

Scripture Focus

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is God’s power for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:16).

“Then Jesus went to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness. When He saw the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were weary and worn out, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest’” (Matthew 9:35–38).

Monthly Mission Focus

This year the Week of Prayer for North American Missions is March 7–14. The theme is “Live with Urgency: Share God’s Transforming Power.”

We have the privilege of joining countless thousands of Christians around the country as we learn to live with urgency. The lost are all around us, and it is our responsibility to share Christ’s love with them.

Before the Meeting

You must begin the preparation for the meeting in fervent prayer. Pray that the men would sense the urgency of sharing Christ with those who are not yet Christians. The harvest will not be gathered unless the workers go to the fields. They must sense the urgency of going out into the fields.

Pray for each man by name, each visitor you may have, and for each man that you know who will be absent. Pray specifically that God will break into their world and show them the urgency for reaching their lost friends, coworkers, family, and those they casually meet along life’s way.

Enlist a man to be prepared to read Matthew 9:35–38. Ask him to be prepared to explain these verses during the meeting.

Meeting

Welcome everyone and begin with prayer.

Say: This month we celebrate the Week of Prayer for North American Missions. The theme is “Live with

Urgency: Share God’s Transforming Power.” The Scripture verse is Romans 1:16. “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is God’s power for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek.”

Ask the man you enlisted to read Matthew 9:35–38 and explain it to the group.

Say: It is obvious that there are many hurting and lost people in our world. This month we are focusing on the urgency of sharing. What does that mean to you?

Invite members to respond to these questions:

- How many people do you know personally who are not Christian?
- What are some ways you can share with them?
- Think of just one of those people and pray for them right now. (Lead the group in prayer for those people).

Say: If we add these names to the countless others who are not Christians whom Christians know personally, we would have a huge number of unbelievers who are in contact with Christians already. They are within our

sphere of influence. If a friend died tomorrow without Christ, would we regret not emphasizing the importance of accepting Christ as the only way to heaven? Do we have that sense of urgency ourselves, or do we have a blasé attitude? There seems to be little sense of urgency among Christians for sharing the gospel these days.

Say: Jesus had a sense of urgency during His time here on earth. He went where the people were. He saw their condition, and He had compassion for them. He did something about it. He knew the best way to reach this hurting mass of humanity was for God to add to the numbers of people who were actually helping them. But He did not say, “You go and do something.” Rather He looked at the disciples and told them to pray that God would send forth people who really cared about these hurting people. He wanted Christian men to catch the vision of lostness and the remedy for lostness.

He was asking them to pray for you. He wanted you. He asked them to pray that God would so touch your life that you would be willing to share wherever you go.

Say: This month we will be learning about the ministries of five of the Week of Prayer missionaries in North America.

Luis Rodriguez is a church planter in Puerto Rico and works with men to start Hispanic churches in Coamo. Luis says, “We are in the last days. We must share the gospel with everyone we can.”

Mike McQuitty is a collegiate evangelism missionary in Syracuse, New York, at Syracuse University. Mike says, “Over the past several years, God has opened up the opportunity for us to establish new churches on college campuses. And what we are seeing is that God is calling out and equipping young people with not only the abilities to lead His people in the future, but also to do the work of the ministry right now.”

In weeks three and five, we will highlight two associational directors of missions who work in tough areas where many are not Christian. Jim Ballard pastors a cowboy church and is the associational director of missions in eastern Idaho. Bill Lighty is the area missionary for the Pikes Peak Baptist Association in Colorado Springs, Colorado. They use different methods to reach very diverse populations.

In week four, we will learn about Craig and Suzy Miles who hike the Appalachian Trail to witness to the 3 to 4 million people who hike it each year.

*Note: Video for each of the missionaries featured during the Week of Prayer for North American Missions is available at www.anniearmstrong.com/2010videodownload.

Say: All these people have a sense of urgency about what they do. They realize they have a short time to impact people. College students are on campus for only a few short years, hikers are constantly on the move, Hispanic people travel to other areas, and the cowboys in Idaho are working almost all the time.

Ask: What about your time? Do you have a sense of urgency for non-Christians? Do you feel if you do not share with that one person you thought of earlier that someone else will? Perhaps you are the only one who will ever share with that person. Perhaps today is the last day they will have to hear.

Closing

Close with a time of prayer. Lead the group in a directed prayer time. Read each point and have them pray for that point before reading the next point.

1. Pray for the person you thought of earlier.
2. Pray for God to give you a sense of urgency for that person.
3. Pray for wisdom to know how to talk with that person today.
4. Ask God to give your church a sense of urgency for your community.
5. Ask God to give your family a sense of urgency for non-Christians.
6. Ask God to open doors for witnessing in your place of employment.

7. Ask God to place opportunities to witness wherever you are enjoying your time off.
8. Pray for these missionaries:
 - Luis Rodriguez needs prayer for boldness in his witness in Puerto Rico.
 - Mike McQuitty needs prayer for the hundreds of campuses in our country that have no evangelical witness, especially the 1.2 million students in New York.
 - Jim Ballard needs prayer for eastern Idaho, especially the 43 new church starts he needs immediately.
 - Bill Lighty needs prayer for discernment to do the right thing at the right time and in the right way to reach the people in Colorado Springs, Colorado.
 - Pray for Craig and Suzy Miles as they encounter the hikers on the Appalachian Trail who each have their own reasons for desiring the solitude of the trail and nature.
9. Pray for God to show you sins in your life that keep you from hearing Him.
10. Pray for God to give you a sense of urgency for His kingdom.
11. Remind the men about the next meeting, and invite any men who would like to discuss any part of the meeting to call you at any time.

Eddie Pettit is a member of East Pickens Baptist Church where he teaches an adult Sunday School class. He is also a member of Christian Outdoorsman at East Pickens Baptist Church. Eddie is an avid hunter and outdoorsman and is director of McCall RA Camp in Sunset, South Carolina.

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