregation with us and helps us to see what God has “called us to do.”

God’s truth for today__________________________________________
**Day of Departure**

*Publish his glorious deeds among the nations. Tell everyone about the amazing things he does.*  Psalm 96:3  (NLT)

Psalm 96:3 is the perfect Bible verse for missionaries. Missionaries do good things for people around the world. The purpose of our doing these good things is to gain the trust and respect of the people we wish to bring closer to God.

When you show your love of God and neighbor, you set a goal for the community you are visiting. When you finish a hard day's work, and you are sitting around talking with your new friends, let them know that your love of God brought you to them. Let them feel the joy you feel about Jesus Christ.

I've overcome a language barrier by simply pointing at a cross around my neck and smiling. The villagers smiled back and pointed to my cross.

God's truth for today________________________________
Second Day

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Psalm 67:1-2

Look how the psalmist keeps changing direction in this psalm, talking to the people then talking to God. It’s as though he is trying to bring God and the people together, trying to bring God into the midst of them, revealing God’s, presence to the congregation.

And look how he continually refers to the nations. In the Hebrew Scriptures, the nations were the Gentiles, all of those out there, beyond Israel, who were not part of God’s chosen people. Yet the psalmist includes them and brings them inside, including them in the gift of God’s blessing.

Whenever we go on mission, we become like the psalmist, working to bring God and the people together, revealing God’s presence already in the midst of them. We proclaim the truth that they are included in the divine blessing, no different than we.

We do this less with words than with presence. When we are present to God’s presence, we experience God’s blessing. This is what we share with the world. Yes, we go and do and build and teach and share, but these are ancillary benefits, at best.

The beauty of going on mission is knowing God’s grace and blessing, feeling his face shine upon us, bearing the light of Christ into the world. In this, God is glorified and God’s glory is seen throughout the world, that all might come within the reach of his saving embrace.

God’s truth for today_______________________________
**Third Day**

*But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.* Acts 20:24

Each year my brother and I continue our backpacking pilgrimage along the Appalachian Trail, and we dream of one day also walking El Camino de Santiago – the Way of St. James – in Spain. On the Appalachian Trail you hear over and over the mantra “hike your own hike.” We’ve come to understand that’s very important because, while we’re together, no one can hike your hike for you, and you can’t hike someone else’s hike. I may find myself going faster or slower than those with me or maybe I’m more energized or tired, and achy. One thing I hold for certain, I’m never really alone. Recently I’ve read it described as “… ‘alone-together’ meaning that while we are moving at our own pace, on our own path, we are also always doing it with others.”

This concept of “alone-together” also works serving in mission. All teams need Go-ers, Send-ers, and Pray-ers. All are important and all work together. “My race”- “my hike” may be serving in any of those roles. While each role is very different, each provides the opportunity for me to serve how the Lord chooses at that time. I’m the only one who can share my story, share how his grace works in my life, and it’s this that he’s entrusted me to share. All the while, I’m part of the team – “alone-together.” Sometimes the journey is challenging; yet I know that, regardless of how rocky the path may get, I can persevere. On mission, as on the trail, there are others around to wait, to encourage, to pick me up. That circles back around to become further testimony of the grace of God in my life. This is joy-full and a “race” I’m blessed to be a part of.

God’s truth for today________________________________
Fourth Day

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matthew 28:19, 20

In his introductory letter to this fifth edition of our Diocesan World Mission Devotional book, Bp. Reed mentions that we need to remember that God is already ahead of us when we go out to do mission and ministry. We don't need to proceed as if we're trailblazers introducing God and his love to strangers. In fact, if you've worked in mission long enough, you've already heard of people who've come to know Jesus through dreams and visions--without our expertise--can you imagine?

One such story (and I've met this man's son) is of a shepherd who was out on a lonely stretch watching his goats. Jesus appeared to him and began telling Bible stories. The man was so excited, he left his flock and ran to the village to share. Of course, most of the folks there thought he'd had too much sun, so he left and went back to his goats.

Not long after, Jesus appeared again and invited the shepherd to follow him. Jesus was so real and so loving that the shepherd accepted and ran again to the village. This time, they'd had enough and chased him from his home.

The shepherd relocated and continued talking about Jesus. He learned more and more, and then he came in contact with some of our "missionaries." He loved to say, "You believe in Jesus because of what you've read. I believe because I've seen him."

God's truth for today__________________________________________
Fifth Day

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you." Genesis 12:1

Think of a person you have looked up to as a role model, as an example to help pattern your own life. What is it about that person that make him or her stand out to you? That person might be a historical figure, friend, family member, or even a fictional character.

As geologist and Christian, one of my heroes is Maj. John Wesley Powell, a man of vision, faith, and determination. He was the first to complete and record an organized exploratory float trip through the length of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River in 1869. It was a dangerous and courageous trip with obstacles and dangers his party would encounter over more than 130 miles of uncharted wild river.

As his name might imply, he was raised in the strong Christian household of a Methodist minister. His faith and vision empowered him to respond to the mission to which he felt called – to step out of his comfort zone into the dangerous unknown again and again – even after companions abandoned him in the face of danger. His dedication inspired me to become more conscientious and active in listening to God’s call in my own work and mission.

John Wesley Powell reminds me of Abraham who was also called to a strange and potentially hostile land, leaving behind his comfortable surroundings. God promised blessings to Abraham and, more importantly, that he would be the agent of blessings to the new nation he would establish. We, too, are called to be agents of blessing to a strange land and people. Perhaps we can turn to one of our favorite role models for inspiration in a faithful response.

God's truth for today______________________________
Sixth Day

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? Romans 10:13, 14

Did you know that in the old days, when people accepted the call to become a missionary, it typically meant literally leaving home, family, and all comfort. Global travel was a matter of months rather than hours crossing one continent for another.

Missionaries of another time packed their worldly belonging in wooden coffins knowing that when they returned home, it would be in that wooden box. Following God's call to preach the Gospel to those who have not yet heard was a costly commitment, but these pioneer missionaries whose hearts were afire with God's love were determined to share God's Good News with those who had not yet heard.

Today, we don't face the challenges of our predecessors, but the commitment is still the same. We are called to preach the Gospel in word and in deed so that those who have not yet heard can know about God's wonderful love and the gift of his Son Jesus Christ.

Be blessed in knowing you are called and be faithful in sharing God's truth wherever you are sent.

God's truth for today_______________________________
Seventh Day

_Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples._ 1 Chronicles 16:24

Some commentaries say that this was a reminder that the people were to be praising and honoring God. The Israelites were a special, chosen people, and they were to exalt God in a way that other nations would see Jehovah God as superior to all other gods.

In the same way, we are to glorify God as we join our brothers and sisters in other lands who might have different worship traditions. In Latin American countries, worship is more subdued but deeply personal. The African nations praise God with boisterous singing and dancing. The Navajos wave feathers and incorporate God's creation in their worship. And so on...

And so we come together declaring God's glory among all people, learning from one another, and declaring him Lord of us all. Style and tradition are trappings; relationship and truth with our Father and each other are the essentials of worship.

Imagine our worship in heaven when we come together--what a large mission service. People from all tribes and nations, people of different colors and ethnicities, people with different languages, all one through their faith in Jesus Christ, worshipping and praising God.

We need to practice glorifying God here among ourselves so that we'll be ready for that heavenly worship.

God's truth for today_____________________________________

47
Eighth Day

_In that day you will say: “Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done and proclaim that his name is exalted...”_ Isaiah 12:4

Years ago I was a teacher in one of our Episcopal day schools. It so happened that I was going through a really rough patch when _The Twelfth Song of Isaiah_ was introduced by the choir. The opening lines are, "Surely, it is God who saves me. I will trust in him and not be afraid." What a balm this was to my bruised and broken spirit.

Isaiah tells us to praise the Lord, to make known what he has done. For some of us that's easier than for others, but we all have something to share about God's faithfulness.

I once heard someone say that a witness in court is only required to report what he saw or personally experienced. We don't have to be a theologian to speak about God's kindness and love to us, which we've all experienced.

All we need is a grateful heart and a willingness to share what was freely given to us. We're going into a new environment, perhaps, a different culture. How do we connect? The bond is love. God has saved us; we are to praise him, proclaim his name, and exalt him.

Anyone can speak that language, and we can all connect in Jesus.

God's truth for today______________________________
Ninth Day

...because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me. 1 Corinthians 16:9

Being a veteran missioner I can relate to Paul's comment to the church at Corinth. I haven't yet had any people oppose me (other than when my children were adamant that I not go to a dangerous part of the world where Americans were targeted), but other obstacles have stood in the way.

Have you been faced with the obstacle of finance? Yes, I'm talking about money to go on mission. Some of you probably have. There's a little hesitancy (possibly a lot) about asking people to support your mission trip, and you might even think about a few other things that might have priority over buying a ticket to a foreign land.

And then there's the obstacle of time. The more we do, the more we have to do. Rather than slowing down, it seems that we sometimes never seem to get ahead of the wave. We're often up to our noses with responsibilities already. How can we add mission to our schedule?

What about the obstacle of talent? What do I have to offer to this team? Once a home designer felt called to participate on a mission team. Although we encouraged her to go, we all wondered how in the world a first-world decorator would minister in the majority-world environment? God knew what he was doing. The team later learned that they were to refurbish the diocesan parish hall.

Thanks for overcoming the obstacles. You will be blessed.

God's truth for today

49
Tenth Day

...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. Matthew 20:28

On our team's first mission to Nebbi Diocese in northwestern Uganda, we all fell in love with the people and were overwhelmed with their deep faith in Jesus Christ. "Having nothing, they possessed all things." They had joy and peace that we did not see with such consistency in our country.

After full days of ministry and sharing, we came together to have evening prayers, music (oh, yes, MUSIC), and times of reflection. And when it was time to say goodnight, the people got up from their seats and crawled on their knees to wish us a good sleep. For most of us, it was nearly impossible not to protest.

And yet, as we have come to know our Ugandan brothers and sisters, we have been moved to accept their servant hearts and attitudes of genuine humility. We've learned that they would be offended if we, in turn, did not accept their gift of love in honoring us as part of the family.

I wonder if Jesus' disciples had that initial experience of horror when he removed his outer garments and took a servant's towel to wash their feet? The King of Glory humbled himself to become a servant, to give himself completely in love and in obedience.

Our Ugandan friends understand.

God's truth for today______________________________
Eleventh Day

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. Luke 19:10

Can you imagine the love that Jesus had in leaving the glory of heaven to come to a place where he would be ridiculed, rejected, unappreciated, tortured, and finally executed? And he did it all knowing what lay ahead of him. Such love.

As recipients of his great salvation, we are compelled to share that love with those who have not yet accessed that precious gift. We go in Jesus' name and wanting other to know the hope and eternal life that we've found in him.

What lost-ness are we called to bring to him? We've opened a door to ministry in Navajoland, and many of us are almost overwhelmed with the losses that are obvious.

Loss of trust due to hundreds of years of broken promises.

Loss of hope due to joblessness, extreme poverty, broken systems.

Loss of respect due to repeated marginalization.

Loss of direction due to polarizing influences.

Loss of health due to water and land contaminants, alcohol, and poor diets.

And yet Jesus came to bring hope and health and respect and direction and to restore trust. He chose US to seek and to restore those who have lost so much.

God's truth for today________________________
Twelfth Day

*If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. I Corinthians 13:2*

We were asked to conduct a retreat for a group of missionaries, a rather atypical mission experience. We usually go and build buildings or stage VBS, treat sick animals, pull bad teeth, teach people how to keep their water safe... All those kinds of things. But this time we were asked to provide spiritual refreshment for the do-ers themselves.

Since you've committed to being on your mission team, you know the drill: weeks of team meetings, preparation, getting supplies together, finding appropriate clothes--besides getting your tickets and immunizations. We did all that, and THEN we started asking about the missionaries to whom we'd be ministering. Minor detail. We discovered that they were from many denominations and all had different ministries. How would we possibly be able to plan a retreat that spoke to each one? We prayed. And we cobbled together what we felt God was telling us to do. And we prayed.

We asked the ministry's leaders to open each day with a devotional time, hoping to break the ice. As we sat back prayerfully, the leader began with THE EXACT THEME WE HAD CHOSEN (without her knowledge). And the next day the same thing happened. Both days a book we had brought as gifts for the missioners was referred to, and everything fell into place.

With all our various gifts, faith, and practices, God's love through his Spirit broke through, and we were one.

God's truth for today______________________________
Thirteenth Day

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16*

Do you find it incredible that God should love THE WORLD so much that he would give Jesus to suffer and die so that no one else would have to pay the penalty for their sins? No more animal sacrifices. No more guilt for being unable to atone for our sins.

And, notice, he loved THE WHOLE WORLD. Not just Europe or the United States. And not just people who worship with a certain tradition or sing a certain type of songs or come together in a particular place.

In fact, Jesus got in trouble because of the strange people he called to participate in God's love—the woman at the well, Zaccheus, tax collectors, publicans. He knew his Father's love was broad enough to encompass everyone, everyone in the whole world.

How to access that love? Believing. Not just an intellectual assent to a nice theology but a heartfelt embracing of Jesus, the Father, and the Spirit and everything they've revealed themselves to be. And a willingness to follow him.

As missionaries we go out to tell and to show God's love. We are not just a charitable organization or relief institution. We are the CHURCH, the Body of Christ, sent to demonstrate Jesus and the profound love that sent him here for the WHOLE WORLD.

That's our calling. Go forth today and share Jesus' amazing love.

God's truth for today______________________________
Fourteenth Day

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. II Peter 3:9

Some of us on mission know that God's pretty patient. Doesn't he have us here? We may have been reluctant to answer the call to go, and it may have taken several invitations before we said yes. But here we are.

God is patient. He brings us along so that we can share what it means to be in the Kingdom of God. He makes us his children so that we can witness to the transformation that we've experienced through his grace, not through any great work that we've done. He uses us so that we can model God at work in a very ordinary human being.

God's plans for his world are good. Repentance just refers to turning away from destruction and to his patient love. Turning away from those things that rob us to that which enriches us. Turning away from death to life eternal.

We have such good news to take to every village and hut and to those who have been waiting. Thanks be to God for calling us and thanks be to God for his patience AND his promises.

God's truth for today ________________________________
Prayers for Mission and Servanthood

O God of all the nations of the earth: Remember the multitudes who have been created in your image but have not known the redeeming work of our Savior Jesus Christ; and grant that, by the prayers and labors of your holy Church, they may be brought to know and worship you as you have been revealed in your Son; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Merciful God, creator of all the peoples of the earth and lover of souls: Have compassion on all who do not know you as you are revealed in your Son Jesus Christ; let your Gospel be preached with grace and power to those who have not heard it; turn the hearts of those who resist it; and bring home to your fold those who have gone astray; that there may be one flock under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray for all who have not received the Gospel of Christ;
For those who have never heard the word of salvation
For those who have lost their faith
For those hardened by sin or indifference
For the contemptuous and the scornful
For those who are enemies of the cross of Christ and persecutors of his disciples
For those who in the name of Christ have persecuted others
That God will open their hearts to the truth and lead them to faith and obedience. Amen.

Heavenly Father, in your Word you have given us a vision of that holy city to which the nations of the world bring their glory: Behold and visit, we pray, the cities of the earth. Renew the ties of mutual regard which form our civic life. Send us honest and able leaders. Enable us to eliminate
poverty, prejudice, and oppression that peace may prevail with righteousness, and justice with order, and that men and women from different cultures and with differing talents may find with one another the fulfillment of their humanity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, who created all peoples in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship and show us your presence in those who differ most from us until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your name. Amen.

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord
of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, by your grace you have given us a new life in Jesus Christ, and by your Spirit you have called us to proclaim his name throughout the nations: Awaken in us such a love for you and for your world that we may so boldly proclaim Jesus Christ by word and deed that all people may come to know him as Savior and follow him as Lord; to the glory of your name. Amen.

Ever living God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall
be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to thee, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly thine, utterly dedicated unto thee; and then use us, we pray thee, as thou wilt, and always to thy glory and the welfare of thy people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Almighty God, whose will it is to be glorified in your saints: Shine, we pray, in our hearts, that we in our generation may show forth your praise, who called us out of darkness into your marvelous light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Grant, Lord God, to all who have been baptized into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ that, as we have put away the old life of sin, so we may be renewed in the spirit of our minds and live in righteousness and true holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ in his earthly life shared our toil and hallowed our labor: Be present with your people where they work; make those who carry on the industries and commerce of this land responsive to your will; and give to us all a pride in what we do and a just return for our labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the
account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Almighty God our heavenly Father, you declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good; for the sake of him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Almighty God, you have so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects for good or ill all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

A Prayer Attributed to St. Francis
Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.
SONG & HYMNS

ABOVE ALL POWERS,
Above all kings,
Above all nature and all created things
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man
You were here before the world began.
Above all kings,
Above all thrones,
Above all wonders the world has ever known
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth
There’s no way to measure what You’re worth.

CHORUS
Crucified, laid behind the stone
You lived to die, rejected and alone
Like a rose trampled on the ground
You took the fall
And thought of me
Above all.

ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS’ NAME!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown him Lord of all!
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown him Lord of all!

Crown him ye martyrs of our God,
Who from his altar call;
Praise him whose way of pain ye trod,
And crown him Lord of all!
Praise him whose way of pain ye trod,
And crown him Lord of all!

Hail him, the heir of David’s line.
Whom David Lord did call,
The God incarnate, Man divine,
And crown him Lord of all!
The God incarnate, Man divine,
And crown him Lord of all!

Ye heirs of Israel’s chosen race,
Ye ransomed of the fall,
Hail him who saves you by his grace,
And crown him Lord of all!
Hail him who saves you by his grace,
And crown him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe,
On this terrestrial ball,
To him all majesty ascribe
And crown him Lord of all!
To him all majesty ascribe
And crown him Lord of all!

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper he amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing;
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great,
And, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing;
Were not the right man on our side,
The man of God’s own choosing;
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth His Name,
From age to age the same,
And he must win the battle.
And though this world, with devils filled,  
Should threaten to undo us;   
We will not fear, for God hath willed   
His truth to triumph through us;   
The prince of darkness grim,   
We tremble not for him;   
His rage we can endure,   
For lo, his doom is sure,   
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers  
No thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours  
Through him who with us sideth,  
Let goods and kindred go,  
This mortal life also;  
The body they may kill;  
God’s truth abideth still,   
His kingdom is forever.

AS THE DEER PANTS FOR THE WATER,  
So my soul longs after you,  
You alone are my heart’s desire  
And I long to worship You.

You alone are my strength, my shield,  
To you alone may my spirit yield,  
You alone are my heart’s desire  
And I long to worship you.

I want you more than gold or silver,  
Only you can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joy-giver  
And the apple of my eye.
You’re my friend and you are my brother
Even though you are a king,
I love you more than any other,
So much more than anything.

**BE THOU MY VISION,**
O Lord of my heart,
Be all else but naught to me
Save that thou art;
Be thou my best thought
In the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping,
Thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom,
Be thou my true word,
Be thou ever with me,
And I with thee, Lord;
Be thou my great Father,
And I thy true son;
Be thou in me dwelling,
And I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate,
My sword for the fight:
Be thou my whole armor,
Be thou my true might;
Be thou my soul’s shelter,
Be thou my strong tower;
O raise thou me heavenward,
Great Power of my power.

Riches I need not,
Nor man’s empty praise;
Be thou mine inheritance
Now and always;
Be thou and thou only
The first in my heart;
O Sovereign of heaven,
My treasure thou art.

High King of heaven,
Thou heaven’s bright Sun,
O grant me its joys
After victory is won;
Great Heart of my own heart,
Whatever befall,
Still be thou my vision,
O Ruler of all.

**BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL,**
O my soul, Worship His holy Name.
Sing like never before, O my soul!
I'll worship Your holy Name.

The sun comes up; it's a new day dawning;
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
Let me be singing when the evening comes.

You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger.
Your Name is great, and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing,
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find:

And on that day when my strength is failing,
The end draws near, and my time has come;
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending:
Ten thousand years and then forevermore!
BLESSING AND HONOUR,
Glory and power
Be unto the Ancient of Days;
From every nation, all of creation
Bow before the Ancient of Days.

Every tongue in heaven and earth
Shall declare your glory
Every knee shall bow at your throne in worship
You will be exalted, O God
And your kingdom shall not pass,
O Ancient of Days.

Your kingdom shall reign over all the earth:
King unto the Ancient of Days
Or none shall compare to your matchless worth
King unto the Ancient of Days.

Gary Sadler & Jamie Harvill. ©1992
Integrity’s Praise!Music/Adm. By Kingsway’s
Thankyou Music

CHANGE MY HEART, O GOD,
Make it ever true;
Change my heart, O God,
May I be like you.

You are the potter,
I am the clay:
Mould me and make me,
This is what I pray.

Eddie Espinosa. ©1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing/
Adm. by CopyCare
COME, NOW IS THE TIME TO WORSHIP,
Come, now is the time to give your heart
Come, now is the to worship,
Come, just as you are before your God,
Come.

One day, ev’ry tongue will confess you are God.
One day, ev’ry knee will bow,
Still, the greatest treasure remains
For those who gladly choose you now.

Brian Doerksen ©Vineyard Songs (UK/Eire) Admin. by MyService

CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS,
The Lamb upon the throne;
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own;
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of him Who died for thee,
And hail him as the matchless King
Through all eternity,

Crown him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o’er the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife
For those he came to save;
His glories now we sing
Who died, and rose on high
Who died, eternal life to bring,
And lives that death may die.
Crown him the Lord of heaven,
Enthroned in worlds above;
Crown him the King, to whom is given
The wondrous name of Love,
Crown him with many crowns,
As thrones before him fall,
Crown him, ye kings with many crowns
For he is King of all!

FATHER WE ADORE YOU/
PADRE TE ADORO (Spanish )

Father we adore you
Lay our lives before you
How we love you.

Jesus, we adore you...

Spirit, we adore you...

Padre te adoro,
Mi vida yo te ofrezco,
Cuanto te amo.

Jesus, te adoro...

Espíritu, te adoro...

FOR I’M BUILDING A PEOPLE OF POWER,
And I’m making a people of praise
That will move through this land by my Spirit,
And will glorify my precious name.
Build your church, Lord,
Make us strong, Lord
Join our hearts, Lord, through your Son.
Make us one, Lord,
In your Body,
In the kingdom of your Son.

Dave Richards. ©1977 Kingsway’s ThankYou Music

FOR THOU, O LORD/SOBRE LA TIERRA (Spanish)

For Thou O Lord art high
above all the earth,
Thou art exalted far above all
gods,
For Thou O Lord art high
above all the earth,
Thou art exalted far above all gods.

I exalt Thee, I exalt Thee,
I exalt Thee, O Lord,
I exalt Thee, I exalt Thee,
I exalt Thee, O Lord.

Sobre la tierra tú eres el Señor,
Y exaltado sobre todo dios
Sobre la tierra tú eres el Señor,
Y exaltado sobre todo dios,
Te exalto, te exalto,
Te exalto oh Señor,
Te exalto, te exalto,
Te exalto oh Señor.
GOD IS SO GOOD

God is so good (x3)
He’s so good to me.

....so good to you

....so good to us

HE IS LORD/ EL SENOR (Spanish)

HE IS LORD, He is Lord,
He is risen from the dead
And He is Lord.
Every knee shall bow,
Every tongue confess
That Jesus Christ is Lord.

El Señor, es el Señor,
Resucitado de la muerte
Es el Señor
Toda rodilla se doblará,
Jesucristo es el Señor.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY,
LORD GOD ALMIGHTY!

Early in the morning
Our song shall rise to Thee:
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.
Holy, holy, holy!
All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns
Around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim
Falling down before Thee,
Who were, and are,
And evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy!
Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man
Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy,
There is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power,
In love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name
In earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy,
Merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons,
Blessed Trinity!

Reginald Heber

HOW LOVELY ON THE MOUNTAINS
Are the feet of Him
Who brings good news, good news,
Proclaiming peace,
Announcing news of happiness,
Our God reigns, our God reigns.
Our God reigns, our God reigns,
Our God reigns, our God reigns.

You watchmen
Lift your voices joyfully as one,
Shout for your King, your King,
See eye to eye the Lord restoring Zion:
Your God reigns, your God reigns!

Waste places of Jerusalem
Break forth with joy,
We are redeemed, redeemed.
The Lord has saved
And comforted His people:
Your God reigns, your God reigns!

Ends of the earth,
See the salvation of your God,
Jesus is Lord, is Lord
Before the nations
He has bared His holy arm:
Your God reigns, your God reigns!

Leonard E. Smith, Jr. ©1974, Kingsway’s ThankYou Music

I LOVE YOU LORD and I lift my voice
To worship you, O my soul rejoice
Take Joy, my King, in what you hear
Let it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

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I’M FORGIVEN
Because you were forsaken
I’m accepted
You were condemned
I’m alive and well
Your Spirit is within me
Because you died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
That you, my King would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it’s true
It’s my joy to honor you
In all I do I honor you.

( tag )
You are my King
You are my King
Jesus, you are King
Jesus, you are my King.

©Billy James Foote

IN CHRIST ALONE MY HOPE IS FOUND
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! – Who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.
There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin’s curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life’s first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of men
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I’ll stand.

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I, THE LORD OF SEA AND SKY,
I have heard my people’s cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.
I, Who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright,
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord, is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night,
I will go, Lord, if you lead me,
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people’s pain,
I have wept for love of them
They turn away,
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone,
I will speak my word to them
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save,
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied,
I will give my life to them,
Whom shall I send?

Daniel L. Schutte ©Published by North American Liturgy Resources, Phoenix, AZ ARR, UBP

JESUS, JESUS,
Holy and anointed One, Jesus,
Jesus, Jesus,
Risen and exalted One, Jesus.

Your name in like honey on my lips,
Your Spirit like water to my soul,
Your word is a lamp unto my feet;
Jesus I love you, I love you.

John Barnett. ©1988

JESUS, WE ENTHRONE YOU,
We proclaim you our King,
Standing here in the midst of us,
We raise you up with our praise,
And as we worship, build a throne,
And as we worship, build a throne,
And as we worship, build a throne,
Come, Lord Jesus, and take your place.
KNEELS AT THE FEET OF HIS FRIENDS,
Silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them.

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with Your love,
Show us how to serve the neighbors we have from You.

Neighbors are rich and poor,
Neighbors are black, brown, and white,
Neighbors are nearby and far away.

These are the ones we should serve;
These are the ones we should love;
All these are the neighbors to us and You.

Loving puts us on our knees,
Serving as though we were slaves:
This is the way we should live with You.

LIFT HIGH THE CROSS,
The love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world
Adore His sacred Name.

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The Hosts of God in
Conquering ranks combine.

Each newborn servant of the Crucified
Bears on the brow
The seal of Him who died.
So shall our song of triumph ever be;  
Praise to the Crucified  
For victory.

**LORD, THE LIGHT OF YOUR LOVE is shining,**  
In the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us,  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us,  
Shine on me, shine on me.

Shine, Jesus, shine,  
Fill this land with the Father’s glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
Set our hearts on fire,  
Flow, river, flow,  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
Send forth your Word, Lord,  
And let there be light.

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,  
From the shadows into your radiance;  
By the blood I may enter your brightness,  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness,  
Shine on me, shine on me.

As we gaze on your kingly brightness  
So our faces display your likeness,  
Ever changing from glory to glory,  
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story,  
Shine on me, shine on me.

MAJESTAD (Spanish) MAJESTY
Majestad, adorad su Majestad,
A Jesus sea Gloria, honra y loor
Majestad, reino y autoridad,
Fluyen del trono hacia su pueblo,
A El cantad,
Exaltad y proclamad el nombre de Cristo,
Magnificad, glorificad a Cristo el Rey,
Majestad, adorad su Majestad,
Jesus quien murio y se glorifico,
De Reyes es Rey,

Majesty, worship His Majesty,
Unto Jesus be all glory, honor and praise,
Majesty, kingdom authority,
Flow from His throne unto His own,
His anthem raise.

So exalt, lift up on high,
The name of Jesus,
Magnify, come glorify
Christ Jesus the King,
Majesty, worship His majesty,
Jesus who died, now glorified,
King of all kings.

(Cant 98 Songbook)

MEN OF FAITH, rise up and sing
Of the great and glorious King;
You are strong when you feel weak,
In your brokenness complete.

Shout to the north and the south,
Sing to the east and the west;
Jesus is Savior to all,
Lord of heaven and earth.
(last time) Lord of heaven and earth,
Lord of heaven and earth,
Lord of heaven and earth.

Rise up women of the truth,
Stand and sing to broken hearts,
Who can know the healing power
Or our glorious King of love.

We’ve been through fire,
We’ve been through rain,
We’ve been refined
By the power of His name
We’ve fallen deeper in love with you,
You’ve burned the truth on our lips.

Rise up church with broken wings;
Fill this place with songs again,
Of our God who reigns on high;
By His grace again we’ll fly.


MY JESUS, MY SAVIOUR,
Lord, there is none like you,
All of my days I want to praise,
The wonders of your mighty love,
My comfort, my shelter,
Tower of refuge and strength,
Let every breath, all that I am,
Never cease to worship you.
Shout to the Lord all the earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King,
Mountains bow down
And the seas will roar
At the sound of your name,

I sing for joy at the work of your hands,
Forever I’ll love you, forever I’ll stand
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

Darlene Zschech. ©1993

O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING,
My dear Redeemer’s praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace.

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim
And spread through all the earth
The honors of Thy name.

Jesus! The Name that charms our fears
And bids our sorrows cease;
‘Tis music in the sinner’s ears
‘Tis life and health and peace.

He speaks; and listening to His voice,
New life the dead receive,
The mournful hearts rejoice,
The humble poor believe.

Glory to God and praise and love
Be now and ever given
By saints below and saints above,
The church in earth and heaven.
O LORD MY GOD
When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works
Thy hands hath made,
I see the stars,
I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout
The universe displayed;

Then sings my soul,
My Savior God to Thee,
How great Thou art!
How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul,
My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art!
How great Thou art!

When through the woods
And forest glades I wander
And hear the birds
Sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down
From lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook,
And feel the gentle breeze;

And when I think
That God His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die
I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross
My burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died
To take away my sin;
When Christ shall come
With shout of acclamation
And take me home
What joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow
In humble adoration
And there proclaim,
My God, how great Thou art!

Stuart K. Hine. ©1953 Kingsway’s ThankYou Music

OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART LORD,
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see you, I want to see you.
(Repeat)

To see you high and lifted up,
Shining in the light of your glory,
Pour out your power and love,
As we sing, holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy,
Holy, holy, holy,
Holy, holy, holy,
I want to see you.

Paul Baloche. ©1997 Integrity Hosanna! Music/Sovereign Music UK

PURIFY MY HEART,
Let me be as gold
And precious silver,
Purify my heart,
Let me be as gold,
Pure gold.
Refiner’s fire,
My heart’s one desire
It is to be holy,
Set apart for you, Lord,
I choose to be holy,
Set apart for you, my Master,
Ready to do your will.

Purify my heart,
Cleanse me from within
And make me holy,
Purify my heart,
Cleanse me from my sin,
Deep within.

Brian Doerksen. ©1990

**ROCK OF AGES, cleft for me,**
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.

Not the labor of my hands,
Can fulfill Thy law’s demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly,
Wash me Savior, or I die.
While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eye shall close in death
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

Augustus Montague Toplady.

SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD/
ESPIRITU DEL TRINO DIOS
(Spanish)

Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me, mould me, fill me;
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me,

Espíritu del trino Dios,
Ven sobre mi,
Espíritu del trino Dios
Ven sobre mi.
Quebrantame, moldeame, renuevame,
Llene,
Espíritu del trino Dios,
Ven sobre mi.

(Cant 98 Songbook)
THERE IS NONE LIKE YOU
No one else can touch my heart like you do
I could search for all eternity and find
There is none like you.

Your mercy flows like a river wide
And healing comes from your hands
Suffering children are safe in your arms
There in none like you.

©Lenny LeBlanc (Integrity Hosanna Music 1991)

THESE ARE THE DAYS OF ELIJAH,
Declaring the word of the Lord;
And these are the days of your servant Moses,
Righteousness being restored,
And though these are days of great trial,
Of famine and darkness and sword,
Still, we are a voice in the desert crying
“Prepare ye the way of the Lord.”

Behold He comes riding on the clouds,
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call;
Lift your voice; it’s the year of jubilee,
Out of Zion’s hill salvation comes.

These are the days of Ezekiel,
The dry bones becoming as flesh;
And these are the days of your servant David,
Rebuilding the temple of praise,
There are the days of the harvest,
The fields are as white in the world,
And we are the laborers in the vineyard
Declaring the Word of the Lord.

Robin Mark. ©1997 Daybreak Music Ltd.
THOU ART WORTHY, great Jehovah
Thou art worthy, mighty God,
Thou art worthy, Abba Father,
Thou art worthy, Lamb of God.

You are........

Karen Eagan © 1980 Integrity’s Hosanna
Every year the number of short-term missioners from the Diocese of West Texas increases. We give glory to God for the people who have caught the vision to go and tell by word and deed. Among those dedicated witnesses, we have included a few of their reflections in this devotional.

With gratitude we acknowledge the submissions of Betty Brewer Chumney, Bill Campagne, Beth Price, Tony Price, Lynn Campagne, Sally Keddal, Maria Cavazos, Garry Schnelzer, Brenda Kingery, Jack Robertson, Rosine Carter, Stuart Carter, Amanda Hagy, Eric Fenton, Terry Koehler, Brien Koehler, Valerie Kirk, Rod Clark, Cherie Kittle, John Kittle, Lisa Mason, Lorena Rojas, Richard Wallace, Jim Kee-Rees, Jeanne Loggie, Libby Templeton, Cookie Harris, Jack Robertson, Jamie George, Jay George, Jon Reed, David Archibald for Hyacinth Bridges, Stockton Williams, and Marthe Curry.
DAY ONE JOURNAL THOUGHTS

Date____________ Location____________________________________

The basic thought of my quiet time today was ___________
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In what specific way did I serve Christ today____________
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What incident(s) made me aware of Christ's presence?
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How did I manifest/fail to manifest gratitude?
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Was the Spirit's fruit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) evident in
my attitude/words/conduct? If not, how did I fall short, and
will I accept God's grace to change?____________________
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This was my most memorable experience today:_________
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This was my most distressing experience today: ________________________________

What did I learn today? ________________________________

Here are the interesting people I met: ________________________________

Observations about:
Myself: ________________________________
Missionaries: ________________________________
Nationals: ________________________________

What progress have I made toward my goal for this mission? ________________________________

I Corinthians 10:31 says, "...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." Was this true of me today? ________________________________

Tomorrow, with God's help, I will work on ________________________________

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DAY TWO JOURNAL THOUGHTS

Date__________ Location________________________________________

The basic thought of my quiet time today was______________
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In what specific way did I serve Christ today_______________
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What incident(s) made me aware of Christ's presence?
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How did I manifest/fail to manifest gratitude?
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Was the Spirit's fruit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) evident in my attitude/words/conduct? If not, how did I fall short, and will I accept God's grace to change?____________________
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This was my most memorable experience today:__________
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This was my most distressing experience today:______________________________
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What did I learn today?_________________________________________________
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Here are the interesting people I met:______________________________________
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Observations about:
Myself:__________________________________________________________________
Missionaries:___________________________________________________________
Nationals:________________________________________________________________
What progress have I made toward my goal for this mission?
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I Corinthians 10:31 says, "...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." Was this true of me today?______________________________
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Tomorrow, with God's help, I will work on_______________________________
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90
DAY THREE JOURNAL THOUGHTS

Date__________ Location________________________________________

The basic thought of my quiet time today was ____________
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In what specific way did I serve Christ today____________
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What incident(s) made me aware of Christ's presence?
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How did I manifest/fail to manifest gratitude?
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Was the Spirit's fruit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) evident in my attitude/words/conduct? If not, how did I fall short, and will I accept God's grace to change?____________________
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This was my most memorable experience today:_________
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This was my most distressing experience today: 
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What did I learn today? 
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Here are the interesting people I met: 
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Observations about:  
Myself:  
Missionaries:  
Nationals:  

What progress have I made toward my goal for this mission? 

I Corinthians 10:31 says, "...whatever you do, do it all for the 
glory of God." Was this true of me today? 

Tomorrow, with God’s help, I will work on 

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DAY FOUR JOURNAL THOUGHTS

Date__________ Location_____________________________________

The basic thought of my quiet time today was __________
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In what specific way did I serve Christ today___________
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What incident(s) made me aware of Christ's presence?
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How did I manifest/fail to manifest gratitude?
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Was the Spirit's fruit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) evident in my attitude/words/conduct? If not, how did I fall short, and will I accept God's grace to change?____________________
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This was my most memorable experience today:_________
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This was my most distressing experience today:__________
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What did I learn today?______________________________
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Here are the interesting people I met:__________________
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Observations about:
Myself:___________________________________________
Missionaries:_______________________________________
Nationals:_________________________________________
What progress have I made toward my goal for this mission?
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I Corinthians 10:31 says, "...whatever you do, do it all for the
glory of God." Was this true of me today?_______________
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Tomorrow, with God's help, I will work on_______________
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DAY FIVE JOURNAL THOUGHTS

Date________ Location______________________________

The basic thought of my quiet time today was ____________

In what specific way did I serve Christ today___________

What incident(s) made me aware of Christ's presence?

How did I manifest/fail to manifest gratitude?

Was the Spirit's fruit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) evident in my attitude/words/conduct? If not, how did I fall short, and will I accept God's grace to change?

This was my most memorable experience today:__________
This was my most distressing experience today:
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What did I learn today?
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Here are the interesting people I met:
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Observations about:
Myself:___________________________________________
Missionaries:_______________________________________
Nationals:_________________________________________
What progress have I made toward my goal for this mission?
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I Corinthians 10:31 says, "...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." Was this true of me today?
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Tomorrow, with God's help, I will work on ______________________
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96
DAY SIX JOURNAL THOUGHTS

Date_________ Location________________________________________

The basic thought of my quiet time today was ____________

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In what specific way did I serve Christ today_____________

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What incident(s) made me aware of Christ's presence?

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How did I manifest/fail to manifest gratitude?

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Was the Spirit's fruit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) evident in my attitude/words/conduct? If not, how did I fall short, and will I accept God's grace to change?____________________

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This was my most memorable experience today:__________

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This was my most distressing experience today:________________________________________
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What did I learn today?________________________________________________________________
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Here are the interesting people I met:________________________________________________
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Observations about:
Myself:__________________________________________________________________________
Missionaries:_____________________________________________________________________
Nationals:_______________________________________________________________________

What progress have I made toward my goal for this mission?
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I Corinthians 10:31 says, "...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." Was this true of me today?____________________
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Tomorrow, with God's help, I will work on ____________________________
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DAY SEVEN JOURNAL THOUGHTS

Date________ Location____________________________________________________

The basic thought of my quiet time today was ______________
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In what specific way did I serve Christ today____________________
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What incident(s) made me aware of Christ's presence?
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How did I manifest/fail to manifest gratitude?
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Was the Spirit's fruit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) evident in my attitude/words/conduct? If not, how did I fall short, and will I accept God's grace to change?____________________
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This was my most memorable experience today:________
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This was my most distressing experience today:______________________________

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What did I learn today?___________________________________________

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Here are the interesting people I met:______________________________

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Observations about:
Myself:_________________________________________________________

Missionaries:___________________________________________________

Nationals:_____________________________________________________

What progress have I made toward my goal for this mission?
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I Corinthians 10:31 says, "...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." Was this true of me today?______________________________

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Tomorrow, with God's help, I will work on ______________

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100
DAY EIGHT JOURNAL THOUGHTS

Date__________ Location____________________________

The basic thought of my quiet time today was __________
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In what specific way did I serve Christ today____________
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What incident(s) made me aware of Christ's presence?
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How did I manifest/fail to manifest gratitude?
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Was the Spirit's fruit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) evident in
my attitude/words/conduct? If not, how did I fall short, and
will I accept God's grace to change?____________________
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This was my most memorable experience today:_________
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This was my most distressing experience today: 
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What did I learn today? 
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Here are the interesting people I met: 
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Observations about: 
Myself: 
Missionaries: 
Nationals: 

What progress have I made toward my goal for this mission?
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I Corinthians 10:31 says, "...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." Was this true of me today?
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Tomorrow, with God's help, I will work on 
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DAY NINE JOURNAL THOUGHTS

Date_________ Location_________________________________________________

The basic thought of my quiet time today was ____________________________

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In what specific way did I serve Christ today____________________________

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What incident(s) made me aware of Christ's presence?

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How did I manifest/fail to manifest gratitude?

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Was the Spirit's fruit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) evident in my attitude/words/conduct? If not, how did I fall short, and will I accept God's grace to change?_________________________________________________

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This was my most memorable experience today:_________________________

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This was my most distressing experience today:__________________________
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What did I learn today?_________________________________________________
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Here are the interesting people I met:____________________________________
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Observations about:
Myself:_______________________________________________________________
Missionaries:__________________________________________________________
Nationals:____________________________________________________________
What progress have I made toward my goal for this mission?
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I Corinthians 10:31 says, "...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." Was this true of me today?____________________________
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Tomorrow, with God's help, I will work on______________________________
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DAY TEN JOURNAL THOUGHTS

Date__________ Location________________________________________

The basic thought of my quiet time today was __________
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In what specific way did I serve Christ today_______________
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What incident(s) made me aware of Christ’s presence?
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How did I manifest/fail to manifest gratitude?
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Was the Spirit’s fruit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) evident in my attitude/words/conduct? If not, how did I fall short, and will I accept God’s grace to change?____________________

This was my most memorable experience today:___________
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This was my most distressing experience today:

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What did I learn today?

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Here are the interesting people I met:

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Observations about:
Myself:___________________________________________
Missionaries:_______________________________________
Nationals:_________________________________________

What progress have I made toward my goal for this mission?
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I Corinthians 10:31 says, "...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." Was this true of me today?_______________
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Tomorrow, with God's help, I will work on ______________
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106
DAY ELEVEN JOURNAL THOUGHTS

Date__________ Location____________________________________

The basic thought of my quiet time today was ____________
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In what specific way did I serve Christ today_______________
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What incident(s) made me aware of Christ's presence?     
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How did I manifest/fail to manifest gratitude?           
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Was the Spirit's fruit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, 
goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) evident in 
my attitude/words/conduct?  If not, how did I fall short, and 
will I accept God's grace to change?____________________
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This was my most memorable experience today:___________
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This was my most distressing experience today: ____________
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What did I learn today? ________________________________
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Here are the interesting people I met: ________________
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Observations about:
Myself: _____________________________________________
Missionaries: _______________________________________
Nationals: _________________________________________

What progress have I made toward my goal for this mission?
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I Corinthians 10:31 says, "...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." Was this true of me today? ________________
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Tomorrow, with God's help, I will work on _______________
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108
DAY TWELVE JOURNAL THOUGHTS

Date__________ Location_________________________________________________

The basic thought of my quiet time today was ________________________________
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In what specific way did I serve Christ today____________________
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What incident(s) made me aware of Christ's presence?
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How did I manifest/fail to manifest gratitude?
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Was the Spirit's fruit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) evident in my attitude/words/conduct? If not, how did I fall short, and will I accept God's grace to change?____________________
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This was my most memorable experience today:_________
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This was my most distressing experience today:____________________
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What did I learn today?_____________________________________________
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Here are the interesting people I met:______________________________
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Observations about:
Myself:___________________________________________
Missionaries:_______________________________________
Nationals:____________________
What progress have I made toward my goal for this mission?
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I Corinthians 10:31 says, "...whatever you do, do it all for the
glory of God." Was this true of me today?____________________
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Tomorrow, with God's help, I will work on ______________
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110
DAY THIRTEEN JOURNAL THOUGHTS

Date__________ Location__________________________________________

The basic thought of my quiet time today was _____________

________________________________________________________________________

In what specific way did I serve Christ today____________

________________________________________________________________________

What incident(s) made me aware of Christ's presence?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

How did I manifest/fail to manifest gratitude?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Was the Spirit's fruit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) evident in my attitude/words/conduct? If not, how did I fall short, and will I accept God's grace to change?____________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

This was my most memorable experience today:_________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
This was my most distressing experience today:_______________________________

What did I learn today?_________________________________________________

Here are the interesting people I met:_____________________________________

Observations about:
Myself:_________________________________________________________________
Missionaries:_____________________________________________________________
Nationals:_________________________________________________________________

What progress have I made toward my goal for this mission?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

I Corinthians 10:31 says, "...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." Was this true of me today?_______________________________

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Tomorrow, with God's help, I will work on _________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
DAY FOURTEEN JOURNAL THOUGHTS

Date__________ Location____________________________

The basic thought of my quiet time today was _____________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________

In what specific way did I serve Christ today_____________
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_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________

What incident(s) made me aware of Christ's presence?
_________________________________________________
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How did I manifest/fail to manifest gratitude?
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
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Was the Spirit's fruit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) evident in my attitude/words/conduct? If not, how did I fall short, and will I accept God's grace to change?____________________
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This was my most memorable experience today:_________
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This was my most distressing experience today:______________________________
______________________________________________________________________
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What did I learn today?_________________________________________________
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______________________________________________________________________
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Here are the interesting people I met:______________________________
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Observations about:
Myself:________________________________________________________________
Missionaries:_________________________________________________________
Nationals:________________________________________________________________

What progress have I made toward my goal for this mission?
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

I Corinthians 10:31 says, "...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." Was this true of me today?_______________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

Tomorrow, with God's help, I will work on ______________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________