

Deacon's Lesson
Centennial Celebration - Prayer Theme
August 2021

Special Prayer Focus for August: We will evangelize the lost that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance by faith in Jesus

¹⁸ to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' [Acts 26:18 ESV]

We are living in uncertain times. As never before, people worldwide are searching for answers for the dilemmas they are in and the challenges they face. As Christ followers, do you know that you hold the answer to their most critical need? It is so easy to remain caught up in our own concerns that we walk past people and even family members failing to see that they lack a personal relationship with Christ and the deep peace that comes with it. A relationship with Christ answers the deepest longings of our hearts. Perhaps, we have become distracted by TV and the daily dreadful news of the impact of the global pandemic, the coronavirus, economic crisis, voter suppression, political stalemates, climate change, natural disasters, and their effects that we may be weighed down and lax about sharing the good news about Jesus who gives us hope. Our sovereign God is in control. We must remind ourselves that God, our Father, is with us and that He takes care of us.

Going to God in prayer and reading His Word serve to redirect our thoughts and bring peace to our hearts. We can then bring encouragement and joy to other people, too, especially the lost. Proverbs 23:18 says; *For surely there is a hereafter, and your hope will not be cut off.*" [NKJV] Every Christian has the responsibility to give a reason for the hope that lies within us.

¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, [1 Peter 3:15 ESV]

Jesus invited us to partner with Him in evangelizing others so that they turn from darkness to light and the power of Satan to obtain forgiveness of sins and eternal life in the kingdom of God. The last command Jesus gave was to go and make disciples of all nations. (Matthew 28:18-20). We have a Christian duty to share the Gospel. We need to make Christ's passion our passion.

Our prayer focus for the month of August is that we may evangelize the lost so that they may receive forgiveness of their sins and the inheritance by faith in Jesus Christ. God is merciful to the lost. To evangelize is to present Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit that people come to put their trust in God and accept Jesus as their Savior. If we pray for it, God will give us the courage and clarity of Scripture to do it. He will open doors of opportunity to do it. When He does, walk boldly through them. Share the simple gospel in love and gentleness that Jesus died and shed His blood for our sins, was buried and God raised Him from the dead that we should be saved [1Cor. 15:3-6]. Pray that God will help you to look for these doors as He draws

the unsaved to Himself. ⁴⁴ *No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.* (John 6:44)

Pray that God will give you the words to say. **He has provided what we should say in His Word:**

God's great love- John 3:16

God's wonderful plan – John 10:10

The problem- Romans 3:23.

A gap between man and God- Romans 6:23

The bridge to God: Trust Christ as Savior- Romans 5:8; John 14:6, Ephesians 2:8-9;

Romans 10:9; 1 John 1:9; Romans 10:13; John 1:12

The life changing message- 2 Corinthians 5:21; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 12:1-2

in Matthew 9:37- 38, Jesus said: ³⁷ *He said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. ³⁸ So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."* (New Living Translation (NLT))

Prayer:

"Father in heaven, we are - in obedience to the command of Our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ - coming to You and asking You to instill in us the understanding and the desire to be better workers in Your fields, which are the souls of men, women and children who are yet to enter Your kingdom. Give us the passion and opportunity to testify of Your goodness, truth, love, holiness and Your message of salvation through Jesus the Christ to all that You have appointed to hear it. Let us faithfully do it through Your Holy Spirit with Your loving compassion. Let this be our highest priority, always operating with an attitude of joy, thanksgiving and reverence to You. Let those that hear our testimony believe and tell others, so that Your Gospel rings out loud and clear locally, throughout this state, throughout this country and throughout this whole world. Let Thy will be done. We ask this in the Name of Jesus.

Amen."