



## ***A LETTER FROM THE BISHOP***

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord!

Thanks be to God for your willingness to say “yes” to the call to serve as a missionary from the Diocese of West Texas. You will not only be making a difference, in the Name of Jesus, in the lives of those you go to serve, but you will also be a reminder to the whole Diocese that we are all called to be a missionary people.

Jesus makes plain the necessity of doing for others, for the sake of the Gospel and for the spread of God’s Kingdom. In his words and deeds—and in the entire movement of his life—Jesus leads us to “get over ourselves” and love others as he loves us. He tells us that anyone in need is our neighbor, and that when we extend care for others, we are caring for him. He shows us in his miracles that grace and mercy—and the transforming love of God—are available to all. As he washes his disciples’ feet, he teaches us that no act of kindness and compassion is too small or beneath us.

This is the redeemed life our Lord invites us to participate in with him and with one another, in the power of the Holy Spirit, day in and day out, wherever we are.

As a member of a mission team, you will have so many opportunities to practice this life, to see more clearly and more deeply, and to find your truer self as you “lose yourself” in loving and serving those to whom you are sent. You will find that Jesus got there before you! You will discover the Spirit stirring within you and drawing you closer in friendship to the “least among you” and to your fellow team members. Jesus says that in laying down our lives we will receive real life. You will find this to be true in the many small sacrifices you’ll make during your mission, as well as in the ways you will be stretched and challenged. You’ll be given grace and strength to bless others...and will be blessed so much more by them!

In Ephesians 1 (from which our 2020 diocesan theme comes), St. Paul's prayer is this: "I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your hearts enlightened, you may know the hope to which he has called you..."

That is my prayer for you as you prepare to go, in peace, to love and serve the Lord. May you see with eyes enlightened not only as you serve away from home, but also upon your return, for you will certainly look at your familiar surroundings a bit differently when you return. One of the precious gifts missionaries receive is to become a means by which their home churches are renewed in service to their local communities.

Thank you for offering yourself in the service of Christ and his Kingdom. It is a bold adventure to which he has called you. May the journey—both physical and spiritual—be filled with signs of his life and love.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Reed". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross symbol at the beginning.

Bishop David Reed

# **EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WEST TEXAS**

## **World Mission Devotional Sixth Edition**

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## ***PRAYERS***

### **Praying A.C.T.S.**

- **Adoration**
- **Confession**
- **Thanksgiving**
- **Supplication**

#### ***Praying with A.C.T.S***

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

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

When praying aloud for someone, this format keeps everyone on track and relieves the burden of finding the "right" words. It keeps the prayer focus on God and his interface in the person's life. In a group setting it allows for multiple expressions of praise, thanksgiving, and supplications and is comfortable for most people.

## ***Praying the Psalms through A.C.T.S.***

### **Adoration**

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

See also Psalms 113, 117, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150

### **Confession**

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

### **Thanksgiving**

- Psalm 40 "I waited patiently for the Lord, he inclined to me and heard my cry..."
- Psalm 65 "Praise is due to you God..."
- Psalm 75 "We give thanks to you O God..."
- Psalm 92 "It is good to give thanks to the Lord..."
- Psalm 96 "O sing to the Lord a new song..."
- Psalm 103 "Bless the Lord O my soul..."

See also Psalms 66, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 111, 118, 136

## Supplication

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

See also Psalms 130, 142, 143

## Team Prayers

### In the Morning

#### From Psalm 51

Open my lips, O Lord,\*

And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,\*

And renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence\*

And take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Give me the joy of your saving help again\*

And sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.\*

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

**Amen.**

#### A Reading

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

*A period of silence may follow.*

*Sharing from the morning devotion is encouraged at this time.*

*Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others.*

#### The Lord's Prayer

##### **The Collect (or other prayer printed in this devotional)**

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



## **At the Close of the Day**

### **Psalm 134**

Behold now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,\*

You that stand by night in the house of the Lord.

Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the Lord.\*

The Lord who made heaven and earth bless you out of Zion.

### **A Reading**

Lord, you are in the midst of us and we are called by your Name:

Do not forsake us, O Lord our God. (Jeremiah 14:9, 22)

Lord, you now have set your servant free\*

To go in peace as you have promised;

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,\*

Whom you have prepared for all the world to see

A Light to enlighten the nations,\*

And the glory of your people Israel.

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

### **The Lord's Prayer**

#### **The Collect (or some other prayer printed in this devotional)**

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit  
bless us and keep us. **Amen**

### **30 Days before Departure**

*Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and a Savior; there is none but me. Isaiah 45:22*

The Lord God calls upon the human race to come and worship, thereby acquiring the benefits of his grace and love, including salvation. For all who will listen, this statement is an evangelistic entreaty to become a Christian for one's own personal benefit! "*Turn to me and be saved.*" What does it take to comply? *A promise.* What does one gain by the promise? *Salvation.* Sounds good, but what if one breaks the promise on occasion? *Confess the mistake and receive forgiveness.* Amazing; how does one get started? *Through baptism.*

**Phase One: Evangelism to Baptism Begets the Basic Christian Follower.** As newly baptized Christians become enlightened in the ways of the Lord - through scripture, tradition, and reason - they usually encounter opportunities to participate in a communal Christian lifestyle such as church membership. Their Christian understanding becomes more nuanced from contact and friendships with fellow parishioners and the sharing of ministry and stewardship within the church community.

**Phase Two: The Joy of Christian Fellowship.** Finally, as churchgoers come to understand and appreciate the Way of Jesus, who trained his disciples to care for the needy, the underprivileged, and the handicapped, many Christians are compelled to follow the Way themselves. The "eyes of the heart" begin to discern opportunities outside one's church community for becoming a modern-day disciple of Jesus. Through mission trips, one may encounter Christian cultures with quite different priorities and drumbeats unlike one's own familiar rhythms. One's life becomes inevitably changed, thanks to a broader understanding of humankind. One might even gain wisdom.

**Phase Three: The Jesus Movement.**

TP

God's truth for today: \_\_\_\_\_

## 29 Days before Departure

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8*

With ears and heart open to hear God's call, missionaries will receive the power to move forward by saying yes to the specific mission God calls us to. He calls, we respond and the Holy Spirit leads. The area of the world we are called to may be a complete surprise or a dream fulfilled. Either way, we can rest in the blessed assurance of being led and equipped by the Holy Spirit and supported and prayed for by our church communities. In mission, doors may open, doors may close, plans change, health challenges arise, projects are successful and projects fail.

However, throughout our mission time together with our brothers and sisters, we experience the presence of Christ and flourish in his light of joy as we witness to each other, accept and know each other, and work together. Our work projects are the vehicle to express God's love for each other and to lift and encourage each other as witnesses of the great commission of spreading the Good News of Christ throughout the world.

World Mission experiences are a privilege to go into a community in another part of the world and be welcomed into their daily life, traditions, and worship ever mindful of showing respect as their guest. Lifelong friendships and life changing experiences are a result of responding to God's call to be his witnesses "unto the uttermost part of the earth."

CB

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## 28 Days before Departure

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

When assigned Psalms 22:27, I immediately thought of how these words apply to World Missions work. We, in the DWTX, are very fortunate to have a robust World Mission program that offers a “continuing education” opportunity annually through our workshops. Our teams don’t approach mission work by trying to force-feed the Word of God to our host countries. We live our lives and represent the Word of God in our actions. When visiting Uganda as part of the Threads of Blessing team, the women attending their annual workshops participate in daily Bible studies. As the days pass, it is very common to see women slowly come forward for an altar call and give their lives to God. The first time I witnessed this it was almost mesmerizing. I could tell that their hearts were overflowing with God’s love. Seeing how their sisters in Christ surrounded them is a wonderful example of God’s plan for Salvation. The loving kindness of the Lord extends to all the Earth for all nations to share in his Salvation!

CK

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## 27 Days before Departure

*I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*  
John 15:5

This morning I'm reminded of a farmer. My husband Tom's grandfather was a wheat farmer in Oklahoma. Tom spent his summers helping his grandfather harvest the wheat. He drove a tractor in the fields most nights looking at stars and clouds of dust. Tom still watches the weather on TV daily. Any seasoned farmer knows the seeds planted need plenty of water and sunshine to grow. All of us look to spring as the first green leaves appear on the branches. We celebrate spring as a time of renewal and hope.

John 15 tells me that we are using our faith to stay connected to God's promises for us. Our faith isn't just a belief in facts. It's a result in our action, our growth. It will require us to use perseverance (planting season). It will require staying in God's will, plenty of water and sunshine, and plenty of caring and prayer. As we grow, we are part of the Spring of hope. We are called to share the gentle breeze, we are called to shelter the birds and find joy in the summer rain's songs of blessing.

BK

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## 26 Days before Departure

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

In one of the Eucharistic Prayers of the BCP (Rite II, Prayer D), we hear “to fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and rising from the grave, destroyed death, and *made the whole creation new.*” St. Paul understood this when he taught that anyone who is in Christ is a “new creation”. He says “the old has passed away; behold the new has come.” (2 Cor 5:17)

The new creation is not always self-evident and can be very hard to see in Africa, Central America, the Middle East, Asia, or even here in our own familiar territory. Frequently we see and work in places where “the whole creation groans for the revealing of God’s glory.” (see Romans 8). The places we go to serve in mission can be places of pain and sorrow. But we can see it in the faces of those who are loved by Jesus.

Jesus didn’t send the apostles to us for no reason; he laid down his life for his friends and wants everyone to know what he has done for them. And if the faces we see don’t know the love of Jesus for them, then telling them is our sacred duty. The order comes from the top after all! Doing all the good we can to remedy or soothe the groaning won’t do any eternal good if we don’t show them the love of Christ and invite them into the new creation. They need to know that they can be daughters or sons of the Father and adopted brothers or sisters of Jesus.

Bringing the love of God through Jesus Christ to people in places that are groaning from hunger, disease, poverty, or violence would be daunting without the promise of the Holy Spirit to keep us company and show us the way, and the truth, and the life. After all, we live not only in this world of groaning, but we live in Christ’s new creation. Our message is hope in a creation that is groaning; and we wait not for death, but for life.

TK

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## 25 Days before Departure

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

Paul's opening in his letter to the Romans seeks to unify, to highlight commonality, and to encourage the early followers of Jesus in their lives of faith. The culture Paul was speaking to was full of disagreement over which group of followers was "doing church right." Sound familiar?

Paul, one of the earliest missionaries, sets a great example for the posture of involvement in world missions. It is impossible for us to be on the ground in our mission fields as often as we might like, just as it was for Paul. However, we are called to be like Paul - encouraging the communities of believers we support and learn with around the world to continue their good work of spreading the Good News of the gospel unashamedly. We do this by building up local leadership, listening to them as the experts in their field, and encouraging them to continue to share the "power of God for salvation."

In my mission work in Uganda and Haiti, I have come to learn how much more commonalities we have as followers of Christ in the world than differences. Kids are silly and quick to love, there are mouths to be fed, parents try their best, and the Holy Spirit is just as present in the pews of our beloved Episcopal churches in the Diocese of West Texas as it is in the dirt, the wind, and the sounds of praise in rural Haiti. We are all doing our best to do church right and to do that together.

Like Paul, the desire to be with people in the world runs through my veins. If we are to be like Paul, we can hold onto the sense of interdependence and obligation to our brothers and sisters, trusting that they are keeping up the good work they do so well until our return. We are all in this together, united by a common goal. Like Paul, it is our boldness in sharing the gospel and our hope in the promise of God's salvation that weaves the thread between us and our friends around the world. And, like Paul says in the Message translation of this chapter of Romans, that is "the news I'm most proud to proclaim."

MHM

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## 24 Days before Departure

*For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:17*

"Here I am, Lord, Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart." These are verses from a lovely song that comes to mind often when I think back on the days leading up to my second mission trip to Navajoland. I remember fear and trepidation for this second trip, wondering what this trip would bring? Would we be able to deepen our proposed partnership with the people of Navajoland and what would that look like? How often we think that we have to know what we are being sent to do, the need to know is so strong in us human beings. I write this in the times of Covid-19 social distancing; under the "stay safe, stay at home" orders of our governor. We don't even know what changes tomorrow will bring, but do we ever truly know what tomorrow will bring? God sent us on our trip to Navajoland. We know what our team physically accomplished while we were there, but do we really know what our presence there did for those we encountered? Do we know if we changed hearts, if the love of Jesus that we intended to share was truly felt? It was certainly our intention and I know that once again my heart was changed. We have to be okay with not knowing, with just knowing that we did our best and leave the rest up to our Lord.

JL

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_



## 23 Days before Departure

*Give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever. Give thanks to the Lord of lords: his love endures forever. To him who alone does great wonders, his love endures forever. Psalm 136:2-3*

I shall never forget standing on the grounds at Canterbury Cathedral with my Ugandan friend during a conference break. We had been enjoying homilies and inspirational talks from missionaries and worldwide church leaders. It was time to process, to place what we'd heard into the context of our everyday lives.

But Mary would have none of it. She stood looking around at the imposing grandeur and asked, simply, "Why does the West have so much while we have so little?" We spoke of politics and economics, of history and humanity, and finally arrived at a place of amity: thanksgiving for God's love shed abroad in all our hearts through Christ Jesus.

As we talked, we agreed that all the things of the world are passing, but God's love endures. His love is eternal, independent of trends, of markets, of the world's leaders. In him we can rest, knowing we are and will be forever loved. We could be thankful.

MC

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## 22 Days before Departure

*For this is what the Lord has commanded us: "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth." Acts 13:47*

This scripture reminds me of a beautiful line in a sonnet by Wordsworth: "The world is too much with us, late and soon; Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers."

Who could have imagined how quickly the country would shut down in response to the pandemic? The unusual silence, the forced solitude and inactivity, the closing of schools and businesses; all have created the social and personal space for many of us to stop and listen to the promptings of our souls. Those promptings, those lights, have led to acts of heroism, sacrifice and compassion. To those made most vulnerable, by age, by poverty, by sickness, by isolation, a kind of darkness is being replaced by the light of the kindness of strangers. It is my prayer that when all of this is over, these lessons of love will not be forgotten.

MK

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## 21 Days before Departure

*During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. Acts 16: 9-10*

Paul gives such a wonderful example of knowing God and perfect obedience. Obedience to God can be easy when it is in line with what we want to do, what we are doing or planning to do or is something we feel we should do. Yet God does not always ask us to do easy things. We know that when we do what God asks that is difficult and different from our own desires, we are showing our faithfulness and love for God. How do we get to this level in our faith? I believe most of us take small steps. The more we do as we are asked, the more our faith grows and the more God asks of us. This circle of cheerful obedience makes us ready for the leaps of faith and obedience that God wants from us.

Obedience also shows some of the complexity of our faith. First, we must hear God to be able to listen to what he is telling us. That means we must be in relationship with God. Once we can listen, we choose a path, whether we acknowledge that path or not. Either we are starting down the path of obedience or the path of disobedience. There isn't a middle path. You cannot be "sort of" obedient. We may start on one path and switch to another, we may go backwards, sometimes we are on the obedient path and sometimes we are not, but we are always moving. The obedient path brings what God desires for us, but we often stray from the road map. We cannot help ourselves because we are human. What we can do is get back to the path by recognizing we have strayed, by listening to God and by becoming obedient. God will be with us every step if we continue to ask for his help and for direction.

RH

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## 20 Days before Departure

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

Digital marketing experts estimate that most Americans are exposed to approximately 4,000 ads each day. There are thousands of billboards we drive by, commercials on television and ads on our phones, each telling us what we NEED to be complete. We cannot escape this constant pull to be self-focused. Alternatively, Paul encourages us, “do not grow weary of doing good,” which implies sacrificing something for the benefit of another. Further reminding us that as we sow, so shall we reap. As we are being bombarded with all these ads, it is easy to forget that the measure of our lives is not what we accumulate, but how we love our neighbor.

The greatest lesson I learned about this is from a pilgrimage guide in Israel, Iyad Qumri. As we traveled about the country he would always introduce us to different people, calling them his *cousin*. Being foreigners, we thought they were his kin, but soon we realized that whether they were Christians, Jews or Muslims, he called them his cousins. He would even say that there are bad cousins, *pickpockets* and to be wary of them, which made us all laugh.

Iyad’s perspective is essential if we are to live a life of doing good by loving our *cousins*. For when we see not only our family, but our co-workers, friends, and many neighbors as cousins, it inclines us to do good. I pray as you serve the world in Christ’s name that you are able to call upon God’s love to strengthen you as we go about doing good for all our cousins. For if this world is ever to know the depth of God’s love and grace, we must never give up.

RH

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## 19 Days before Departure

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

As I begin to write, I can hear the cries rise up... but *I* was not sent! God never "called" me to go. You probably did not hear a voice. You may have been hesitant, even reluctant or just going to be with a friend or thrilled for another adventure...but never doubt that you were called to this mission/ministry. When you first heard about the mission, do you remember that tug... that turn... that quickening...that sudden attentiveness? That was your call. I don't know why He chose you, but you were definitely called... and God does so much with your "yes". Things you may never fully see or completely understand. Nevertheless, rest in your assent. Be at peace and pay attention. He is there in the middle of it all...in the mistake...in the lost luggage...in the young child's smile... in the old woman's tears...in the body of souls gathered. What a gift you have been given. Delight in it. Treasure it.

LC

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## 18 Days before Departure

*Then he said to them, “The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” Luke 10:2*

I love this translation about Jesus’s call to a chosen group of disciples to go ahead of him in ministry. Growing up in the South, I’m familiar with *hired hands* as those who work on a ranch or a farm, especially for short term and specific jobs. How many times have we been asked to “lend a hand” on a project? In all these cases, the job is clear, and the preparation, tools of the trade, and skills needed are usually declared ahead of time. For example, “...and, would you bring your truck?”

When I was invited into mission work by the priest at my church, I did not have the tools, or the understanding of what was needed, and nobody knew where our team would be going. While appreciative of mission work, I had never been involved in any way, other than distantly supporting other missionaries. Also, I was asked to help recruit the mission team. I found myself praying the prayer that Jesus asked his missionaries to pray in the Gospel of Luke quoted above: “God, please send more hands.” As time went along, the response from other church members was strong. Then, Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, and our job became very clear. We heard about a small Episcopal church in Añasco, on the far west coast of the island, that needed help. My first thoughts were of needed infrastructure repair and rebuilding. Yet, those needs were met over the next few months without the team traveling to Puerto Rico. What? Were we just supposed to help them find money to repair the rectory and church, and that’s it? No, the harvest was much bigger than any of us understood. When we spoke next with the priest of the church in Añasco, we were surprised when he asked us to help them grow their church’s membership. Over the next year and a half, we prayed with them in monthly meetings, brainstormed about evangelism in the aftermath of a category 5 storm, and eventually our mission team traveled to them to meet, study, worship, pray for the sick, and to better understand what their harvest field looked like. We continue to meet with our brothers and sisters in virtual conferences, and we are using apps to stay connected with them. The harvest has evolved during the work.

We also learned that the additional harvest hands we prayed for were, in fact, the people of the church in Añasco. They have been ministering to us, sustaining us, and have now visited and attended a DWTX Cursillo. We never knew how much work there was, and still is.

The song “You Said” by Reuben Morgan gives rhythm and melody to what we know of God’s call to lend our hands to the harvest.

Here is a link to the Hillsong version with the lyrics:

<https://youtu.be/HDyLlfOSgSo>

The chorus of the song declares:

Lift up your eyes, the harvest is here, the kingdom is near

You said, “Ask and I’ll give the nations to you”

O Lord, that’s the cry of my heart

Distant shores and the islands will see

Your light, as it rises on us.

You are a hired hand, bought with Christ’s sacrifice and called to serve. Marvel at the immensity of God’s creation as you pray for help. And remember, we are all in God’s hands.

GD

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## 17 Days before Departure

*How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?* Romans 10:14

Perhaps you have heard this quote misattributed to St Francis of Assisi, “*Preach the gospel at all times. And if necessary, use words.*” It sounds very affirming to those who may go on mission trips and do many good works. It relieves one of the anxiety of getting into a spiritual conversation. And yet, how can anyone know our motivation unless we are prepared to tell them? Are you doing this mission to honor God? Perhaps you like how it makes you feel as you help others. Not bad, but there is more. Jesus in his Great Commission did say to go into all the world to proclaim the Gospel (Mark 16:15). He said to make disciples of all nations, to baptize, and to teach all he commanded. (Matthew 28:19-20). And he told his disciples before Pentecost to wait for the power of the Holy Spirit after which they would be his witnesses starting in their home town and even to the remotest parts of the earth.

There are two sides to the mission coin. Loving neighbor, doing good, and relieving suffering are one side. It gives credence to the Good News of God’s love in Jesus Christ. It prepares ears and hearts to hear the Gospel. The other side of the coin is sharing with words your experience of walking with Jesus, your witness. We are all unique and we all have a story. So we step out in faith, trust God, pray specifically, see the specific answers to prayer, rejoice in God’s faithfulness, then love and tell others.

1 Peter 3:15, “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.”

EF

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_



## 16 Days before Departure

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

I have always been a bit uncoordinated. Throwing, catching, hitting, kicking and running are not my gifts. So it was no surprise, to me or anyone else, that I was last pick when captains chose teams. At best, the captain with the last pick would say, “then, we’ll take him.” Most of the time, it was just inferred where I would play. That experience makes it all the more refreshing and joyful to know that Jesus chose me.

Jesus chose me to be in a relationship with him and through him to the Father, with the expectation that I do something with the gifts that are *me*. I am appointed to go and bear fruit. There are times when the assignment requires creative problem solving. There are times when the destination draws upon leadership experience in difficult situations and stretches me. There are times when bearing fruit is being present to the moment--being still and abiding in God’s love. These times are especially important when I don’t know what to ask God.

There were times when I caught the ball by accident while standing in the right spot. The shock was palpable—“what just happened?” That’s mostly how I experience bearing fruit. Most of the time I don’t get it. Praise God. I am not meant to get it. We are not meant to get it. God only knows what each of us bearing fruit together produces; what each of us bearing fruit together changes; what each of us bearing fruit does to bring “thy kingdom come.”

CM

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## 15 Days before Departure

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

The weeks leading up to my first trip to Haiti my mind and “to-do” list were flooded with a million different things.

What shots do I need? How concentrated should my bug spray be? Do I know enough about Jesus? Was God sure there hadn’t been some kind of mix-up and I wasn’t supposed to go?

I prayed that God would equip me for hard conversations and to be able to share the gospel efficiently and responsibly. I found myself more worried about what words I was going to say and worried that I wouldn’t represent Jesus well enough.

A half a day into my trip, I felt at home with Father Goursse and the community in Mombin Crochu, Haiti. The hardest conversations, the ones about kids getting sick from dirty water, and political corruption, became very easy and transparent. Not because these are easy topics, but because we all had one thing in common, we love Jesus so we love each other.

On the fourth day, we decided to wake up before sunrise and go for a hike. I put on my comfy hiking boots, bug spray, grabbed a fresh water bottle, loaded my pack up with snacks – I was ready to go. A few of the younger boys from the community came to lead us on our hike. To my shock, they were just wearing sandals. No water, no food. Just themselves and smiling faces. As we were hiking up the mountain, we saw many young children (ages 8-12) hiking up and down the mountain carrying 5-gallon buckets of water on their heads. They had to trek six to ten miles every day to bring clean water to their families. It dawned on me that my sunrise adventure was those children’s daily trek that was the difference between having clean water or not. And none of them had comfortable hiking boots, or a fresh bottle of water to keep them hydrated. My heart broke - for the kids carrying water, for the lack of access to clean water, and for how my privilege had made me blind for so long. It was that moment I realized I would never know my need for God quite like those children do.

When we reached the top of the mountain, Father Goursse read to us a passage from the Bible and our devotional. We all held hands and worshipped a God who loves us. It was the most beautiful moment. As we ate mangos, joked around, and spoke about life, I could truly feel the kingdom of God. We were a family. It was a moment of pure peace, unity, and wholeness. I knew God was there, singing his beautiful song of salvation, and showing us a little slice of what eternity will feel like with him. I finally realized it didn't matter how much I prepared for my trip, God will always do the work – I just needed to say yes and show up.

SM

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## 14 Days before Departure

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

A simple word study on this profound verse yields *treasure*. When I'm in the midst of ministry (i.e., when whatever I'm doing is with the LORD's will fixed in my sights and mind), and whether things are going exactly as planned, or whether the team is coping with details and particulars that weren't part of the plan, stress and frustration (masked as "concern," of course) often arise from my heart and lodge in my brain, and very often threaten to derail everything. This verse becomes key to faithful ministry; and it's the first and last direction from our Master and Guide: "Relax! *Do you perceive* that I am: God?"

When we're far from home and don't sense that wonderful net of support and encouragement from others, whether we're exercising leadership or 'followership,' we must relax. We need to be still. We need to let go and drop the expectations, the anticipations, the doubt, and the *fear* of not being in control. A long time ago, when my son was in Boy Scouts, the leader was teaching about wilderness hiking. He asked the boys, "Ok, so you're completely lost. What's the first thing you should do?" He received all kinds of answers like "check your map; check your compass; walk in a straight line until you run into something..." and so forth and so on. He let this line of reasoning exhaust itself and then he said, quietly, "Nope. Sorry. None of those answers is correct. The first thing you should do is sit down and relax."

In his book *Deep Survival: Who Lives, Dies, and Why* (W. W. Norton & Company, 2003), Laurence Gonzales writes, "A little humility is a good thing. And if [being lost] does happen to you," he recommends relying on the acronym STOP: "Stop, Think, Observe, and Plan." This is the same thing taught to Scouts for their Tenderfoot rank. "The most important thing is to stop and stay calm. The Psalmist knew that reasoning as "Be still. Know I am: God" This is the beginning and the end of ministry. It's not about *us*; it's not about *me*. It's all about the LORD. When this becomes our calming, relaxing center, then the nations and the whole earth will see and know too: it's all about the LORD.

DC

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

### 13 Days before Departure

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

Take just a moment to think about the definition of eternal, “lasting or existing forever; without end.” I love that definition. It encourages me to continue to explore John 3:16. Though I have read these words hundreds of times in my life, opportunities continue to present themselves which invite me to delve deeper. Today, that brings me to the word **eternal**. Bill Tench wrote about John 3: 16, “We can choose to live consciously in the unending presence of God from now on.” When I read Tench’s words I was struck by three words: “from now on.” As in, I don’t have to wait for eternal life in the Lord. It starts upon my belief. It doesn’t begin the day I pass from this physical body.

As followers of Christ, God uses us to take the Good News to places yet to recognize it. The significance of the work he sends us to do today is not about *how someday, in the distant unknown* the believers will live in an everlasting life. That life begins upon their belief. This lights a fire in my heart to share the Good News. Today.

DM

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## 12 Days before Departure

*And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. Matthew 24:14*

This verse comes from a time in which Jesus was telling his disciples about what the conditions will be like at the end of the world – in the last days. The 24<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew describes a time of great distress over the whole world, when natural disasters, economic calamity, disease, and a host of other trials will come over the whole world. As I write this, we are also experiencing a very uncertain time – the world has just been hit with the now famous Covid-19 pandemic, and besides great loss of life, there is incredible economic fallout that has affected nearly everyone in every country around the world, with great power conflicts arising in many places. Looking at the world right now can be very distressing, especially if this world is all we have to live for.

When Jesus was taken by the soldiers in order to be tried and crucified, his disciples thought their world was ending as well. Yet when he rose from the dead and appeared to them, it was so incomprehensible that it blew apart all their previous fears and distresses, and replaced them with joy. All of a sudden, they understood truth – that God had granted them redemption, victory, and deliverance from the corruption in the world.

Jesus' disciples didn't look to the second coming at the end of the world to have their final deliverance and redemption. They knew that Jesus had already granted that to them. Instead, because their hearts had been touched by God, they desired most of all to proclaim his message to the greatest number of people possible. Their aim was to proclaim salvation to the whole world before the events listed in Matthew 24 would come to pass. Their great hope was in walking with Jesus now, regardless of the distressing times that surrounded them. Their final deliverance (and our final deliverance) had already come – when Jesus rose from the dead and gave them new life – eternal communion with God the Father from then on. They became the proclaimers, as the verse above says.

Let us remind ourselves today where our true joy and hope lies, and then let that joy and hope spill over so that we may also become proclaimers until the promise of Matthew 24:14 is finished.

GO

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## 11 Days before Departure

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9*

Many years ago, I remember sharing this verse with a high school classmate. "But, that's so easy!" he stated. "That means a person could go his entire life, doing whatever he wanted, and then at the end say, 'I'm sorry God,' and he would be okay! That doesn't seem right." "You're right," I replied, "it doesn't. But it is mercy, and I will take a merciful forgiving God because I know that it's impossible to be good on my own." This verse doesn't just promise forgiveness though. It promises PURIFICATION as well.

Purification of metals or glass often requires two things: heat and chemical change. Neither one of those is a quick, pain-free process. There have been times when I have been confronted with the reality of my own sin, and the pain of what I've done to others and myself cuts deeper than any knife could. It has taken time to reconcile with those I have hurt through my sinful actions, but it's a necessary part of that purification process. And what a beautiful thing God makes, when he purifies us!

SM

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_



## 10 Days before Departure

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

Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!

When we consider all the many blessings bestowed upon us in this life we must be grateful to God for them and endeavor to share with others the bounty that we have received. If we have talents, they should be used for the benefit of those who can appreciate them and pass them on in their turn.

God has given all of us the gift of life, and there is no one who has nothing to be thankful for. When we give to others, we often find that they have also given to us more than we gave to them.

Let us bless the Lord and give him thanks.

BP

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## 9 Days before Departure

*For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you. Isaiah 41:13*

There are many ways to describe mission work. It is indeed a journey where we are encouraged to stretch ourselves and embrace the opportunities to learn, reflect, be patient, endure, tolerate, accept, empathize, be grateful and, above all, love others. When we venture into doing mission work in different parts of the world, we are willing to leave not only our loved ones, but all that we know that makes us feel safe and comfortable. There are countless steps to getting ready for a mission trip. It all starts with accepting the calling or invitation to go on a mission trip; working out the finances to pay for the trip; figuring out the logistics of “how to be away from home and work”; trying to learn about the place, culture and people that we would be encountering; preparing for the trip itself in terms of training, gathering information, supplies; getting the vaccines and any other medication needed, and the list goes on and on. Not surprisingly, during all this process, we might feel that *fear and worry* can sometimes overpower us.

Mission work should not be associated with fear but should be a great *adventure* into the arms of God. It is a wonderful opportunity to be even more intentional in giving oneself over to God’s constant presence and guidance. With the many unknowns and uncertainties that mission work brings, undoubtedly the *trust* in God needs to be an essential component of our mission endeavors. After many years of doing mission work, I have adopted the mantra of *Dios camina conmigo* (God walks with me), as I feel that he is holding my right hand at all times and giving me the strength and blessings to carry out his work.

PP

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## 8 Days before Departure

*Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore to send out workers into his harvest field." Matthew 9: 37-38*

You and your team have been sent out into the "harvest field." Sometimes it may seem so daunting as there is so much need for help and spiritual sharing with so many people. I have found that it always helped me to remember that when someone asked Mother Theresa how she could minister to so many sick and destitute people in Calcutta, India, she replied, "One at a time."

As an example, I was in Nebbi, Uganda, at a women's prayer meeting. One lady asked me to pray for her daughter who had a serious heart condition and needed surgery. Even if they could afford it, the surgery was not available in Uganda. When we came home, we arranged for her and her daughter to go to India for the surgery and the recovery period. The daughter did very well and praised Jesus for her healing.

Another time, I received a letter from a young man in Honduras who had received a university scholarship from our diocese. He wrote, "I never dreamed that anyone, much less anyone from the USA, would care enough about me to send me to college. For the first time in my life, I can believe in the love of Jesus and I am a different person." And more simply, I sat next to a lady in a church service in Mexico. She was not feeling well and just wanted to hold someone's hand, so we sat there, holding hands. After the service, she said she was feeling better and felt as if Jesus had been holding both our hands.

So on this trip, be like Mother Theresa and try to find the one person that Jesus has sent you to love and care for in his harvest field. It will change both of your lives.

BC

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## 7 Days before Departing

*Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day.  
1 Chronicles 16:23*

This verse in Chronicles is from King David's Song of Praise at the triumphant return of the Ark of the Covenant to the City of David. David's joy and gratitude to the Lord knew no bounds.

Lately, I have been spending more time sitting on the terrace in our back yard. We have a family of squirrels who amuse us endlessly as we watch their antics up and down the tree trunks. We also have two birdhouses and a feeder. For many years, one of them has been used by a family of sparrows. The other one seemed to be ornamental until we noticed a mother sparrow came out, flew to the feeder, and returned with seeds in her beak for her young.

He invites "all the earth" to sing to the Lord. I have noticed that the cardinals sing, the mourning doves coo, and the squirrels amuse us more these days – or is it that in this time of coronavirus, I am simply taking more time to see and appreciate their simple joy in living as they sing their praise to the Lord?

In many ways, being confined to home has come with blessings, even as it has filled me with compassion for the pain of so many. I have enjoyed and even thrived in the more relaxed pace of living each day. I cook more and find myself adventuring with new and old, forgotten recipes. I spend more time in the garden nurturing and watching plants grow and blossom as they, too, sing to the Lord with their showy beauty. As God blesses us with weather that makes it a joy being outdoors. My soul sings to the Lord. Constantly, I am reminded of his salvation for me, but not for me only, as all the earth proclaims his goodness.

HS

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## 6 Days before Departing

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

In the Pentagon, on a staircase between the third and fourth floors on the E-Ring, there is a large painting of a family kneeling in prayer at a communion rail on the inner wall. Next to the husband in uniform is his wife and two young children. At the bottom of the painting is written, Isaiah 6:8-9, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

When I visit the Pentagon, which is often, I make it a habit to descend that staircase to observe the painting and become aware of the Air Force senior leaders that must pass it many times a day. The Secretary of the Air Force and the Chief of Staff have their offices on the fourth floor, and to visit the Secretary of Defense on the third floor, they will pass it, too.

I've often wondered what act of providence placed that solitary piece of art in such a unique and striking place. Also, what message is received by leaders who must pass by it as they sometimes contemplate life and death decisions? Maybe that is the reason why it hangs there.

Whenever we are called by our God or Nation to consciously serve others, there is a price to be paid. When looking at the painting, I immediately think of the Service Member, but don't the wife and children pay a price too? When we say "yes," we must be mindful that we do not serve alone.

GS

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## 5 Days before Departing

*This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:10*

I have been a Christian my whole life. I am actually writing this devotional on the anniversary of my baptism. I was a few months old when it occurred 48 years ago. As an adult, I had the opportunity to go back to the church where my baptism took place. I could feel the power of that moment in that quiet and empty church that day.

To this day, I am still amazed at the glory, power, and unconditional love of God. And that God would send his son, Jesus, to die for us and rise on the third day so that we would receive the gift of forgiveness, reconciliation, love, hope, and eternal life. This is life changing. This is deeply transformational. This is monumental.

So much so, that I believe our mission work is to respond to God's love and forgiveness by sharing this love with others all over the world. To be in relationship with others, getting to know people deeply, that we would share the heart of God's message: Christ is a gift of God, a gift of love and forgiveness for all.

JL

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## 4 Days before Departing

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

I am writing two weeks after Good Friday 2020. It was a very different day this year as we all were ordered to stay home. Many of us were able to participate in a worship service online, but it is not the same as attending church in person. However, the message is the same. Our Lord and Savior died for us on the cross. The whole world went dark for three hours and gradually found some light. In that light, we know that Jesus went to the cross to save us. In the same way, he will save us from this pandemic.

As I have pondered these words, my mind keeps turning to the armor of God. In Ephesians 6:10-20, Paul reminds what the Lord does for us each day. We are constantly wrestling against the schemes of the devil. Jesus dying on the cross helps us to know that he will support us in our walk with him, but we must put on the armor of God so that we can be strong in the Lord. Through this we can be ready to withstand the evils of the world and share the Gospel wherever we are in the world. Through sharing the Word of the Lord, we can show that the evil schemes around us encouraging sin will be gone and the world will be filled with the fruits of the Spirit...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

BW

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

### 3 Days before Departing

*We love because he first loved us.* 1 John 4:19

Dear God, let the Holy Spirit do his mighty work through me today. Teach me that my mission field is both where I am, to the people I meet at home, work, and on the street as well as to the people I go out to meet and serve wherever I find them, and in their need. Use me, O God, in Jesus' name. Amen

Many that go out on a mission trip from our church are young, energetic and ready to take on the world, and that is a wonderful thing. However, there are others of us that are not so young and physically capable anymore and the mission experience is a little more of a challenge. *For those of us that fall into that second category, and as we gather for breakfast in the morning and drink our final cup of coffee, and prepare to do our work for the day, we need to remember that we have a special gift to give.* Having been blessed with a long and fruitful life, it is even more of a joy to share our experiences with others. The most important thing we must understand is that just being there, willing to care and love is a powerful statement to those we go out to help. We may not be as strong as we once were, but we are not inadequate in any way.

TL

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_



## 2 Days before Departing

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

This verse comes from the chapter where Jesus appeared to his Disciples who were hiding in fear, behind locked doors, from the Jewish leaders. He filled them with the Holy Spirit and asked them to go out and forgive sins as he had done. Today there are about 2.3 Christians on earth.

Our job on Missions, as Disciples, is to teach the forgiveness of God to others. There are many ways to do this, but the best example is when we forgive someone. We teach them a lesson and both people are filled with the Holy Spirit. When we hold a grudge against someone, both people are filled with darkness and despair. On our mission trips we need to share the gift of God's forgiveness with others.

Peace be with you as you go forward with your message.

SC

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 Day before Departing

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8*

We had traveled 8,816 miles from San Antonio, Texas to Marsabit, Kenya. Feeling more than a little bit jet lagged and out of place, I sat and listened to pastors and their wives tell their stories of coming to faith in Jesus. Beautifully adorned in colorful, matching outfits and with glowing, joyful expressions, they recounted how they had never heard of a God who not only wants a relationship with them, but loves them enough to die for their sins. That was, until they were told about Jesus. I can tell you that the joy they exhibited was infectious, and I felt the love and gratitude I have for my Savior renewed and welling up in me.

Such love as demonstrated by Jesus dying for us was irresistible to those pastors, their wives, and to me. Later, when the worship music started, there was no way to resist praising God in song and dance right along with our new friends. God's love for us and our love for him just had to be expressed.

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank you for loving us so much that you died to save us. Thank you that your love is constant and does not depend on my faithfulness. Please keep my heart open and receptive to your love and in gratitude for that love, may I be strengthened to serve others. Amen.

MKG

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## *Day of Departure*

*Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. Psalms 96:3*

GO Forth And Serve the Lord!

I think it is important to remember when we are serving God that we do not pick and chose who are the needy ones. We must be open to being directed by God.

Who should we include on our ministry? Just friends or religious people of our own denomination, or should we be accepting of anyone that is called to serve? Where do we go? To Africa, Honduras, Russia, Navajoland, New York, San Antonio, our neighborhood, our neighbor, or our family? Yes, go forth and serve the Lord among all nations, and All people; declare his glory. Amen!

BC

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## Second Day

*Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Psalm 96:1*

This psalm makes me think of a mysterious phenomenon that we take for granted. How often have you awoken to a song that stays in your head, echoing throughout the day? If the song is an old favorite, it might bring back pleasant memories of a particular time and place. My prayers are sometimes songs of celebration and gratitude. If I am quiet, I can hear those songs arising from some place inside me. Whenever we are on mission, time seems to stop and I grow calm and serene in mind and spirit. I can hear those prayers, those songs of praise and wonder, quite clearly, and they inform my actions. From heart to hand, these songs fill me with the hope that we can truly love our neighbors as ourselves.

SK

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

### Third Day

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

Mission is to do the work I've been given to do. That's not necessarily what I want or what I plan. It's each and every day of my life. The field is great... and varied. Today it may be across the kitchen table, or with someone at work. Tomorrow it may be traveling to a distant place to be with others, or it may be staying at home and praying. Whatever it looks like, it is to be sharing the love of God, finding ways to put 'me', and whatever ambitions I have aside and to love. It could be emptying the dishwasher 18 times or spending three hours on the lawnmower. It could be searching for new ways to be 'with' others when we can't be physically present. It could be painting a building when that's not your skill or your strength. It could be sewing countless face masks with no intent of profit. It could be painting rocks and laying them alongside walkways. It could be writing notes of thanks to those we know and those we don't know. There are a myriad of ways we can testify to the gospel of the grace of God, and we do it best when we get over ourselves, leave our desires, wishes, and expectations at the door and go forth with his love and compassion.

LT

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## Fourth Day

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

The “Great Commission” is one of those “memory verses” that most mission team members know by heart. We are ready to go to all nations, but often the going is the easiest part! Once we get there, wherever there may be, the work begins. And keeping the work focused on the purpose Jesus has given can be a major challenge. Our human inclination is to focus our mission energy on tasks that improve the living conditions and the lives of those we have traveled to serve. But, the primary task of the Great Commission is making disciples, baptizing, and teaching all that Jesus has commanded. The projects and work of our mission trip must be vehicles for making disciples and teaching the commands of Jesus; if they aren’t, there is no difference between the work of Christian mission teams and the excellent work of Rotary Clubs or the Red Cross.

St. Paul’s frequent advice in his letters is “be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 11:1) Our fulfillment of the central task of the Great Commission (i.e. making disciples) is only possible when we are living as disciples of Christ, imitating him. Jesus is the leader of every Christian mission team. He will be with us always, and he is eager to show himself to those whom we serve in his Name. We must keep Jesus front and center in every aspect of our mission work. Those we serve will see Jesus when our work with them demonstrates love of God and love of neighbor. This opens the door for disciples to be made. Our actions, words, and examples are the best way to encourage those we serve to be “imitators of [us], as [we are] of Christ”. “Imitation of Christ” is just another name for discipleship.

BK

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## Fifth Day

*For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.* Philippians 1:21

Paul is saying this as he is imprisoned and in chains - knowing that his preaching and encouragement was vital for the growth of the church and also knowing that if he was to die, he would be sharing in God's kingdom.

This is one difficult devotion for me, as I feel so free to enjoy Christ's blessings compared to what Paul lived and endured. I struggle daily to be Christlike and know what that exactly is to be Christian. As a missionary team leader, I know to look for God's gift or revelation waiting for me in each particular trip. I feel very fortunate to lead teams and meet people from all walks of life, older people sharing their wisdom, younger ones sharing their excitement, seasoned missionaries sharing their light, new ones eager to serve, others hungry for Christ's love. I get to see the transformation of the team members as individuals and as a team. What a joy that is! Christ in the midst of EVERYTHING!

If I only had eyes to see, and ears to hear - and find him here, in the midst of EVERYTHING too. I am a work in progress. Aren't we all? As you get transformed in this journey, look for God's gift or revelation for there is one for each of us, and savor it, for it is special.

LR

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## Sixth Day

*For Everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord shall be saved.*  
Romans 10:13

**Getting There** “Getting there is half the fun,” they say, but do they really mean it when talking about “getting” all the way to East Africa? Quite honestly, I was excited beyond words about being in Kenya. The country had called to me since boyhood as a sort of Eden revisited. However, at 6’2” and 190 lbs, the notion of double digit-hours confined on a cramped, claustrophobic aircraft with cying babies and complaining adults drowned out my enthusiasm for the mission trip. Like Jonah, I was ready to run the other way – and fast!

About that time, my friend Scott gave me a book, On the Road with St. Augustine: A Real World Spirituality for Restless Hearts. I tucked it into my carry-on and decided I would turn the long journey to Kenya and back into a silent retreat. By grace alone, I entrusted my long sojourn to God, and even with my knees pressed up into my chest, screaming babies on both sides of the cabin, and rap music blaring from the teenager’s headphones in front of me, more of me got off the plane than got on.

Entrusting ourselves to God is the only way to travel, for it is prescribed by the great pilgrim of the New Testament, Paul. In fact, trust is the drumbeat of Paul’s magnum opus, Romans. How can we be saved, that is made righteous to a holy God, is the question reverberating through all sixteen chapters of the letter. To answer, Paul holds up Abraham as our North Star of righteousness, the one by whom we navigate on our winding life’s passage. Why? Because Abraham set out from what he knew to what he didn’t by calling on the Name of the Lord as his sole support and guide. We, too, are on an Abrahamic journey, knowing if we entrust ourselves *to the Name that is above all Names (Phillippians 2:9)*, we can obediently pack up and go, in the knowledge He will save us from a dead-end life. “Getting there really is half the fun!”

PG

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_



## Seventh Day

*Sing unto the LORD, all the earth; shew forth from day to day his salvation. Declare his glory among the heathen; his marvelous works among all nations.* Chronicles 16: 23, 24

The diversity of the nations is God's idea. Therefore, for whatever reason, He focuses the missionary task on all the nations. It is not a response to an accident of history. It is rooted in the purpose God had when He determined to make the nations in the first place.

He showed us first hand how to be a missionary by sending His son as a missionary to the world. We need to follow the example of the greatest missionary ever known. He came to teach and save us. He should be looked onto as an example of how we should live and act. He came not to be served, but to serve. The love and mercy we were shown, is what we need to show. Our missions work is for the glory of Christ!

Christ inspired Paul "in order that the nations might glorify God for His mercy." So, the goal of Christ's mission and ours is that God might be glorified by the nations. We are to be an instrument of Christ going out from the church, reaching out to people, for the sake of the gospel.

**So, all we need to do is show God's love no matter what/where our mission task is.** Whether we are a doctor, vet, engineer, water expert, teacher, singer, artist, builder, evangelist or helper, *we can show God's love!* Whether we speak the language or not, *we can show God's love!* Whether we have a professional skill or not, *we can show God's love.* Whether we are the leader or helper, *we can show God's love!* Whether we are an adult or child, *we can show God's love!* Whether we are rich or poor, *we can show God's love!* Whether you travel the miles or help and pray from home, *we can show God's love!* **Go out and show God's love to all people and be a Christlike example!**

AH

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## **Eighth Day**

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

As team members, we have a responsibility to share many things about our Lord during our world missions and ministries. Praise and thank the Lord for the blessings received from him, especially spiritual ones; such as fullness of grace in him, and strength and salvation by him. His believers call upon his name particularly in prayer, in which his name is invoked together with faith in him and expressions of affection to his name. Declare his doings among the people; not merely his works of creation with his divine Father; nor so much his miracles, but his acts of obedience and righteousness, which were perfect; and his bearing the sins of his people, and the punishment due to them; and so fulfilled the whole law, and thereby accomplished the great work of redemption and salvation for all who believe. His name is exalted; he was given a name above all names; for having obeyed, suffered, and died for all people, he is by his Father exalted, by raising him from the dead, receiving him into heaven, placing him at his right hand, giving him all power in heaven and in earth, causing angels, authorities, principalities, and powers, to the honor of his name. His people exalt him in their hearts, and with their lips, since he is above all things and is their only Savior and Redeemer.

JK

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## Ninth Day

*Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ. Romans 10:17*

What is the difference between hearing and listening? Hearing is physical. It involves sound waves, vibrations. It is unidirectional, going from the ear to the brain. We don't think about hearing; hearing happens. Listening is different somehow. Listening is emotional and multidirectional. It is interactive. It is being attentive in a particular way that opens oneself up to be changed by what has been heard.

Consider listening to your favorite piece of music, and how that music affects your mood and your physical body. Listening between people is even more interactive. We know someone has been listening when after we've told them something, we feel heard. We might be tempted to discount hearing and cast it aside in preference to listening. And if so, what do we do with this verse from Romans, which tells us faith comes from hearing? Wouldn't it be better if faith came from listening, since listening is a mark of true conversation and relationship? For me, it is a relief that it doesn't.

Listening is hard work, and as much as I would like to be, I am not always a good listener. But you and I were made to be able to hear God. That means that even when we aren't practicing our best listening, we hear God through the word of Christ, and faith is there as a gift offered. Hear the word of Christ. Work to listen to it and allow it to affect your body like your favorite piece of music. Trust that if today you don't have the time or energy to truly listen, your soul hears, and faith comes.

BC

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## Tenth Day

*The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel. Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." 1 Samuel 3:10*

In the Old Testament, Samuel is a sort of archetype for prophets. In I Samuel 3, we have the calling of Samuel to be a prophet when he is a youth living in the house of the Lord with Eli. In this passage, God calls Samuel and the youth thinks it is Eli. But then Eli tells him that it is God calling him, and here we have Samuel's response.

Today, there are many tumultuous issues in our society and people speak of the Church and her ministers having a prophetic role. And that may well be true. But our text teaches us that the beginning of prophecy is a willingness simply to listen to the Lord. If we feel compelled to speak out regarding the large issues of our day, then this is the beginning: silence and a willingness to listen, with the understanding that the answer may take a long time if God so wills it and that, as with Samuel, we may well not receive the message we wanted or expected.

DM

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## Eleventh Day

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

As I have traveled many times to Southeast Mexico on mission trips, I am often reminded of those who are lost. We do not only seek those who go to church. During many of our trips, we work with everyone, including many who do not go to church. In our ministry, we have worked to help provide services for the community, such as providing clean water, a bakery and have even helped to establish a clinic. We seek those who are lost and hope to save them through the love of Jesus Christ.

For me, this means to simply love my neighbor. I believe through this simple act, we can save those who are lost - showing them the love that Christ has shown us. In one of the villages that we have worked in, through ERD, there was a cattle program for the men of the community. They raised cattle, vaccinated and provided all things necessary to get the cattle to market. The men formed a co-op, even though several of the men were not members of the church. Over time we began to see more and more of them in church on Sunday and at church functions. So, I believe through our work, Christ “came to seek and save those who were lost.”

It is through our working the mission field that Christ works through us, and we are a part of carrying out his mission.

RC

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## Twelfth Day

*If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:2*

Having been a music performer for sixty-eight years and a music teacher for fifty-eight years, one can fairly well predict the outcome of a music instruction session. With all this knowledge of the mysteries of music and the prophetic vision that they provide, we yearly set out on the Band and Bible Mission to Uganda, secure in the faith that we are doing God's work. It is a somewhat hubristic frame of mind one has to admit. Of course on many missions, things do not happen as planned, but the dedication with which the performers immerse themselves in the sessions is done with such love on their parts that we are drawn into it with them. Their love is not just expressed in the music, but also in the way they interact with each other. And the enthusiasm with which we are greeted each year is also evidence of their love for us and our love for them. The love that is involved in making music with others is the main reason that my life has centered around teaching and performing music. Making music in the service of God is something that cannot help but evoke love, not only in the performer but in the listener as well. Indeed, prophetic powers, understanding mysteries and knowledge can be nothing more than aids to achieving love, the ultimate goal for each of us.

RW

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## Thirteenth Day

*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15*

There have been times in my life where I was faced with the challenge to be the leader amidst individuals with different perspectives, desires, and truths. One of those times was when my rector asked me to be the Senior Warden for my church. He gave me until Sunday to pray about it. I loved my church family, but there was a flood of emotions which surrounded this request: I'm not a strong leader. I don't have the same skills which the previous Senior Wardens possessed. I am way too busy in my secular world and cannot find the time. I don't want the responsibility, and the list of reasons why "I couldn't" continued to grow each day. So, on Saturday evening when I laid my head down to sleep, I allowed all my fears to prepare for my answer – NO. It was about 3:00 a.m. on Sunday morning when I was awoken by a voice which said, "it isn't what you want, but what I need." All my fears of not being good enough, not being skilled enough, and wanting to ignore the call went away. It was only a few months after being Senior Warden where I was blessed to see God's plan for our church. God needed someone like me, just where I was with the skills he provided, with the word of truth in every conversation holding the congregation together.

One of my favorite people in the Bible is Moses. I can so relate to the five excuses he gave God when God asked him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. See if you can relate to them too. "Who am I that I should go..."; "What if they don't believe me..."; "What if they don't listen to me..."; "I am slow of speech..."; "Please send someone else...". And, even after God sends Moses, it wasn't easy for him. But God was with him – just like God is with us today.

We are approved by God to carry out his work here on earth. We have the voice of truth with us all the time. We have to send away the voices which are not truth – the ones which create fear. Listen to the voice of truth, believe you are God's worker, and know he will be with you – always. Listen, believe, know.

CM

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_

## Fourteenth Day

*A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”* John 13: 34, 35

Lord, I thank you for the privilege of giving and for your blessing that makes it possible for me to give. Let me become a witness to your love, that I might share your healing love with people wherever I find them and with an understanding of their needs. Let the morning sun shine in my face and the angels sing in my soul as I meet the world today. Through Jesus Christ my Lord, I pray.

During the past several years, I have struggled with this most important commandment: *Love one another as I have loved you* seems simple enough. However, sometimes I don't feel very loving and some folks just aren't easy to love. At our recent Council, this subject came up on one of those cards handed out to facilitate table discussion. I expressed my feelings that this wasn't as easy a command as we might think. However, some wise person at our table said, "You know, love is a verb and not just a feeling." As I thought about what that person said, I began to see love in a very different way...a behavior that we may choose. We can choose to love and by making that choice, somehow our feelings and emotions get pulled along with it and become loving. Our work on a mission is love as an action verb. If we are digging a ditch, painting a stairwell, serving a meal, singing, praying, greeting, resting, listening, eating, etc, we are loving.

CL

God's truth for today \_\_\_\_\_



## ***PRAYERS FOR MISSION AND SERVANTHOOD***

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

*Amen.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Almighty God, you have so linked our lives one with another

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

***A Prayer Attributed to St. Francis***

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

## ***SONG & HYMNS***

### **ABOVE ALL POWERS,**

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

### **CHORUS**

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

### **ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME!**

Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem,  
And crown him Lord of all!  
Bring forth the royal diadem,  
And crown him Lord of all!

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

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

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

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

### **A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD,**

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

Did we in our own strength confide,  
Our striving would be losing;  
Were not the right man on our side,  
The man of God's own choosing;  
Dost ask who that may be?  
Christ Jesus, it is he;  
Lord Sabaoth His Name,  
From age to age the same,  
And he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,  
Should threaten to undo us;  
We will not fear, for God hath willed  
His truth to triumph through us;  
The prince of darkness grim,  
We tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure,

For lo, his doom is sure,  
One little word shall fell him.

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

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

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

I want you more than gold or silver,  
Only you can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joy-giver  
And the apple of my eye.

You're my friend and you are my brother  
Even though you are a king,  
I love you more than any other,  
So much more than anything.



**BE THOU MY VISION,**

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

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

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

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

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

**BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL,**

O my soul, Worship His holy Name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul!  
I'll worship Your holy Name.

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

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

And on that day when my strength is failing,  
The end draws near, and my time has come;  
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending:  
Ten thousand years and then forevermore!

**BLESSING AND HONOUR,**

Glory and power  
Be unto the Ancient of Days;  
From every nation, all of creation  
Bow before the Ancient of Days.

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

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

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

**CHANGE MY HEART, O GOD,**

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

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

Eddie Espinosa. ©1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing/  
Adm. by CopyCare

**COME, NOW IS THE TIME TO WORSHIP,**

Come, now is the time to give your heart  
Come, now is the to worship,  
Come, just as you are before your God,  
Come.

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

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

## **CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS,**

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

Crown him the Lord of life,  
Who triumphed o'er the grave,  
And rose victorious in the strife  
For those he came to save;  
His glories now we sing  
Who died, and rose on high  
Who died, eternal life to bring,  
And lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of heaven,  
Enthroned in worlds above;  
Crown him the King, to whom is given  
The wondrous name of Love,  
Crown him with many crowns,  
As thrones before him fall,  
Crown him, ye kings with many crowns  
For he is King of all!

## **FATHER WE ADORE YOU/ PADRE TE ADORO (Spanish )**

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

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

Jesus, we adore you...  
Spirit, we adore you...

Jesus, te adoro...  
Espiritu, te adoro...

**FOR I'M BUILDING A PEOPLE OF POWER,**

And I'm making a people of praise  
That will move through this land by my Spirit,  
And will glorify my precious name.

Build your church, Lord,  
Make us strong, Lord  
Join our hearts, Lord, through your Son.  
Make us one, Lord,  
In your Body,  
In the kingdom of your Son.

Dave Richards. ©1977 Kingsway's ThankYou Music

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

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

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

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

## **GOD IS SO GOOD**

God is so good (x3)  
He's so good to me.  
...so good to you.  
...so good to us.

## **HE IS LORD/ EL SENOR (Spanish )**

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

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

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, LORD GOD ALMIGHTY!**

Early in the morning  
Our song shall rise to Thee:  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

Holy, holy, holy!  
All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns  
Around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Falling down before Thee,  
Who were, and are,  
And evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy!  
Though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man  
Thy glory may not see;

Only Thou art holy,  
There is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in power,  
In love and purity.

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

Reginald Heber

### **HOW LOVELY ON THE MOUNTAINS**

Are the feet of Him  
Who brings good news, good news,  
Proclaiming peace,  
Announcing news of happiness,

Our God reigns, our God reigns.  
Our God reigns, our God reigns,  
Our God reigns, our God reigns.

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

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

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

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

**I LOVE YOU LORD and I lift my voice**

To worship you, O my soul rejoice  
Take Joy, my King, in what you hear  
Let it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

©Laurie Klein (Mission Praise No. 287)

**I'M FORGIVEN**

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

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

( tag )

You are my King  
You are my King  
Jesus, you are King  
Jesus, you are my King.

©Billy James Foote



## **IN CHRIST ALONE MY HOPE IS FOUND**

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

In Christ alone! – Who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

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

©Stuart Townend/Keith Getty. ThankYou Music

**I, THE LORD OF SEA AND SKY,**

I have heard my people's cry  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
My hand will save.

I, Who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright,  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

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

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

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

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

**JESUS, JESUS,**

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

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

John Barnett. ©1988

**JESUS, WE ENTHRONE YOU,**

We proclaim you our King,  
Standing here in the midst of us,  
We raise you up with our praise,  
And as we worship, build a throne,  
And as we worship, build a throne,  
And as we worship, build a throne,  
Come, Lord Jesus, and take your place.

Paul Kyle. ©1980 Kingsway's ThankYou Music

**KNEELS AT THE FEET OF HIS FRIENDS,**

Silently washes their feet,  
Master who acts as a slave to them.

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

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

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

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

**LIFT HIGH THE CROSS,**

The love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world  
Adore His sacred Name.

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

Each newborn servant of the Crucified  
Bears on the brow  
The seal of Him who died.

So shall our song of triumph ever be;  
Praise to the Crucified  
For victory.

**LORD, THE LIGHT OF YOUR LOVE is shining,**

In the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us,  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us,  
Shine on me, shine on me.

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

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

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

Graham Kendrick. ©1987.

**MAJESTAD (Spanish ) MAJESTY**

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

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

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

(Cant 98 Songbook)

**MEN OF FAITH, rise up and sing**

Of the great and glorious King;  
You are strong when you feel weak,  
In your brokenness complete.

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

(last time) Lord of heaven and earth,  
Lord of heaven and earth,  
Lord of heaven and earth.

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

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

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

Martin Smith. ©1995 Curious? Music UK/Adm. by Kingsway's  
ThankYou Music

**MY JESUS, MY SAVIOUR,**

Lord, there is none like you,  
All of my days I want to praise,  
The wonders of your mighty love,  
My comfort, my shelter,  
Tower of refuge and strength,  
Let every breath, all that I am,  
Never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord all the earth, let us sing  
Power and majesty, praise to the King,  
Mountains bow down  
And the seas will roar  
At the sound of your name,

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

Darlene Zschech. ©1993

**O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING,**

My dear Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of His grace.

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

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

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

Glory to God and praise and love  
Be now and ever given  
By saints below and saints above,  
The church in earth and heaven.

## **O LORD MY GOD**

When I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works  
Thy hands hath made,  
I see the stars,  
I hear the mighty thunder,  
Thy power throughout  
The universe displayed;

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

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

And when I think  
That God His Son not sparing,  
Sent Him to die  
I scarce can take it in,  
That on the cross  
My burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died  
To take away my sin;

When Christ shall come  
With shout of acclamation  
And take me home  
What joy shall fill my heart!  
Then shall I bow  
In humble adoration  
And there proclaim,  
My God, how great Thou art!

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



**OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART LORD,**

Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see you, I want to see you.  
(Repeat )

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

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

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

**PURIFY MY HEART,**

Let me be as gold  
And precious silver,  
Purify my heart,  
Let me be as gold,  
Pure gold.

Refiner's fire,  
My heart's one desire  
It is to be holy,  
Set apart for you, Lord,  
I choose to be holy,  
Set apart for you, my Master,  
Ready to do your will.

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

Brian Doerksen. ©1990

**ROCK OF AGES, cleft for me,**

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

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

Nothing in my hand I bring,  
Simply to Thy cross I cling;  
Naked, come to Thee for dress;  
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;  
Foul, I to the fountain fly,  
Wash me Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,  
When mine eye shall close in death  
When I soar to worlds unknown,  
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,  
Rock of ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee.

Augustus Montague Toplady.

**SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD/  
ESPIRITU DEL TRINO DIOS**

(Spanish)

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

Espiritu del trino Dios,  
Ven sobre mi,  
Espiritu del trino Dios  
Ven sobre mi.  
Quebrantame, moldeame, renuevame,  
Llename,  
Espiritu del trino Dios,  
Ven sobre mi.

(Cant 98 Songbook)

**THERE IS NONE LIKE YOU**

No one else can touch my heart like you do  
I could search for all eternity and find  
There is none like you.

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

©Lenny LeBlanc (Integrity Hosanna Music 1991)

**THESE ARE THE DAYS OF ELIJAH,**

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

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

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

Robin Mark. ©1997 Daybreak Music Ltd.

**THOU ART WORTHY, great Jehovah**

Thou art worthy, mighty God,  
Thou art worthy, Abba Father,  
Thou art worthy, Lamb of God.

You are.....

Karen Eagan © 1980 Integrity’s Hosanna

## *ACKNOWLEDGMENTS*

Typically, each year the number of short-term missionaries from the Diocese of West Texas increases. We give glory to God for the people who have caught the vision to go and tell by word and deed. Among those dedicated witnesses, we have included a few of their reflections in this devotional.

### **With gratitude, we acknowledge the submissions of:**

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**DAILY JOURNALS**

DAY ONE JOURNAL THOUGHTS

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

The basic thought of my quiet time today was \_\_\_\_\_

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In what specific way did I serve Christ today \_\_\_\_\_

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

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How did I manifest/fail to manifest gratitude? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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This was my most memorable experience today: \_\_\_\_\_

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This was my most distressing experience today: \_\_\_\_\_

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What did I learn today? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Here are the interesting people I met: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Observations about -

Myself: \_\_\_\_\_

Missionaries: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationals: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

The basic thought of my quiet time today was \_\_\_\_\_

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In what specific way did I serve Christ today \_\_\_\_\_

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

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How did I manifest/fail to manifest gratitude? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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This was my most memorable experience today: \_\_\_\_\_

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This was my most distressing experience today: \_\_\_\_\_

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What did I learn today? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Here are the interesting people I met: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Observations about -

Myself: \_\_\_\_\_

Missionaries: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationals: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

The basic thought of my quiet time today was \_\_\_\_\_

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In what specific way did I serve Christ today \_\_\_\_\_

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

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How did I manifest/fail to manifest gratitude? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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This was my most memorable experience today: \_\_\_\_\_

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This was my most distressing experience today: \_\_\_\_\_

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What did I learn today? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Here are the interesting people I met: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Observations about -

Myself: \_\_\_\_\_

Missionaries: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationals: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

The basic thought of my quiet time today was \_\_\_\_\_

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In what specific way did I serve Christ today \_\_\_\_\_

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

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How did I manifest/fail to manifest gratitude? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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This was my most memorable experience today: \_\_\_\_\_

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This was my most distressing experience today: \_\_\_\_\_

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What did I learn today? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Here are the interesting people I met: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Observations about -

Myself: \_\_\_\_\_

Missionaries: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationals: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

The basic thought of my quiet time today was \_\_\_\_\_

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In what specific way did I serve Christ today \_\_\_\_\_

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

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How did I manifest/fail to manifest gratitude? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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This was my most memorable experience today: \_\_\_\_\_

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This was my most distressing experience today: \_\_\_\_\_

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What did I learn today? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Here are the interesting people I met: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Observations about -

Myself: \_\_\_\_\_

Missionaries: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationals: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

The basic thought of my quiet time today was \_\_\_\_\_

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In what specific way did I serve Christ today \_\_\_\_\_

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

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How did I manifest/fail to manifest gratitude? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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This was my most memorable experience today: \_\_\_\_\_

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This was my most distressing experience today: \_\_\_\_\_

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What did I learn today? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Here are the interesting people I met: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

Observations about -

Myself: \_\_\_\_\_

Missionaries: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationals: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

The basic thought of my quiet time today was \_\_\_\_\_

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In what specific way did I serve Christ today \_\_\_\_\_

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

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How did I manifest/fail to manifest gratitude? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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This was my most memorable experience today: \_\_\_\_\_

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This was my most distressing experience today: \_\_\_\_\_

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What did I learn today? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Here are the interesting people I met: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Observations about -

Myself: \_\_\_\_\_

Missionaries: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationals: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

The basic thought of my quiet time today was \_\_\_\_\_

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In what specific way did I serve Christ today \_\_\_\_\_

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

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How did I manifest/fail to manifest gratitude? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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This was my most memorable experience today: \_\_\_\_\_

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This was my most distressing experience today: \_\_\_\_\_

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What did I learn today? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Here are the interesting people I met: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Observations about -

Myself: \_\_\_\_\_

Missionaries: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationals: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

The basic thought of my quiet time today was \_\_\_\_\_

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In what specific way did I serve Christ today \_\_\_\_\_

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

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How did I manifest/fail to manifest gratitude? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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This was my most memorable experience today: \_\_\_\_\_

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This was my most distressing experience today: \_\_\_\_\_

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What did I learn today? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Here are the interesting people I met: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Observations about -

Myself: \_\_\_\_\_

Missionaries: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationals: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

The basic thought of my quiet time today was \_\_\_\_\_

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In what specific way did I serve Christ today \_\_\_\_\_

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

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How did I manifest/fail to manifest gratitude? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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This was my most memorable experience today: \_\_\_\_\_

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This was my most distressing experience today: \_\_\_\_\_

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What did I learn today? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Here are the interesting people I met: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Observations about -

Myself: \_\_\_\_\_

Missionaries: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationals: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

The basic thought of my quiet time today was \_\_\_\_\_

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In what specific way did I serve Christ today \_\_\_\_\_

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

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How did I manifest/fail to manifest gratitude? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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This was my most memorable experience today: \_\_\_\_\_

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This was my most distressing experience today: \_\_\_\_\_

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What did I learn today? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Here are the interesting people I met: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Observations about -

Myself: \_\_\_\_\_

Missionaries: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationals: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

The basic thought of my quiet time today was \_\_\_\_\_

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In what specific way did I serve Christ today \_\_\_\_\_

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

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How did I manifest/fail to manifest gratitude? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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This was my most memorable experience today: \_\_\_\_\_

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This was my most distressing experience today: \_\_\_\_\_

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What did I learn today? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Here are the interesting people I met: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Observations about -

Myself: \_\_\_\_\_

Missionaries: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationals: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

The basic thought of my quiet time today was \_\_\_\_\_

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In what specific way did I serve Christ today \_\_\_\_\_

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

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How did I manifest/fail to manifest gratitude? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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This was my most memorable experience today: \_\_\_\_\_

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This was my most distressing experience today: \_\_\_\_\_

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What did I learn today? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Here are the interesting people I met: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Observations about -

Myself: \_\_\_\_\_

Missionaries: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationals: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

The basic thought of my quiet time today was \_\_\_\_\_

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In what specific way did I serve Christ today \_\_\_\_\_

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

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How did I manifest/fail to manifest gratitude? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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This was my most memorable experience today: \_\_\_\_\_

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This was my most distressing experience today: \_\_\_\_\_

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What did I learn today? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Here are the interesting people I met: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Observations about -

Myself: \_\_\_\_\_

Missionaries: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationals: \_\_\_\_\_

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