



Volume 3

City Prayers

30 DAYS OF REFLECTION AND HOPE
COMPILED BY WORLD IMPACT

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*To the steadfast men and women
who have modeled faithfulness for us
and generations to come.*

Special thank you to:

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INTRODUCTION

“Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!” —Psalm 106:1

Reflecting on five decades of ministry presents us a birds-eye view of God’s faithful, steady hand at work. God inspired a college student named Keith Phillips to start Bible clubs for poor kids in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles. God moved in the hearts of dozens of Tabor College students to start ministering in Wichita, Kansas. God grew the ministry from Bible clubs for children to holistic discipleship of entire families. God gave us favor in communities of poverty as we started community development initiatives.

God led Dr. Don Davis to bring seminary-level education to those who minister in communities of poverty so there could be more healthy churches. Through a network of connections and relationships, God is moving our ministry across national borders.

God is empowering leaders to reach their cities with the Gospel – extending the truth, grace, and justice of God to broken places. God has been faithful!

The following devotions were written by program participants, missionaries, staff, and partners of World Impact, both past and present. May they magnify God’s goodness as you reflect on the past and give you hope in Him as you look towards the future.

In Christ,

*Dr. Alvin Sanders
President & CEO of World Impact*





DAY 1

Read Ephesians 4:11-12

*“He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists,
the shepherds and teachers to equip the saints...”*

REFLECTION

Coming from the Imperial Courts Housing Projects in Watts, California, my biggest dream was to be the hardest Crip that I could be. At the root of that was a search for significance, to find purpose. But, by the grace of God, He had another plan that I could not see and preserved my life so that I could come to my Lord Jesus Christ. He has since given me purpose.

And one of the things that God has called me to be is an encourager of young men. He has made me a light wherever I am, whether that was on staff with World Impact, or on the basketball court in the inner-city. I have found that purpose I was searching for in Christ, and I give Him His due credit. Our Messiah is worthy of our trust.

PRAYER

Father God,

I thank you for calling me and all of those who belong to Christ by name into your eternal family. May we continue to be about your business, being the hands and feet of the Lord Jesus Christ wherever we are. Give us the power to represent you in this darkened world with boldness and love, whether that is on the mission field, corporate America, or in the home. It is about you.

Eric West

Bible Club participant from 1973-1974

Camp resident in 1986

World Impact staff from 1988-1990



DAY 2

Read Psalm 29:1-2
“...Ascribe to the LORD the
glory due his name...”

REFLECTION

“What’s your name?”

“Hallowed. My mama opened the Bible and it said, ‘Hallowed be thy name.’” This is a true story but not what the Psalmist means when it says three times, “Ascribe to the LORD...” (although such a name would be quite a reminder!) I have eaten with murderers, drug addicts, and gang members. When these men and women come to Jesus, their gratitude is overwhelming because they clearly understand they deserve death for all the pain and destruction they have caused. Their vision and mission to pursue their family and friends are powerful when they surrender to Christ.

Gang members often understand more fiercely what it means to belong—to have each other’s back. Their discipleship to gang life is so committed and thorough that they will kill for one another and go to jail to protect what they believe is important. Think how that devotion is redeemed when they come to Christ, when they trade death and lies for the truth. I have a front row seat to believers who would die before they deny or discredit what Christ has done for them. Their new lives ascribe full credit to the LORD and His glory, the splendor of His holiness.

PRAYER

Father, may we be fully aware that we are the most blessed among mankind to walk with you and do your will. Transform us to live lives that ascribe all glory and strength to you. Help us count the cost and live our lives for what truly matters. And give us a heart to carry as many as we can from the kingdom of darkness into your marvelous light. Empower those in the city to reach those around them with the gospel and nurture them in healthy churches in their communities.

Sharon Browatzke
World Impact missionary since 1990



DAY 3

Read Psalm 34:17-18

*“...The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
and saves the crushed in spirit.”*

REFLECTION

I found myself sprawled out in the middle of the street after being hit in the jaw. Soon, the steel-toed boots began to pummel my body with full force. I looked up at my attacker and said, “Dude! You need Jesus!” to which he walked away cursing. Ten minutes before, the perpetrator had his right hand against the throat of a young Hispanic woman and his left hand clenched ready to strike. My wife Susan and I were driving through gang territory in South LA, where we lived, when we saw and heard the cries for deliverance while countless passersby ignored the wailing and groans of the young woman. I told Susan to call 911, and I pulled over to intervene. The lady was delivered at the expense of my jaw and body. There is a cost to deliverance. Jesus sacrificed His body to deliver us from the clutches of our spiritual enemy, and it cost Him his life. As we walk as Jesus walked, the Lord hears and delivers those in trouble, the brokenhearted and crushed in spirit, through His disciples. Our responsibility is to listen and respond no matter the cost.

PRAYER

Father in heaven, we thank you that you loved the world so much that you sent your Son in the fullness of time to deliver us from our spiritual trouble: the sin that has separated us from your presence. We thank you and praise you, Lord Jesus, for willingly going to the cross so that we who confess You as Lord and believe that You have risen from the dead, are now made righteous. In the righteousness we now have, we boldly come to you, Holy Spirit, to intercede for us in our cries for help. You lift us up when we are brokenhearted and crushed in spirit.

*Bob Engel
World Impact missionary since 1982*



DAY 4

Read Romans 1:16-17

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation...”

REFLECTION

My cheerful, bubbly exercise partner appeared unusually subdued and pensive. As we rounded the track, she turned her head to talk to me. I perceived a quick but noticeable wince. “What’s wrong?” I asked.

“Oh, my neck is really hurting. I’ve taken some pills, but nothing has helped.” “I’m sorry,” I said. “That’s no fun at all.”

I longed to say more, but I also wanted to discern the Spirit’s guidance. My new friend had never talked openly about what she believed. I didn’t want to make a scene, but...

“Would you mind if I prayed for you?” I asked, as we finished.

“No!” she said, eyes widening. So right in the middle of a noisy gym full of kids, parents and coaches, I gently put my hand on her neck and asked Jesus to heal her.

That night I got a text: “The pain is completely gone! Thank you so much!”

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You are amazing. You gave Your life to save us, and that salvation extends from our past through our present and into our future. Because of Your shed blood, our sins are forgiven, and eternal life is promised. Our day-to-day lives are profoundly affected because Your death on the cross paid not only for our sins, but for the consequences of our sins and of everyone else’s sins. Help us to be watchful for opportunities to share with others the power of Your salvation. When the Spirit leads us onto the holy ground of evangelism, help our words to be clear, accepting, and inviting. When physical or emotional healing is what is needed, may we pray boldly with faith. We are not ashamed of You, Lord! We love You! May our lives be a living testimony to You.

Susie Krehbiel

World Impact missionary from 1978-2014



DAY 5

Read Matthew 16:18

“...on this rock, I will build my church...”

REFLECTION

In today's culture it appears that the church is losing. Many will say we are losing the spiritual and moral battle. Jesus makes it crystal clear in this passage that He is the one in control and that the church will win. If Jesus makes the promise that He will build His church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it, then we can find hope and comfort in that. Jesus died for the church, He is cleansing the church, and He is coming back for the church. The great thing about this passage is the church is not a place we attend, but a people we belong to. It may seem like you are losing spiritually in your life right now, but know that God has a perfect plan for your life. We win in Jesus. The church is on the offense, not the defense.

PRAYER

Dear Father,

Thank you for your perfect will for the church. Thank you for being a promise-keeping God. Lord, forgive me when I do not put my trust in Your Word but put my trust in other things. Thank you for the truth of the gospel. Thank you that I am fully known and at the same time fully loved. There is nothing I can do to change the way you view me because of the gospel. Continue to work in the life of your bride, the church. Please Lord, bring me back to a place of holy awe for you. Light a fire in our souls for you and for others. Thank you for the power of the Holy Spirit who lives in me. Help me to surrender, listen, and be sensitive to your Spirit. You are the name above all names.

Marcus Hayes

*Morning Star Ranch Discipleship Program and Urban Church Planting
Conference participant from 2001-2003*



DAY 6

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18

“...Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.”

REFLECTION

The impact of Jesus' work on the cross is reconciliation; but it is often thought that reconciliation takes place when the human being makes the decision to be reconciled with God. However, it is God who makes the initiative to receive people, despite their crimes, faults, hostility, rebellion, and sin.

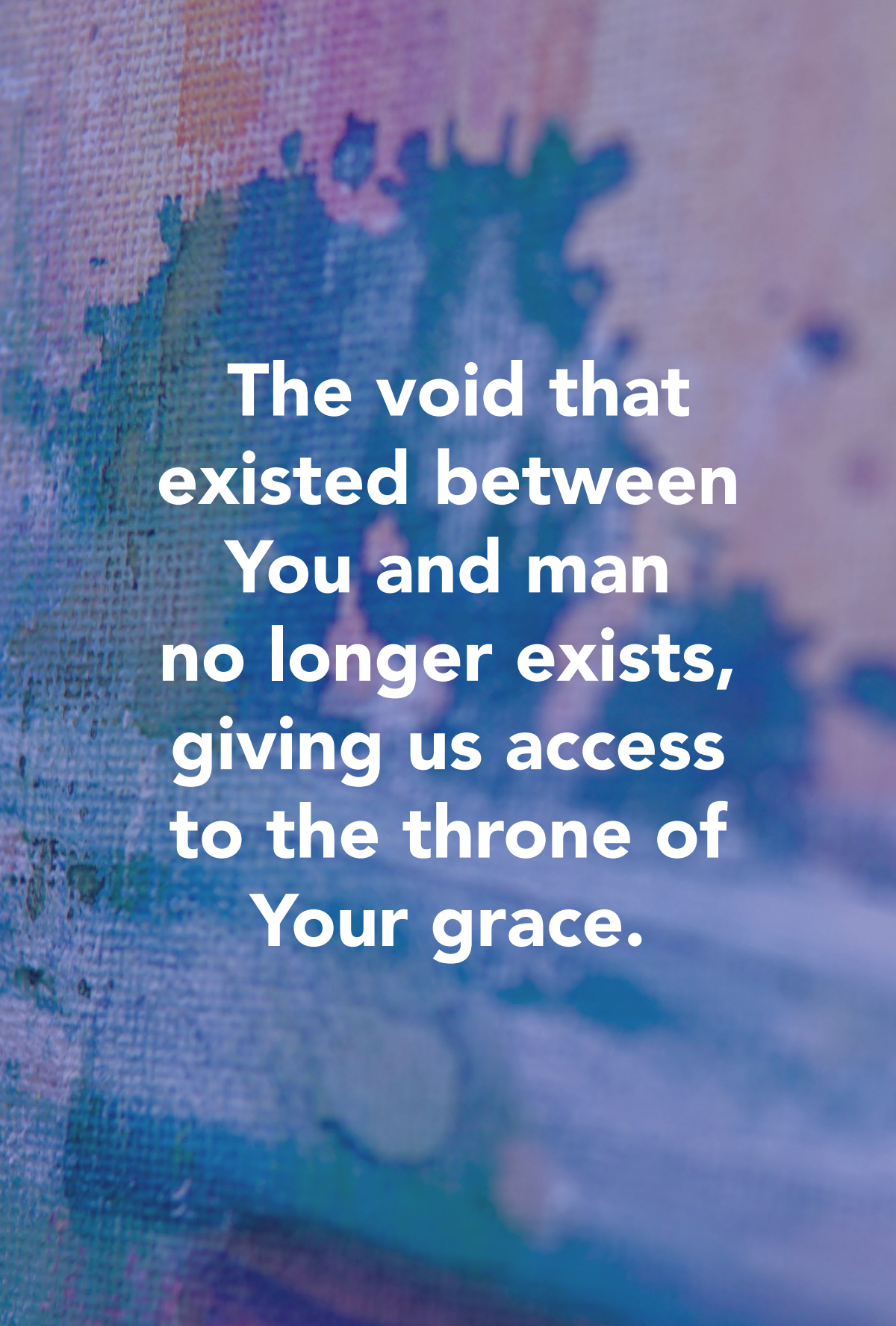
The initiative is always taken by God. The world had moved away from Him, but God would not endure this distance. Since neither the law nor the prophets nor the sacrificial system could reconcile God and us, God carried it out through the sacrifice of his beloved Son. God “has given us the ministry of reconciliation,” and we are carriers and agents with the obligation to extend reconciliation between people and God; then, consequently, reconciliation becomes possible and necessary between people.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the victory of Jesus Christ on the cross and the ministry of reconciliation that is obtained through His sacrifice, His obedience, and His total surrender to you. Thank you for deciding to reconcile this world to you. We come to you, Lord, to give you glory, honor, and all of our praise because, by the fruit of your sacrifice, the void that existed between you and man no longer exists, giving us access to the throne of your grace. As Hebrews 4:16 says, we can approach you with all confidence to obtain mercy and grace in our time of need. We want the world to know this throne of grace. May souls come to you and be freed from sin and all condemnation by the glorious ministry of reconciliation that is only through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Gustavo Delgado

World Impact staff since 2014

The background is an abstract, textured surface with a mix of blue, purple, and green hues. It appears to be a close-up of a painted or stained surface, possibly a wall or fabric, with visible brushstrokes and color variations. The colors are somewhat muted and blended together, creating a soft, ethereal atmosphere.

**The void that
existed between
You and man
no longer exists,
giving us access
to the throne of
Your grace.**



DAY 7

Read Revelation 4:11

“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power...”

REFLECTION

Do you ever ponder Heaven? Do you wish someone you love could come back and give a glimpse of what they are experiencing? The Apostle John received a vision of what was going on in Heaven, which he shares with us in Revelation 4. John was caught up in deep worship full of lightning flashes, thrones, bizarre animals with wings; every person and creature was worshipping the Lord. Take time today to read the full chapter.

Worship is a huge part of Heaven; therefore, it should be a significant part of our everyday lives. In Revelation 4:11, all of Heaven is proclaiming that God is worthy to receive all the glory, honor, and power, acknowledging that he created all things and holds all things together. Worship is sacred and holy, and we can worship anywhere and anytime! Taking that time to ponder and reflect on who God is and then worshipping him changes the way we look at our lives and the world.

PRAYER

Holy Father, full of mercy, love, and grace, You are beyond our understanding, and we stand in awe of you. You spoke and all creation came into existence. You set the stars in their galaxies and made a path for the worlds to move upon. You are too much for us, too awesome and powerful. Who are we to be in your presence? Yet, you have valued us. You have called us your beloved. Who are we to be in your presence? Yet, you took on the flesh of your creation to bring us back to you. “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

Lisa Entz

World Impact missionary since 1986



DAY 8

Read Hebrews 10:24-25

“...let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds...”

REFLECTION

The key to being an effective Christ-follower is perseverance. The challenges of the Christian journey are dramatic and constant, filled with interruptions, enemies, hold-ups, and headaches. However disciplined or committed, no person can succeed as Christ's disciple based on their solo effort. We need each other. We must strive to “stir up one another to love and good works,” never neglecting to gather and encourage one another. With the Day of Christ's Appearing drawing ever closer, we need this even more.

These verses focus on our fundamental need to provoke, stimulate, and spur one another to “keep on going,” to care for others, and do works of generosity, hospitality, and service. After giving nearly a half-century to sharing the Gospel in the city, my wife Beth and I rely intensely on the friendships and encouragements of those who call us to be our best. No one can thrive without encouragement.

PRAYER

Eternal God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for your grace to help us to “keep on going,” even in the face of difficulty and pain. We know that our Lord Jesus is the pattern of our perseverance; He endured the cross and despised the shame until He had completed your will for His ministry. Grant to each of us the humility and the openness to listen to our community, our fellow disciples, the friends of Jesus who challenge and stir us to action, to love others, and to do good works consistent with your Gospel. With the Day of Christ's Appearing drawing ever closer, strengthen us to be vessels of love and confidence, and help us inspire our fellow Christ-followers to complete their callings with excellence and joy. Make us like your Son.

*Dr. Don Davis
World Impact missionary since 1976*

An abstract painting featuring a figure with a bright, glowing halo on the left side. The background is a mix of warm colors like yellow, orange, and red, transitioning into cooler blues and greens on the right. The style is expressive and textured, with visible brushstrokes.

DAY 9

Read Matthew 18:10

*“Take care that you do not despise
one of these little ones...”*

REFLECTION

These startling words introduce the parable of the Shepherd’s search for, and exuberant delight upon, finding one of his straying sheep. As I pondered just who the “little ones” in this passage refer to, I asked, “Is the parable about little children? And why would they stray?” Suddenly it struck me that many straying adults were despised when they were little. Despised, neglected, disrespected, regarded as negligible, worthless, or distasteful. Belittled. Some were abandoned, abused, and violated in their early years. Their subsequent inability to sustain healthy relationships, succeed at jobs, or develop the character qualities that foster personal and communal health often led them to stray from God into addictions, violence, and even self-harm. Their foundational inability to trust the Good Shepherd’s loving care, to stray, place them directly on the Shepherd’s agenda. He can’t forget them, even if he’s surrounded by 99 healthy sheep that never strayed. Hallelujah! Angels are continually before His face, reminding Him of the straying ones who were despised as little ones.

PRAYER

Seeking God, gentle Shepherd, all-seeing Father, Your strong love of “little ones” compels me to join you in searching for those who have strayed. The knowledge that the angels persistently remind You of those who were despised and wounded provides strength and courage while I follow your call to care for others. And may I never forget that you too were despised and rejected, abandoned and wounded, so that the “little ones” may be healed. When in my mind’s eye I see You rejoicing over each one that is found, I choose to take time to remember and celebrate. Thank you. I praise you!

Mary Thiessen

World Impact missionary from 1974-1990



DAY 10

Read Matthew 28:18-19

*“Go therefore and make disciples
of all nations...”*

REFLECTION

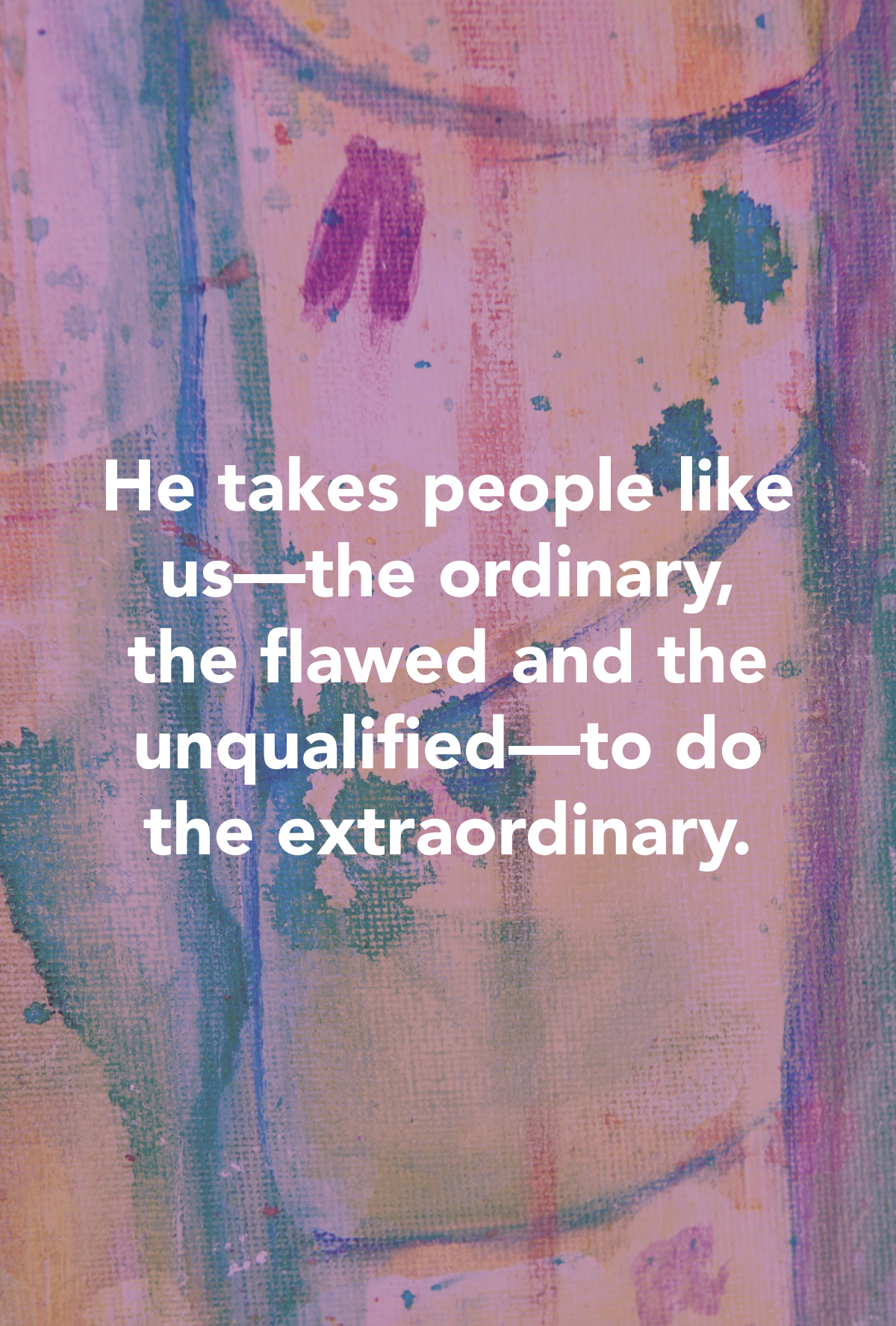
I am a part of the legacy of World Impact and am a beneficiary of others choosing to hear and follow the Great Commission. I know the power of prayer because Fred followed God's prompting to Oaklawn. I know what it feels like to be loved selflessly because Maggie spent her summers with me at The Oaks in the Leadership in Training Program. Audrey gave me a home. World Impact Missionaries lived in my neighborhood, planted my church, and chose to invest in my life. The World Impact missionaries stood in the spiritual gap when my family was broken through death, addiction, and sickness.

PRAYER

Father God, thank you for those who heard and continue to hear your calling to serve the city and the least of these. Thank you for the legacy of World Impact, your missionaries, and those who support them. We know that you have a plan and a purpose and that your timing is perfect. Thank you for the 50 years you have given World Impact and for what is in store for the next 50. We pray your hand of protection over the next generation of disciple-makers. We ask that you open our eyes to who they are and the calling you have placed on them. Wherever they are today, Lord, let them feel your love, your unending grace, and mercy. Lord, as World Impact moves into the next 50 years of kingdom-building, give her leaders and supporters supernatural wisdom, reckless love, and unending energy. Protect them from the enemy and give them opportunities to see the legacy that they are creating.

Eva Gautam

Camp Leadership Training, various programs from 1999-2008

The background is an abstract painting with visible brushstrokes. It features a mix of soft pink, light blue, and muted green colors, with some darker, more saturated areas. The texture appears slightly grainy, suggesting a canvas or paper surface. The overall mood is artistic and contemplative.

**He takes people like
us—the ordinary,
the flawed and the
unqualified—to do
the extraordinary.**

DAY 11

Read 1 Corinthians 1:27-29

*“...God chose what is weak in the world
to shame the strong...”*

REFLECTION

Contrary to worldly wisdom, God uses those who are overlooked to bring about the expansion of His Kingdom. I am constantly humbled by the extraordinary women I serve alongside. Their extraordinariness comes from the power of the Holy Spirit working through them. I have seen God rescue women from addiction and then lead them into the ministry of evangelism and discipleship. I work with women who immigrated here from other countries and followed God's call to start a movement of empowering women across the U.S. with the Gospel. God does not look at people through the same lens society does. He takes people like us—the ordinary, the flawed and the unqualified—to do the extraordinary. He does this not so that we can boast, but so that we can know the awesome power of His Holy Spirit working in and through us.

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, I know that on my own I can do nothing. I praise you because Your power is made perfect in my weakness. Thank you for allowing me to be a vessel to carry out Your good works despite my shortcomings. May Your Holy Spirit supply me with the grace and strength needed to accomplish Your will. Give me Your eyes to see those whom the world has overlooked as agents of Your Kingdom. Father, grant me a humble spirit as I follow your command to make disciples in Your name. I give you praise for the privilege of being a part of Your Kingdom advancement.

Tina Busenitz

World Impact missionary since 2004



DAY 12

Read James 2:14-17

*“...faith by itself, if it is not
accompanied by action, is dead.”*

REFLECTION

Who you belong to determines how you will act. All of us who have placed our faith in Jesus Christ belong to Him now, not ourselves. He has made us a new creation. We walk by His Spirit in love, grace, and good works because we have been made new in Him.

James' argument should not be ignored. If we have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, it will produce works. If our faith does not produce works, something is wrong ... and that something is that we have forgotten that we belong to Him.

May God give us grace to believe in the Lord Jesus, remember that we belong to Him, and represent Him in the world. He is our Lord, our life, and our champion—we belong to Him!

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you came to seek and save the lost and went about doing good to all who were oppressed by the devil. You did your Father's will. I am so grateful that through faith in You, I have been redeemed from sin and set apart to You—I belong to You. Jesus, help me to live out my faith in You, gratefulness for You, and belonging to You every day. Let me love, live, see, serve, and give the way You do. Place in me Your heart for others, reminding me that how I treat them is how I treat You. Jesus, give me the grace to always remember that I belong to You, and help me to represent You in every circumstance, and with every person I encounter today.

Lorna Rasmussen

World Impact missionary since 1991



DAY 13

Read 1 John 5:11-13

“Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”

REFLECTION

This is one of the most encouraging passages in the Bible! This is my greatest hope: I have the life of God in me through His Son. It gives me the motivation to tell people of this great news and invite them to receive the Son of God. Those who fear death should no longer fear because we have the Son. Though we die, we shall live. The emphasis laid on verse 13 makes me smile even more. Having any form of disease or sickness cannot worry me at all, for eternity is in me through the great Son of God. This reality further motivates me to live a life of gratitude to God the Father for His great love of giving me His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER

Father God, thank you for your love for me. Despite your being a great and Holy God, you decided to love a sinful person like me. Thank you for giving me your only begotten Son Jesus Christ and for allowing Him to die in my place. Lord, while I was still a sinner, you saved me by your Son Jesus Christ. What manner of love! Now, Father, help me live a life that glorifies your name. Help me show others this great love you have toward mankind. Father, I pray this day that you make me an instrument of love to others. Help me love even those who appear unlovable. Guide me daily to always remember what you did for me at Calvary. Let me never take your great love for granted.

*Boaz Masinde
World Impact partner since 2018*



DAY 14

Read Micah 6:8

*“...to do justice, and to love
kindness, and to walk humbly...”*

REFLECTION

What is worth shouting to a people who are turning away from God? In this quote from the prophet Micah, God reminds us of His true and loving path for us to live with our fellow citizens. To “do” justice we must consider the ways of the self-centered person versus the ways of God and surrender to His wisdom. To “love” kindness we must search our hearts for the grace He has poured on us and allow it to flow on those around us. To “walk” humbly with our God we must relinquish our selfish desires to allow our most generous God to care for everything in our lives. It is worthy to shout what God says is good today.

PRAYER

We pray for the voice of the Lord to be heard from every mountain, valley, city street, country road, mansion, and dirt floor shack. We pray for the strength of each person who knows the ways of God and is courageous enough to shout what is true and precious. We pray for the ears of all those who hear what is good; and what the Lord requires of us.

We pray for the hands of justice to separate and defend those who are oppressed and imprisoned wrongly. We pray for the eyes of lovingkindness to fall on all those in pain and in the shadows. We pray for humility as we seek the path of the Lord each morning the sun greets us. We pray that our nation hears the ancient prophets calling to us from a place of wisdom, sorrow, and joy. We must pray, obey, and rejoice.

David Estrada

World Impact staff since 2017



DAY 15

Read Galatians 2:20

*"I have been crucified with Christ and I
no longer live, but Christ lives in me..."*

REFLECTION

As you enter prayer and time with the Lord, breathe deep and let the peace of God center your heart and mind. In a journal or on a piece of paper in the middle write the name for the Lord you use most when you talk to Him from your heart. Ask the Lord for the words, phrases, and pictures that you need this day to remind you of your identity in Christ, the ways He has made you for this unique season, and how He has been with you freeing you from rule-keeping to live by His Spirit. Is there anywhere today that I am trying to keep the rules? Where am I concerned about appearing righteous to someone else? How is that affecting my life? Lord, what is Your invitation to me today from these verses?

PRAYER

"Oh God, gather me now to be with you

As you are with me.

Soothe my tiredness;

Quiet my fretfulness;

Curb my aimlessness;

Relieve my compulsiveness;

Let me be easy for a moment.

O Lord, release me from the fears and guilts which grip me so tightly;

From the expectations and opinions which I so tightly grip,

That I may be open to receiving what you give,

To risking something genuinely new,

To learning something refreshingly different.

O God, gather me to be with you as you are with me."

(Ted Loder, *Guerrillas of Grace: Prayers for the Battle*, pg.76)

Kim Contreras

World Impact missionary since 1993



DAY 16

Read Acts 10:34

*“...truly I understand that
God shows no partiality.”*

REFLECTION

The gospel is for everyone. One day I was picking up a few things at a large store when I saw something that I knew one of my five grandchildren would like. I bought it for him; but when I told my wife who it was for, she said that if I buy for one grandchild, I should buy something for all the other grandchildren. I learned something that day about partiality. Isn't it wonderful that we have an impartial, loving God who is able to save all who come to Him? I can only imagine how Cornelius the gentile must have felt in Acts 10 to be called upon to receive the gospel and his whole household, friends, and neighbors who were saved and baptized that day. What an amazing God who shows no partiality to the saints and the sinners and can save all no matter what nation they are from! So, let us not be partial in who we share the gospel with because the good news is for everyone.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, in the name of your beloved Son, whom you sent into this world to save us and give us eternal life, I pray that you will continue to show us mercy and forgiveness as we humble ourselves before you. Fill us with your love for our church, family, friends, and neighbors, for whom you poured out your precious blood. Help us to remember that when we are disciplined that it is because of your great love for us. Lord, prepare us for your return and remind us of your words, “One day is as a thousand years and a thousand years is as one day” to you. Lord, send more laborers for the great harvest that is ready to receive your love. Thank you for a living hope that will never fade and that is waiting for us to claim when we leave this world. We give you all praise, honor, and glory.

Michael Palacio

Bible Club participant in 1971



**The good news is
for everyone.**

DAY 17

Read Jonah 4:11

*“And should not I pity Nineveh,
that great city...”*

REFLECTION

Jonah's name usually evokes thoughts of a man being swallowed by a really big fish. Yet days in a fish's belly did not produce a fully repentant heart. Jonah, freshly expelled on the beach, follows God's directions and calls Nineveh to repentance. Angry over God's mercy toward Nineveh, Jonah 4 highlights Jonah's heart condition through the life and death of a plant. One day, Jonah enjoys the shade of a plant as he sits and waits for the destruction of Nineveh, and the next day, he is burning in the light of the direct sun, claiming to be angry enough to die. God points out that Jonah is angry about the death of the plant, yet is not in the least bit angry about the deaths of thousands of people in Nineveh, lost enough to not know their right hand from their left. He asks Jonah to consider where His pity should lie.

PRAYER

Dearest Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit,
Show me where I stew in anger over my own suffering while ignoring the suffering of others. Show me where my heart craves your mercy yet spurns the idea of mercy offered to those who think and live differently than me. Show me where I have accepted divisions among people whom you have fearfully and wonderfully made. Give me the strength and grace to turn from my ways and embrace, as well as share, your Way for myself and for those you already love in my city.

Faith Watts

World Impact missionary from 2007-2019



DAY 18

Read 1 Corinthians 10:31

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God.”

REFLECTION

Whether or Whatever. Together these words become all-encompassing. I think brother Paul wanted us to know this scripture covers any and everything. Yes, even that thing that might be coming to mind right now. God’s glory, his visible manifestation of his character, should be seen by all anywhere at any time in any situation or circumstance, regardless of the scenario. Even things as mundane and common as our eating and drinking. That is HUGE! And if we are honest, it’s also HEAVY. Ask yourself this: “Can God’s glory be seen in me and in how I live? Visibly? Clearly?”

I ponder this question because as I look at myself and the church, I wonder if we really take this scripture as a life principle to be LIVED, not just known. Oh, what impact we would have in our relationships, homes, churches, cities, states, countries, and yes, the whole world! The schisms, factions, hatred, and divisiveness would surely dissipate. Imagine the unity and love this would bring to the body of Christ, which in turn would be our witness of us being in Christ to this hurting world!

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, in our quest to live our lives, let us never forget that in all we do and say it is all to be done for Your glory—the created beholding the Creator, marveling at just how great You are.

*Shampayne Lloyd
World Impact partner since 2014*

DAY 19

Read Acts 1:8

“...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

REFLECTION

During my time as a missionary, I would occasionally thank God that I was not living a “normal” life. I was where God had called me to be, yet I was looking down on those who were not called to urban ministry.

In Jesus’ final words to His disciples, He declared that the Holy Spirit would give them power to be witnesses in every part of the world. Some were called to be lights in the towns and cities they grew up in, others to go further out within their country, and still others were to venture to new lands. They were all to be witnesses; one location was not more important than the other.

God seems to have a sense of humor when we speak pridefully about our situation. After 13 years of serving God in Chester, PA, our family was called back to the town my husband grew up in. I would begin living a “normal” life. Until recently I struggled to find my place and with not being part of the “greater” things God was doing in urban and world missions. He has gently reminded me that being where He called me is the most important place to be. Raising and discipling my children, building relationships with people I interact with daily, and sharing His vision for the church are all ways that I can be a witness.

PRAYER

Father, thank you for putting me right where you want me to be today! Thank you for giving me Your power to be a witness here. May others see Your light in my words and actions today!

Vicki Anthony

World Impact missionary from 2001-2014

DAY 20

Read Jeremiah 33:3

“Call to me and I will answer you...”

REFLECTION

The promise and instruction in this text are clear. We are to call out to God in faith, fully believing that He will answer. His response is equally clear. He will answer those prayers of faith and in fact show us great and mighty things, which we do not know. Who would not want to cling to such a promise? And yet we so often find ourselves clouded with doubt, fear, anxiety. The troubles of this life are overwhelming. Jeremiah wrote these words while in prison!

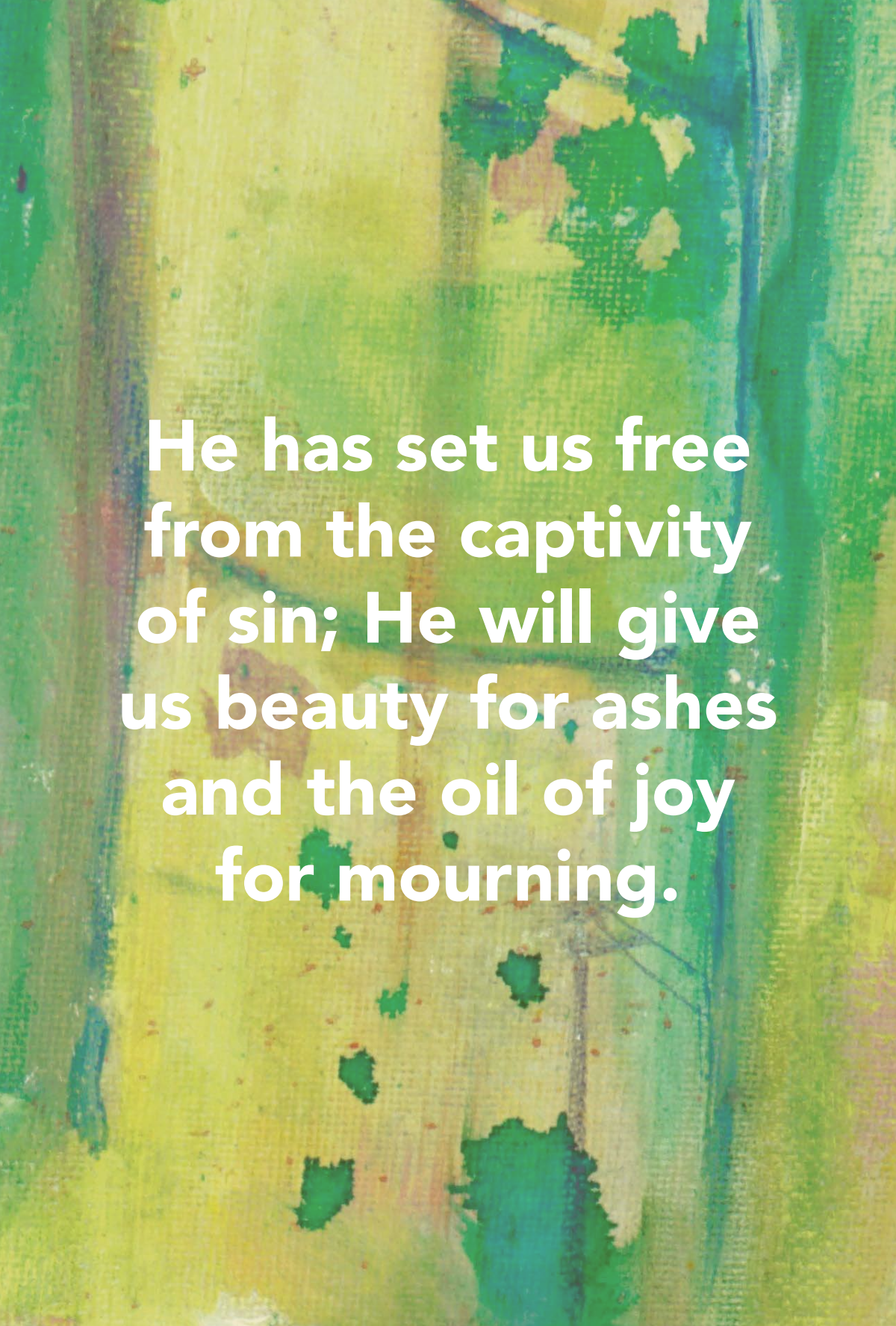
God's desire is for us to trust. In fact, it says in Psalm 147:11 that “He takes pleasure in those who fear Him and hope in His steadfast love.” The promise is for all. The call rests in our hearts. Will we in fact say yes to this amazing promise? And then have that wonderful experience of God's clear answer to our prayers? The invitation to faith and vibrant prayer is for all. The promise comes from the everlasting, all-powerful God whom we serve. He is the only one who can be faithful to such a promise. The choice is ours to obey and then experience the wonder of His answers. Often our first inclination is to go to another for help in our times of greatest challenge. God encourages us to approach Him first, seek His face, and then patiently wait.

PRAYER

May we agree with the prayers of another saint: “Let me know that the work of prayer is to bring my will to thine, and that without this it is folly to pray; I can only succeed when I pray according to thy precept and promise, and to be done with as it pleases thee, according to thy sovereign will.”

(Valley of Vision)

*Al Ewert
World Impact missionary since 1971*

The background is an abstract painting with a textured, canvas-like appearance. It features broad, vertical brushstrokes in shades of green, yellow, and blue. There are also smaller, more intricate strokes and splatters of color, particularly in the upper right and lower right areas, creating a layered and expressive visual effect.

**He has set us free
from the captivity
of sin; He will give
us beauty for ashes
and the oil of joy
for mourning.**



DAY 21

Read Isaiah 61:1-3

*“...to bestow on them a crown of
beauty instead of ashes...”*

REFLECTION

You are getting a raise! You have won a trip! Your cancer is in remission! Everyone likes to receive good news. In Isaiah 61, we find even better news through a prophetic promise given through the prophet, Isaiah. A promise to bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and open the prison doors to those who are bound.

Jesus fulfills this passage in Luke 4 when He stands up in the synagogue to read from the scroll. Jesus Himself is our good news. He has set us free from the captivity of sin; He will give us beauty for ashes and the oil of joy for mourning. In our lonely and dark hours, we can cling to the good news that Jesus has come as our Savior, Healer, and Comforter. He is our Redeemer, and we are His beloved.

After decades of ministry in the city, there is no sweeter thing to see than people being set free from shame and guilt and to experience the healing presence of our Lord and Savior – Praise God!

PRAYER

Father God, who sits enthroned on high, you are above all and have by your Word created everything. Who are we that you are mindful of us? Yet in your perfect will and perfect time you came to us to deliver us from our captivity and bondage. You loved us so much that you bind up our broken hearts and surround us with your presence when we mourn. When we are heavy laden and downcast, it is you who we turn to for relief, comfort, and deliverance. You are our safe place. We place our trust in you. We give you all our love and praise.

*Andy Entz
World Impact missionary since 1986*

DAY 22

Read Ephesians 2:17

“He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.”

REFLECTION

Jesus’ message of peace was consistent no matter the culture of the recipient. There may have been different specifics and He may have contextualized, but peace was what Jesus preached. To Zacchaeus, a tax-collecting Jew, peace was: “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” For the Roman Gentile Centurion who longed for his servant to be healed, peace was: “Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would.” For the Samaritan woman at the well, peace was: “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.” The peace of Jesus should be a marker of His Body, those who follow His teaching. We bring the Peace of Christ with us to all we encounter, no matter the context. May His peace change your life, and the lives around you like it did for Zacchaeus, the Centurion, and the Woman at the Well.

PRAYER

“Oh Divine Lord,
You taught us that those who work for peace
are called the children of God.
Help us to persist in establishing justice and truth
as firm and lasting foundations of peace.
Lord, You offer us peace as a gift
and peace as a responsibility that we must realize with Your help.
Give us the grace to reach for peace,
to have attitudes of peace,
that our words may be of peace,
and that our works be works of peace.”

(Monsignor Pedro Rubiano Saenze, Cardinal of Colombia and Archbishop of Bogota,
“Prayer for Peace”)

Candy Gibson

World Impact missionary since 2006



DAY 23

Read 2 Timothy 2:2

*“...entrust to faithful men, who
will be able to teach others also.”*

REFLECTION

As I reflect on this passage, I realize I have struggled in viewing myself as qualified to teach others and spread the Word. I do not hold the title of “prophet,” “evangelist,” or “pastor;” however, I am a disciple who has been equipped with the knowledge of the Word. More importantly, I have seen firsthand the power of God and am a direct recipient of His blessings; therefore, I am a qualified and equipped witness. This passage has also made me reflect on how to teach others. Teaching is more than spoken word, we also teach through our behavior. Jesus taught in word and deed, and it is our charge to be more Christlike. So please remember, we are entrusted and qualified to teach through word and deed.

PRAYER

Father, I ask you to help us become more consistent and reliable in our teachings of the Bible. We are witnesses, and we know your grace and mercy has touched us. I ask that you help us be more Christlike in word *and* deed. Fill us with the Spirit so we may go out and do the wonderful things you ask of us.

Addrain Conyers

Newark Christian School student from 1986-1990

Newark Christian School student sponsor from 2011-2019



DAY 24

Read Hebrews 13:7

*“Remember those who rule over you, who
have spoken the word of God to you...”*

REFLECTION

When I consider the words of the writer of Hebrews, I am reminded of the importance of remembering those who are and have been guides and leaders over me. One translation puts it this way: “Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.” Paul in 1 Corinthians exhorts them to ‘follow his example, as he followed the example of Christ’. The Sovereign God who called us into fellowship with Himself has placed leaders and guides in our lives to watch over us and to be examples to us as we grow in our faith—that we may imitate them as they imitate Christ.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I glorify and exalt your Holy name. I thank you, Abba, for those servant leaders you have placed in my life, who are worthy of imitating as they imitate your precious Son Jesus. May you grant us the humility to always walk worthy of the calling in our life.

Alberto Garcia

World Impact partner since 2020

DAY 25

Read 1 John 3:17-18

“...let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.”

REFLECTION

It was Friday at 5 a.m. in the Philadelphia Airport ... again. Another long week in the hotel, conference rooms, and noisy restaurants. Elongated days filled with conversations that felt meaningless and repetitious. Away from my wife and kids for another series of hug-less days. Twenty-five years of the same week-in-week-out routine in the name of Gospel ministry. Yes, in my first-class seat I was pouting, and then ...

“Excuse me sir,” a shaky Middle-Eastern-accented voice whispered in my ear. Disrupted from my quiet moments of self-pity, I turned in my Delta aisle seat. “Would you kindly help me with my suitcase?” asked Mrs. Warwar (as I would soon learn). I obliged and she sat in the window seat next to me and changed my life.

The 87-year-old, profoundly deaf, wealthy woman, originally from Lebanon, immediately engaged me in conversation about Jesus—a very loud conversation for two and a half hours. Mrs. Warwar was expected to die in less than six months, and she was desperate for hope. As the pilot informed us of our initial descent into Atlanta, Mrs. Warwar was praying to Jesus and professing her faith in Him as her Savior.

PRAYER

Jesus, you know I’m selfish and prone to complain. The world around me is literally dying for hope. The hope with which you continually overwhelm me. Forgive me for my groaning, complaining, and failure to represent your Gospel in “deed and truth.” Thank you for your amazing redemption. Help me to be ready to share You even when I’m not ready.

Tom Trageser
World Impact staff from 2020-2021



DAY 26

Read Isaiah 60:22

“...I am the Lord; in its time I will hasten it.”

REFLECTION

In the shadow of evil and oppression that surrounded Isaiah and the people he loved, God gave him a glimpse of things to come. If you’ve looked around lately, you may have noticed that we’re living in some dark days too: racial tension, political dissension, poverty, and oppression—just to name a few. This verse paints a picture of hope. Hope that God is in control. Hope that God has not forgotten the “least of these.” Notice that Isaiah doesn’t say “the person in the middle will become great.” Rather, it’s the poorest of the poor that will be elevated to a position of strength. In the New Living Translation, it reads “The smallest family will become a thousand people, and the tiniest group will become a mighty nation.”

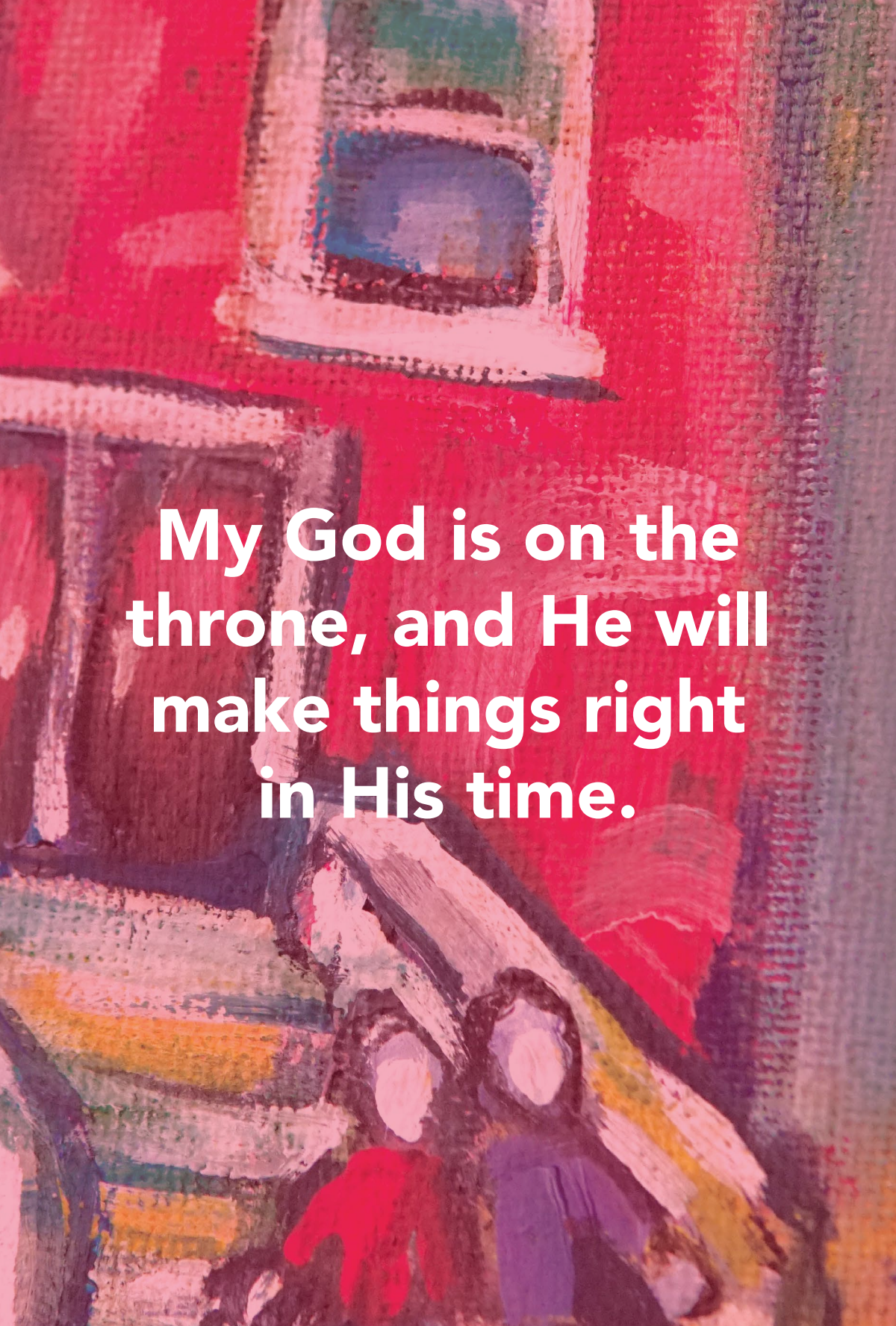
And then there’s the question of control and timing. There’s hope in the second half of the verse when we read that “At the right time, I, the Lord, will make it happen.” This verse encourages me to take a deep breath and recognize that I’m not the one that must do this work. What a relief! In all the craziness around me, it’s not my job to fix it. My God is on the throne, and He will make things right in His time. There’s great relief in this truth.

PRAYER

Father, thank you that You are the One in control of all things. Help me to remember this truth when I feel discouraged and disheartened. Remind me in the daily grind that You are on Your throne. You have a plan. You are fully in control. I commit myself again to walking in step with Your purpose and Your plan for this crazy world. Help me to walk in obedience to Your calling on my life, caring for the “least of these” as You live out your plan through me.

Paula Pust

World Impact staff since 2021

An abstract painting with a vibrant red background. In the upper center, there is a rectangular shape with a blue interior and a white border, resembling a window or a framed picture. Below this, the painting transitions into darker, more textured areas with shades of brown, black, and yellow. At the bottom, there are several figures or shapes that appear to be looking upwards, rendered in dark tones with some highlights. The overall style is expressive and textured, with visible brushstrokes and a rich color palette.

**My God is on the
throne, and He will
make things right
in His time.**



DAY 27

Read 2 Timothy 2:15

*“Do your best to present yourself to God as
a worker who does not need to be ashamed...”*

REFLECTION

The Apostle Paul, writing to the younger Timothy, begins the second chapter of his second epistle by exhorting him to be “strengthened” as he does the demanding work of discipleship. Followers of Christ continue this work to this day. The task is to “entrust the deposit of our faith to reliable people who will be able to teach others.” In Jude, we are similarly exhorted to “contend for the faith delivered once for all to the saints.” As we come to verse 15, we see that those who seek to teach and disciple in the way of Christ are truly “workers.” Timothy is encouraged to “do his best,” which should really encourage us to give maximum effort and even when we fail, we fail forward. We refuse to live in shame but in God’s rich grace that propels us ever onward.

PRAYER

Our Almighty God,

We pray that in your infinite mercy, you would help us to follow you more passionately, accepting the risk that is inherent in the task of teaching people everywhere about the good news of your Son. When we fail, keep us from living in guilt and shame and help us to see our best efforts, not to earn your love, but to live in the love that you so freely give us through Christ. We want to be hard workers in your field and rightly handle the Word of Truth deposited to us by the Apostles, handed down by generations of your saints. Keep us strong and when we grow weary, give us rest and refreshment in your Holy Spirit. Give us wisdom to know when to be still and to know when it is time to work again. We are yours completely, and we exist for your honor and glory.

Daren Busenitz

World Impact missionary since 1999



DAY 28

Read Acts 16:31

*“...Believe in the Lord Jesus,
and you will be saved...”*

REFLECTION

This story is a familiar one. The apostle Paul and Silas were jailed and miraculously freed from prison during the night after singing and praying joyfully. The most amazing part is that the jailer and his entire household, including his servants, came to Christ as a result! One of the key principles we teach in our work is how to reach families and community networks with the gospel. We have seen how God transforms whole families who had lived in brokenness. God often uses the faith of one person to reach entire families and communities. Just like the jailer in this story, there are people walking around free, but living in spiritual, social, and physical bondage. The gospel truly is amazing in its simplicity and its power to not only save the individual, but to demonstrate the goodness of God to whole communities in need of redemption.

PRAYER

Thank you, Father, for your redemptive work in our world, communities, and families. When we are fearful and lost in our trials, you call us to yourself. As what we strive to achieve in this world crumbles, and we find ourselves in need of you, you answer our cry. God, you have promised that our belief and faith in you is enough through the blood of Christ. Thank you for your amazing salvation and how it reaches into the depths of our lives and brings us to your light. Even now, Lord, continue to remind us of your faithfulness and how you are still at work in us and in our communities to redeem and make new every broken heart that turns to you!

*Jordan King
World Impact missionary since 2002*



DAY 29

Read John 17:3

“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God...”

REFLECTION

Man has been looking for the Fountain of Life since the beginning of time. The Washington Post reported that Americans spend 35 billion dollars in vitamins and related products every year. Jesus prayed that His followers would find eternal life in Him. In what theologians call the “scandal of exclusivity,” Jesus declares, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” When I witness to people, they often declare that this is close-minded. I remind them that I did not say this—Jesus said it, and I choose to believe Him. If Jesus really did rise from the dead, then we should listen to what He has to say about finding eternal life.

PRAYER

Jesus, you are the way, the truth, and the life. You are the true source of eternal life. Help me to believe that the same power that raised You from the dead is living in me. Empower me to be a faithful witness, speaking the truth in love.

Rick Browatzke

World Impact missionary from 1982-2019



DAY 30

Read Isaiah 52:7

“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news...”

REFLECTION

Sometimes it can feel like a journey to get to the point of good news. Think of a child being born. We hear that a mother is in labor, and we wait for hours that can turn into days. But when that baby is born, there is a cry of excitement. The dad runs to call the family and send that first picture where everyone rejoices over this beautiful gift. When I think about this passage, I think about Jesus and how He walked on this earth to bring the good news and proclaim the Kingdom of God. How He desires for us to find rest in Him, so that we can have everlasting peace. He is that breath of fresh air that brings us, His broken people, good fortune. This good fortune is the salvation of all who believe. This good news frees us to proclaim to the rest of the world that, “Our God Reigns!”

PRAYER

God, we praise you for your Word, we thank you that it fills us with joy. We love that You bring us good news of salvation and grace that steadies our hearts. You bring us wonderful gifts that we don’t deserve, simply because you’re a loving and generous God. Because of Your goodness we proclaim Your Name and want the rest of the world to know who You are. We ask for the courage and faith to be Your hands and feet and bring the good news to a lost world who is desperate for You.

*Yvonne Tejeda
World Impact staff since 2021*



BONUS

Read John 1:14

*“The Word became flesh and made
his dwelling among us...”*

REFLECTION

I serve in a global city and see all types of issues bombarding us, such as culture wars, intersectionality, and secular theories. These issues are missing the key to glory. Growing up around Civil Rights leaders, I learned that freedom, liberation, truth, and righteousness are tied to glory. As we think upon the Lord, we need to consider the power of Jesus, a Nazarene who was full of grace and truth. That Jesus came in the fullness of grace and truth was evident. The church in the city must stand out in the fullness of Jesus. We must embody a Jesus who is whole, encompassing every culture. We can receive the fullness of his glory because of his grace. We, as disciples of Jesus who live in the fullness of his truth and grace, can see the embodiment of his glory made real in our lives. Today as you read this, I implore you to embrace Jesus as more than a distant love. He is a warrior fueled with faith adorning his weaponry with compassion, love, deliverance, and justice. Our communities need Jesus who loves and delivers them from addiction, domestic violence, pride, greed, and sexual immorality. Today, we need to see the full glory of God in the embodiment of Jesus. He is not some seasonal answer to our pain and depression but the Nazarene who came full of glory!

PRAYER

Father, we ask you to help us see that Jesus is the fullness of truth and grace that leads to your glory. We acknowledge we don't always see the truth of Jesus in every situation; but we ask that you give grace to get us to the truth in our lives. Jesus, we ask that we would seek you to find fullness and contentment in you. Jesus, thank you for all the grace and truth found in you. Thank you for taking us to glory with you! In your victorious name we seek and pray.

Pastor Carl Johnson

World Impact partner since 2015

NOTES

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