



Charity Christian Missions

NEWSLETTER

December 2001
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A F G H A N I S T A N

“The Land of War. No words can better describe the land of Afghanistan. Since 500 BC, men have fought, bled, and died in the land of Afghanistan. The terrors of war have continued unabated for 2500 years. The results of these prolonged conflicts: a barren, impoverished land filled with disease and heartache. The area has seen numerous international invaders—Persian, Mongolian, and Indian. It has endured the armies of Great Britain and the Soviet Union. Domestic strife and civil war have filled the years between foreign conflicts.”



— See page 8 —

What Should Christians Do?

“So...our nation is at war.
Now what are we supposed to do?”

“As Christians during this time of war,
we must prepare. We must pray.
We must catch a vision of Jesus
and His love for all humanity.”

See page 12



WHO WILL GO?

See page 14



Charity Christian Missions

"For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles;for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts."

Malachi 1:11

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Mission Addresses

Dear Supporters,

We thank God for all of your interest and support, in finances, letters of encouragement, and prayers.

We as a mission operate by faith in the Lord of the Harvest. We believe that HIS work done HIS way will not lack in HIS blessing. All of the missionaries are fully supported by Charity Christian Missions. We do not ask them to raise a certain amount of funds before sending them to the field. We simply send them by faith and trust God to meet the financial needs.

Again, may God richly bless you for your faithfulness in serving the Lord with your gifts of love.

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SUCCESS

Faithfulness or Results?

by Daryl Nolt

*“The little, basic issues which cause church tension are incredible to us. They arise simply because the people need to be taught the Christian way to deal with things. It is very important for us to keep our expectations in the Lord and to remember to measure our labors with **His standard of success rather than our own.**”*

Greetings to each one of you in Jesus' name! How we thank God for your prayers and interest in the work here. I know it has been a long time since I wrote. As many of you know, my family and I spent 6 months on furlough in the States this summer. We enjoyed our time spent there with family and friends but are happy to be back into the work again. It seems hard to believe that we have been home almost four months already. The last four months have been very full and sometimes challenging but our God has always been faithful to

meet our needs. We experienced our dear friends and co-worker's departure when Mel & Barbie Esh felt God was leading them to return to the States. We love them very much and their counsel and help in the work here is greatly missed! We are happy for them to be following after God's will for their lives right now but they certainly do leave a large hole in our hearts and the hearts of the church people here. We enjoyed working side by side with them so much! May the Lord richly reward them for their sacrifices and labor of love among the Dagombas and may

he bless them as they settle into life in America again. We love you Mel & Barbie!

During the last four months our lives have been stretched by various difficulties. Some things we have dealt with a lot since our return have been different church problems which have come up. Sometimes these problems aren't as difficult in themselves as the fact that our expectations for what we have poured our lives into are not being fulfilled. It is hard to come from a religious culture like America into a culture like this where everything, down to the basic principles of Christian behavior, must be taught. Since most of us were raised in at least some sort of religious atmosphere we tend to take for granted that once we bring these people to Christ all they will need is basic discipleship to be able to go on to become vibrant Christians. The little, basic issues which cause church tension are incredible to us. They arise simply because the people need to be taught the Christian way to deal with

“Since most of us were raised in at least some sort of religious atmosphere we tend to take for granted that once we bring these people to Christ all they will need is basic discipleship to be able to go on to become vibrant Christians.”

things. It is very important for us to keep our expectations in the Lord and to remember to measure our labors with **His standard of success** rather than our own.

As I was sitting in our church service the other day and pondering the general spiritual temperature of those in our midst, I was tempted to feel discouraged. I looked around and saw various problems going on among us. Some members consistently fall asleep in services and others are too caught up in business to get much out of what is being preached. My heart cried out for revival while at the same time I was tempted to feel like a failure. How the devil loves to come to those who are working in God’s vineyard and try to discourage them and make them feel like they aren’t accomplishing anything for Christ. The sacrifices we face here are much easier to live with when souls are coming to Christ, a church is being established, etc. But when hearts are growing cold, the devil wants us to feel like we might as well go home and give up. It is during these times that we must fix a faith-filled gaze upon Jesus and trust Him for the results of our labors. As we were praying, my heart broke with visions of

what God wants His church to be like and the desire to see the church here become strong and independent. As I strove to keep my eyes fixed on my Lord rather than feeling like a failure, God met with me and brought many ponderings to my heart. I would like to share these with you.

The Lord took my thoughts to His Son’s earthly ministry which was only 3 1/2 years long—the same amount of time we have been here. Jesus poured His life into His twelve disciples! Only twelve converts after three and a half years of toil?! That small number wouldn’t bring much applause in today’s number conscious religious world. If we sent someone to plant a church in a new area and after 3 1/2 years all they could report were twelve church members we would begin to question their dedication to the work or at least their methods of evangelism. We as Christians often look at God’s work like we look at our businesses. If we don’t get enough results fast enough we look for another field just like we would stop selling a product which doesn’t have a good market. **Our Heavenly Father measures success by faithfulness rather than results; He marks down our patience in enduring rather**

than the numbers of converts we have! So, Jesus’ earthly ministry produced 12 solid, trained men?! Let’s look at what he left behind. One of those 12 men He had poured His life into turned against Him and betrayed Him to the chief priests! The three men He took with him to pray in the garden fell asleep as He wrestled all alone with the load of what His Father was asking Him to do for the redemption of humanity. When Jesus was arrested in the garden, all of the disciples fled in fear. So much for all of the hours of training! Only Peter was faithful enough (or curious enough) to ‘follow afar off’ to see what would happen to Jesus. When given opportunity to stand up for His Lord he was afraid and denied Him, not once but three times! Peter! The one to whom Jesus had said, ‘Upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it!’ Peter! The strongest of them all! I realized that from a human perspective it would have been very difficult for Jesus to leave His work when He did. He who was ‘in all points tempted like as we are,’ must have been tempted to feel like a failure, to wonder if his work and the sacrifice of leaving His home and Father in heaven had all been in vain! Imagine Him upon the cross with the weight of the sins of the world upon His shoulders and the knowledge that all of His hand-picked men had forsaken Him. How alone He must have felt! As He cried out, ‘My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?’ did He wonder if

even His Father was ashamed of Him? There was no success visible as Jesus ended His life on this earth. By the standard of man, He was a complete failure. But not by God's standard!

That weak, afraid, cowardly group of disciples didn't turn out to be a failure after all. If we read the book of Acts we will see that once they were filled with the Holy Spirit they 'turned the world upside down!' The church which Jesus' had agonized over and given His life for was born. Here we are today endeavoring to spread the news of salvation to those who haven't heard the sweet story of redemption.

As we labor here, pray that we can keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and strive!—not for results which can be seen with the human eye but rather to be faithful in all that our Heavenly Father gives us to do. If we fail to trust God and to be faithful in that which is least—then we will be failures here! We ask for your patience too. We all like results that can be seen—we like to experience them and you like to hear about them. All we can do is to give 'our utmost for his highest' and trust the rest into His hands. And if, when our work here is finished, we appear as failures to mankind, we must remember that even the Son of God ended His earthly ministry that way. We must

ask ourselves, "Were we faithful?" That is all God requires of us. We must always remember that the last chapter has not been written, and only He who knows what is in the heart of man knows how the last chapter of any labor for Him will end.

Oswald Chambers writes, and I quote, "*It is one thing to go through a crisis grandly, but another thing to go through every day glorifying God when there is no witness, no limelight, no one paying the remotest attention to us.*" And again he says, "*It takes God's Spirit in us to make us so absolutely, humanly His that we are utterly unnoticeable. The test of the life of a saint is not success, but faithfulness in human life as it actually is!*"

Amy Carmichael also writes along these lines in her book, *Gold by Moonlight*. I quote, "*For always that which gives imperishable gold to a life is not the trend of the opinions which direct its course, not its success—never its success; it is the steadfastness and*

the integrity of its spirit, the love which inspires it, the note of the eternal which dominates it." Those who have gone before us, who gave their lives in God's work, knew about God's measure for Success and strove for the steadfastness and integrity of spirit which Amy writes about rather than tangible results. A life such as the ones they lived does its own preaching and speaks for years after they have gone. May we also strive to live our lives in such a way, patterned after our Heavenly Father—walking in His steps.

A big thank-you to all of you for your faithfulness to support us in prayer. We really do need your prayers as we fight in the war for the souls of men. It is God alone that can do the work in their hearts and bring them to repentance! May the Lord richly bless each one of you who labor with us in prayer for the salvation of the Dagomba people! □

"Our Heavenly Father measures success by faithfulness rather than results; He marks down our patience in enduring rather than the numbers of converts we have!"

"Remember, when you see a missionary coming home broken in body and weary in soul, it isn't the privations or dangers or things he's done that leave a deep hurt; it's the things he *couldn't* do that break his heart." -Anonymous



GO FORTH MINISTRIES

Go Ye Into All the World

by Paul W. Lamicela, age 11

"We are but a band of children, we are few and weak and small;
But we want to work for Jesus and there's work enough for all.
We are a missionary band, doing all we can."

*"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers,
in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."
I Timothy 4:12*



Go Forth Ministries began at Charity Christian Fellowship on June 10, 2001 by eight young people between the ages of 6 and 12 with a vision for missions.

Normally, my friends and I would talk to each other after the service. On June 10th our conversation turned to the subject of missions. One would say, "I'm going to such and such country as a missionary." I would say, "I'll visit you there while I'm on my preaching circuits." Then another might say, "I'll fly you there on my mission plane!"

And so began our little mission organization—G.F.M.

"Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy...your young men shall see visions." Joel 2:28

Our Goals

We purpose to...

- Glorify the Lord Jesus Christ in all our thoughts, words, and actions.
- Reach the unsaved.

Although we have visions and desires for the future, G.F.M. is not just for dreaming about future missionary work. We want to do things for the Lord now.

At our meetings (which are held at church right after our Sunday service) we sometimes work on memorizing Scripture and share mission-related

poems. At other times among our group we pass out addressed envelopes to write to the missionaries who have been sent out from our church or sister churches. We also pass out prayer slips, which are reminders to pray for a specific missionary (or missionary family) for that week or two. Another thing we did at one meeting (and plan to do again) is to have a missionary, or someone who has gone on a mission trip, speak to the group about their experiences.

Something exciting happened recently! We decided to take up an offering among the group and donate it to missions. A few days after collecting most of the money, we were informed about a specific need in Ghana.

There is a young lady in Ghana named Ayisha, 17 or 18, who is working for Daryl & Rebekah Nolt. She was living with her Muslim aunt. Ayisha wanted to go to church, but her aunt did not want her to go. So one day Ayisha ran away from her aunt and went to her father's house. Her father gave her his blessing to go to church. He also likes the fact that she is working for Daryl and Rebekah. Ayisha is giving part of her wages to her father to help support the family. But, there was one problem. When she fled from her aunt's house, she took no clothes with her except the ones that she had on. Also, she needed a bicycle for transportation.

When we heard about that need, we decided to give the money to Ayisha so that she could buy clothes and a bicycle.

It is not only a way to give money to missions and to meet a need, but Ayisha was so excited and encouraged to keep following the Lord. She wrote us a letter of thanks that Rebekah emailed to us. We were very excited to receive her reply.

**Ayisha's
Letter
to
G.F.M.**



*My Dear Friends,
Greetings
in the mighty
name of our
Lord Jesus
Christ. He
is the One
who has
saved my
soul, and in
Him is life
e t e r n a l .
Praise the
Lord. It is Him
who has made it
possible for me to have you as
friends and fellow brothers and sisters in Jesus.*

I am very glad to have this opportunity to speak to all of you. Anyway, how are you all doing in the Lord? I hope everything is smooth. In fact, I don't know how I can express my gratitude to you. I walked on air when Sis. Rebekah told me that there are some friends in America who care and are concerned about what I am facing and are ready to help me. May God bless all of you tremendously. May the Lord continue to bless you and use you to do great harm to the

kingdom of the enemy (Satan) who does not want Muslims to ever know that the way they are following leads to destruction.

I have also learned that my mother (Rebekah) has three siblings who are among your group. I say thanks to all of you. May God build you strong upon the Rock Jesus Christ. I strongly believe that it is God who has spoken to your hearts to help me with the money you are going to send. God has strengthened me through all these trials. He has encouraged my heart a lot. I want to follow Him and never turn back. He is worth following. I will like to stop here for now. I hope to hear from you all again sometime. May God bless you all!

*Your Sister in Christ,
Ayisha*

In closing, we know that we are just a small group of small people, who like all of mankind, are nothing and can do nothing without the aid of the almighty Alpha and Omega. But with His help, we can do all things because He strengthens us. □

*"We are but a band of children,
We are few and weak and small;
But we want to work for Jesus
And there's work enough for all.*

*We are a missionary band,
Doing all we can."*



This Issue's Featured Country...

Afghanistan

by Josiah Rocke

AFGHANISTAN

"Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction. And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren." Genesis 16:11-12

THE LAND OF WAR

No words can better describe the land of Afghanistan. Since 500 BC, men have fought, bled, and died in the land of Afghanistan. The terrors of war have continued unabated for 2500 years. The results of these prolonged conflicts: a barren, impoverished land filled with disease and heartache. The area has seen numerous international invaders—Persian, Mongolian, and Indian. It has endured the armies of Great Britain and the Soviet Union. Domestic strife and civil war have filled the years between foreign conflicts.

Afghanistan has recently been catapulted into the forefront of the news and media. The ongoing struggle to oust the Taliban is not new. The present conflict has been ravishing Afghanistan since 1994. Were it not for the attacks of September 11th, most Americans would know little and care less of the internal affairs of Afghanistan. This country may seem mysterious to us because we know so little about it, yet Afghanistan is a key country in middle Asia. Afghanistan is an important crossroads linking the Middle East, Central Asia, and the Indian sub-continent. Although mountainous and inhospitable, Afghanistan occupies a pivotal place in world geography and world history. Its location has helped draw a diversity of cultures, religions and influences to the region,



More than 16 years ago at a mission's conference, I heard the missionary graphically describe the years he labored in Afghanistan. I recall him sharing about the work of another group who visited Afghanistan—Gospel Recordings. This group put a basic gospel message on little records that are played by hand on a simple cardboard foldout with a pencil. Although there are many ethnic groups spread throughout the mountains in Afghanistan, their goal was to complete a recording for every language group in the country.

They were only in Kabul, the capital, for a short time, and they did not know how they could find speakers from some of the outlying mountainous areas. As they prayed and searched for a speaker from one of the remaining groups, someone met a young man from a mountain tribe who happened to be in Kabul on an errand. He was just the dialect they needed, and he could only spare the time needed to do the recording.

We may never know the influence that simple things such as these can have. However, we must never underestimate the power of the Word of God. *"So shall My Word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."*

but Christianity is not one of them.

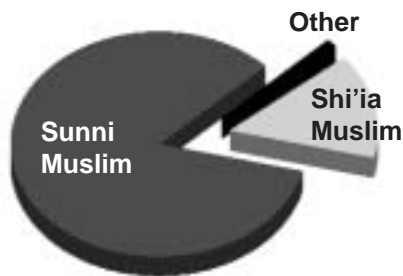
How will these events affect the unreached peoples of Afghanistan? Will an alliance or some new form of government open up ways to minister the gospel to these unreached peoples? Will there be laborers who are ready and willing to step forward and go into this inhospitable climate? Who will count the cost to save the souls for whom Christ died?

Certainly all these events have call for the Christian community worldwide to pray for this needy and spiritually dark country. Only the living Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ can free these people from the oppression and bondage they suffer at the hands of a cruel taskmaster—the devil himself. Oh, for prayer warriors to stand in the gap for the war-torn land of Afghanistan.

THE HIDDEN PEOPLE

The people of Afghanistan truly are diverse. The largest group is the Pushtun people. The Pushtuns comprise an approximate 38% of the population. They are a group of 60 or more clans that speak the Pashtu language. Each clan occupies a distinct area of Afghanistan. Tajiks from Tajikistan, Uzbeks from Uzbekistan, and Turkmen from Turkmenistan constitute an additional third of the population. The last major people group is the Hazara people. They account for another 20% of Afghans. The many different people groups mean that there are many different languages. Several Turkic tongues, a Afghan dialect of Persian, and 30 minor languages are spoken, besides the most common Pashtu.

Almost the entire population is Muslim. As such, the religion of Islam has played a central role



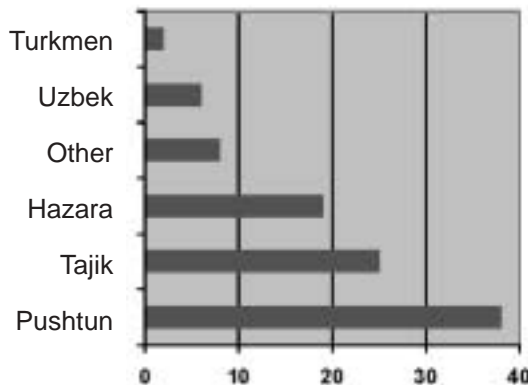
Religions of Afghanistan

in unifying the population. Sunni Islam is the accepted denomination of the Taliban. It is a strict, harsh faith that demands death or imprisonment for the most minor violations. Yet, as we compare Sunni Islam with the Qur'an, it seems to hold true to its teaching. Contrary to what is being broadcast by the media, the Taliban and Sunni Islam are both being faithful to the teachings of Muhammad.

Perhaps if Christians held to the teachings of Jesus Christ like the Sunni Muslims hold to the teachings of Muhammad, there would be a greater heart for evangelism among us. The "extreme" faith of the Taliban party has caused it to be labeled a regime, and its members are labeled radicals. Pause to reflect on Christ's words "*If the world hate you, ye know that it hated Me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept My saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for My Name's sake, because they know not Him that sent Me. If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin.*" (John 15:18-22)

The Taliban party doesn't like gray. They want things totally Islam or not at all. We, as Christians,

should not consider the Taliban as abnormal, strange, or radical. Rather, when we look at the Taliban, we should be encouraged to separate ourselves from sin and live a holy life before God. A nominal Muslim who comes into contact with a Sunni Muslim must make a choice. He can no longer avoid



Population of Afghanistan (in percentage)



the issue. He cannot claim to be a true Muslim and continue to live as he is. He must either reject the Qur'an, or become a Sunni. Is that the affect we have on the nominal Christians when we meet them? Do we leave no cloak for sin?

The standards of living are very poor in Afghanistan. The population has a life expectancy at birth of 47 years. The population of the United States, by contrast, has a life expectancy of 70 years. Afghanistan has an infant mortality rate of 144 deaths per 1,000 live births. The United States has an infant mortality rate of 6.5 deaths for every 1000 live births.

In terms of literacy, 15% of the female population and 48% of the male population, age 15 and over, can read and write. The ongoing civil war, as well as the legacy of war, conflict, and instability stretching back many decades, not to mention a drought that has persisted for years, has collectively resulted in a country characterized by great poverty and deficient living conditions.

Spiritually, Afghanistan is even worse. The Afghan people are considered one of the most unreached countries in the world. Some feel that it may be the least evangelized nation. There is approximately one Christian for every 10,000 Afghans. The closest estimates report 2,600 Christians in the entire country, and while there are 48,000 mosques in Afghanistan, there is not one church building! There are no missions on record in Afghanistan. Twenty-three people groups live in this land, and many are without a single book of the Bible!

Afghanistan has always been a difficult country for missionaries to work in. It has been even

Region	Asia
Population	25,838,797.00 (July 2000 Estimate)
Area Total	652,000.00 km ²
Area Land	652,000.00 km ²
Coast Line	0 km (Landlocked)
Capital	Kabul

Boundaries	
Pakistan	2,430 km
Tajikistan	1,206 km
Iran	936 km
Turkmenistan	744 km
Uzbekistan	137 km
China	76 km

Currency 1 afghani (AF) = 100 puls

Holiday Independence Day,
August 19

Climate arid to semiarid; cold
winters and hot summers

Average Daily Temperature in Kabul

January 2.8°C / 27°F

July 24.4°C / 76°F

Annual Rainfall 330.2mm / 13"

more so recently due to government restrictions. Only a few times have brief windows of opportunity opened up to reach the Afghans, and these were related to a physical need. Any "workers" were closely monitored. For some years, a small group of Christians cared for the blind in Kabul. Out of this work, some became believers. How ironic that in a country of great spiritual darkness, the physically blind were the first to see the true light. The new believers began small church cells. Restrictions made things difficult for these young believers. They tried to maintain a low profile in their meetings, but they were eventually found out and persecuted. When the long-time king Mohammed Zahir Shah was deposed in 1973 by a communist led coup, the missionaries were forced to leave, and the little flock was left to fend for itself.

Truly, the needs are great. Although Afghanistan has been a land closed to the Gospel

for centuries, current events may quickly change that. Today, the Afghan people are seeing Allah fail them. Prayers that he would defeat the foes that are invading their land have been unanswered. The Afghans will be open to hearing of the Power that brought this about. They will be open to finding the God that was stronger than Allah.

In the days following World War II, General Douglas MacArthur called for 1,000 missionaries and 1 million Bibles to be sent to Japan. He saw that the country was open to receive what the Allied countries would give them. Their god, the emperor, had been destroyed, and they were interested in learning of the Power that had defeated them. When the call came from Japan, the Christians of America failed to capitalize on the open door. The god that the Japanese saw in the Allied countries was the god of materialism.

Earlier this year, eight foreign missionaries were working in Afghanistan, trying to meet the physical needs of the poor. They passed out tracts in the hope of reaching some lost souls. On August 5, 2001, the Taliban arrested these international aid workers on charges of spreading Christianity. This offense is



punishable by death under the Taliban's interpretation of Islamic law. On September 8, the Taliban opened a trial against these foreign aid workers who were accused of promoting. Days later: September 11 and the attacks in the United States—a date that will forever be etched in our memories. Events unfolded rapidly after that, and once again, there was an invasion of Afghanistan.

When the Taliban retreated from Kabul, they took the eight Christian prisoners with them. In a small town on the way, the missionaries were suddenly locked into a shipping container. A gun battle ensued, and when it was all over, they were freed. They publicly thanked God for sustaining them during their three months in an Afghan prison, and they attributed their release to the prayer of Christian brothers and sisters worldwide. There was no hint of bitterness, only joy. They spoke of returning to Afghanistan again to work among the needy.

These missionaries believe that God will open a window of opportunity to reach Afghanistan for Christ. If and when are still unknown, but they believe it will happen. The prayers of God's saints are lodged in His heart for all eternity, and surely He desires that the many unreached peoples of Afghanistan hear the gospel. God has His timing. When the doors of Afghanistan swing open, and the people of that country are open to hear, will we send the light? A more startling thought—will there be any laborers ready to answer His beckoning call? □

“Does it not stir up our hearts to go forth and help them,
does it not make us long to leave our luxury, our exceeding abundant light,
and go to them that sit in darkness?” -Amy Carmichael

"SO...OUR NATION IS AT WAR.
NOW WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?"

What Should Christians Do?

by Anonymous Authors

It's the topic of conversation all across the country. It comes up at our dinner tables and in our devotions. It follows us through our daily lives, "So...our nation is at war. Now what are we supposed to do?"

What are we supposed to do? We must be like Jesus. We must catch His vision, allowing His purposes to penetrate our hearts—and master us.

A Samaritan village once rejected our Lord Jesus. His disciples, James and John, came to Him, demanding justice by having the village burned in a great display of God's power. "Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of," Jesus rebuked them. "For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them." Jesus had something different in mind than destruction.

Jesus *still* has something different in mind for His children.

The drum roll is sounding in the distance, coming from the very heart of God. As the world marches off to war for freedom

and justice, we march as agents of reconciliation to the world. We are with God in a holy pursuit of man. Our duty has come.

Our war is not a war with bombs and embargoes, nor rifles and poison. It is a war against the spiritual forces of darkness in this dark world. As Christians dealing with the conflict in the world today, we must peel back the surface layers of physical war and bloodshed. We must lay them aside—they are for God to deal with—and look at the deeper, the graver and the fiercer realities.

We, as Christians, are locked in a heavenly war between good and evil. Jesus has destroyed the power of the devil. Daily He is rescuing souls from the devil's dominion. While the war against terrorism is waging all around us, it should not be our main focus. As heavenly soldiers, the heavenly war should consume us.

As soldiers, it is our duty to grapple with this war on our

knees. Prayer changes things. It will change the world. How cruel a reality if this current conflict has no intercessor! No person pleading for mercy. Nations have been destroyed for lack of an intercessor before. (Ez 22:30,31) Will it happen again? Must the wrath of God fall upon Afghanistan or the United States? Shall they receive the just recompense of their sins?

Spiritual battles are still waging. The exhortation to pray has not been revoked. We must pray for the leaders of the world. We must pray that the people of God may live quietly, peaceably without persecution. We must pray that the tender, holy winds of the Spirit may blow across the hearts of all people. We must thank God for His victory and intercede for more.

We must pray for harvesters. "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." The fields are ripe. The carnality of war disillusioned mankind. It

sobers mankind. It forces him to rethink his values and ideologies. It causes him to question God. Who is going to bring God's answers to a freshly disenfranchised humanity?

Saints, we must prepare to let God use us. Earthly soldiers all around the world are preparing as they march into a deadly war—willing and ready to give their lives for patriotism and freedom. No less is our call to be soldiers for God. Our God is high and holy. He is calling us into battle. We cannot sit back in our pampered American homes and churches believing that God is satisfied with us unprepared for our war. He is not.

Will we give up everything to follow God into the mountains of Afghanistan? What about Iraq? Or Sudan? Are we ready to be God's minute-men? Will we be willing to drop

everything at a moment's notice when these countries open to the Gospel? Will we be ready?

We must be vessels, ready and wholly consecrated to the Lord. The world with all of its pandering trifles, empty amusements, and alluring debauchery must have no grip left on our souls. We must be uncompromisingly holy, uncompromisingly devoted. The vessels of our bodies must be washed and possessed by a fierce purity. Calvary, the place of absolute surrender, should be ours. As earthly soldiers give up every-

thing for the cause of their country, we must give up everything for our Lord. We say we are willing. It is time to do it.

We must train for the battle spiritually. The Gospel of Christ has to penetrate every aspect of our lives. The heavens must be open over us so we can march in step with the Spirit of God, ministering His message to the people around us. Leading souls to Christ, ushering in conviction, counseling friends to victory need to be familiar ground for our spirits to tread. We must become actively involved in outreach at home.

" AS CHRISTIANS DURING THIS TIME OF WAR, WE MUST PREPARE. WE MUST PRAY. WE MUST CATCH A VISION OF JESUS AND HIS LOVE FOR ALL HUMANITY. "

We must endure hardship as a good soldier. Our hearts must be so in love with Jesus that we are willing to take up our cross and lay down our lives in painful and tangible ways. Not only must we possess a willingness to be martyred; we must bring that kind of consecration to our lives *today*.

The saints of God must decide to make real and radical sacrifices to fit them to face the rigors of spreading the Gospel abroad. We must seriously evaluate our possessions and monetary obligations in light of their

usefulness in wartime. The good must be sacrificed for the best. The comfortable, livable life traded for that of a soldier.

We must prepare ourselves mentally and physically for the mission-field. We must be ready to wrestle with the issues of culture and language. Undue ignorance of God, His Word, or His creation should be far from us. We must shake off our pride and self-reliance, adopting the spirit of a learner. Our minds must be disciplined.

As Christians during this time of war, we must prepare. We must pray. We must catch a vision of Jesus and His love for all humanity.

See Jesus at the right hand of God in heaven! His eyes are on something far greater than the surface struggles that are in the world today. He sees heaven opened, glowing with the fire of

God's holiness. He sees Satan, with his dark, craven following, boldly clutching onto the souls of men—the souls that He has bought with His own blood. God sees His people shackled in darkness. His eyes are on the spiritual war. We must join our Lord.

"Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world. Amen." □

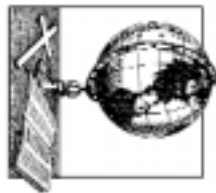


The Ross Ulrich family is back in the states for a 10 month furlough. Pray that God would bless, strengthen, and equip them for the work He has for them when they go back. While they are here among us, pray also that God will use them to share His vision for His people's lives.



The Rick Leibee family (from Ephrata Christian Fellowship; Ephrata, PA) has responded to the need for a family in Manitoba. Please pray for them as they establish a church, especially among the converted Hutterites. Pray that God would give the family much wisdom as they relate, encourage, direct, and guide the people there.

"On the human side, evangelistic work on the mission field is like a man going about in the dark, damp valley with a lighted match in his hand, seeking to ignite anything ignitable...here a shrub, there a tree, here a few sticks, there a heap of leaves take fire and give light and warmth long after the kindling match and its bearer have passed on. And this is what God wants to see...little patches of fire burning all over the world."
James O. Fraser



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