# 40 days ON MISSION



## WORKBOOK

THE STORY OF GOD ON MISSION



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> > **#OnMisssion** @faccalgary







## 40 days ON MISSION



Welcome to 40 Days On Mission! This teaching series began as a dream God placed in my heart last spring. We had just completed our 40 Days In The Word series and God began to impress upon me the challenge to do something similar to help us think about His mission in His world. And then to engage in it! In fact, He gave me a very specific, even outrageous, goal – that 3,000 of us would engage on mission as a result of this series.

For some it might mean a career change; for some a short-term trip; others might volunteer here in Calgary or at FAC; but almost all of us can discover the mission God has placed right in front of our eyes. This really is a mission for Everyone, Everywhere, All The Time!

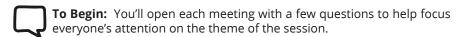
We are going to learn together, pray together, serve together, and see God at work together. My prayer for you is that these next six weeks will be a defining moment in your journey with Jesus!

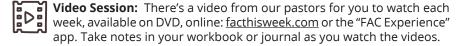
– James Paton, Lead Pastor

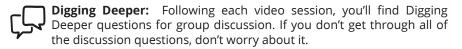
#### **USING THIS WORKBOOK**

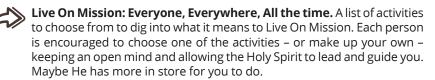
Our desire is that every day you fall deeper in love with Jesus. In the sessions ahead, we will be learning about the Great Story of God on mission from Genesis to Revelation including us today. This workbook is designed to help everyone grow deeper in their understanding and knowledge of what it means to live On Mission: Everyone, Everywhere, All The Time. You'll also be challenged to put your faith into practice every week!

#### Here's a brief explanation of the features of this workbook:









**Praise and Prayer Points:** At the end of each session you'll find space to list your praise and prayer points. Don't forget to pray for each other throughout the week.



**Daily Prayer Guide:** This section contains a daily prayer guide that highlights the C&MA Five "S" Strategy – Sea-to-Sea, Sun, Sand, Silk, and Spice – all integrated in a global thrust to reach the least–reached people in our world. The Daily Prayer Guide will highlight a different region each week and various people involved in that region. The Daily Prayer Guide can be found on the First Alliance Church App, "**FAC Experience**" or online at **facthisweek.com**. It's important to be consistent, but not get discouraged; if you miss a day, pick up with the current day and keep moving forward.

Overall, we hope these sessions will help us learn what it means to live On Mission: Everyone, Everywhere, All The Time!

#### SESSION 1: THE EARLY STORY OF GOD'S PEOPLE



If you're meeting for the first time, go around the circle, introduce yourself and share an interesting fact about yourself. Then, answer the following questions:

- What are you most excited to get out of this series?
- What's your cultural background? Where do your ancestors come from?
- When you hear the phrase "On Mission" what comes to mind?

## Ĭ⊳Ĭ VIDEO SESSION 1

Watch video SESSION 1 now and take notes in your workbook or journal.

Although God desired to be in relationship with all He created, trouble came with the rebellion of Satan and the fall of humanity. (See chart, pages 55-56.) Ever since, God has been on mission to reveal Himself to us and reconcile all people to relationship with Him. What is most interesting is that He invites us to be a part of this mission. The first person He invited to be on mission with Him was Abraham.

"God's mission is to reveal Himself to us and reconcile all people to relationship with Him."

## DIGGING DEEPER

• What stood out to you the most from the video session?

This first session reminds us of the amazing truth Jesus shared with His followers, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26)

 When all seemed lost, how did God act to restore His relationship with humanity?

- What was God's covenant with Abraham? (Read Genesis 12:1-3)
- What did God promise to do?
- Who was responsible to fulfill the covenant and upon what condition?

God sought out Abraham and revealed Himself to Abraham. God continues to do this for all people throughout history all over the world.

- *In what ways has God revealed and communicated Himself to us?*
- How does God reveal Himself to you personally or communicate to you in unexpected or incredible ways?

Knowing God requires knowing His story well. We must learn to see His hand at work in the world around us today and through all of history. This is what we'll do over the course of this series. As you learn about this story of God on mission, we hope you'll be able to see how your story is a part of God's **Great Story.** 

- How much of the story of God do you know at this point in your life? Consider what you know about the Bible and also about the history of the Church through to today.
- Reflect on your own life. How does your story connect with what you know of God's Great Story?

#### God blesses us so we can be a blessing to the peoples of the earth.

However, sometimes we receive blessings from God and keep them to ourselves – which means only half of God's purpose is fulfilled. His blessings are for our good but also as a demonstration – to others – that He is good. Our blessings have more potential than we can imagine.

- What is God's blessing to us?
- What does it mean to speak a blessing to someone?
- What does it mean to receive a blessing from another?
- How have you been blessed? (Praise time!)
- How can you extend that blessing to others?

Let's be a blessing to those around us by living On Mission: Everyone, Everywhere, All The Time.

Look for ways to extend the blessings in your *life to others this* week! Blessings only fulfill part of their purpose if we keep them to ourselves!

#### $\Longrightarrow$ live on Mission: Everyone, Everywhere, all the time

Read through the list below and have each person choose one of the following activities. Keep an open mind and allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you. Feel free to make up one of your own!

- Go for a walk, or go to the park at the same time each day. 1. Be sensitive to the people around you, say hello, and learn the names of other regulars you see.
- 2. Avoid gossip; be a voice of thanksgiving. Let someone know you are

- thankful for them as a friend.
- 3. Spend a week praying for those who are in leadership in your life.
- **4. Handwrite a letter** to someone in your life who you know is struggling with a hopeless or depressing event.
- 5. A great way to build friendships is to **share activities together.** Think of a few people in your life (work/neighbourhood) whom you could get to know better. Find a common interest, or see if others share yours, and do that activity together.
  - a. Organize a running/walking group before or after work
  - b. Attend a seminar or event related to a particular interest
  - c. Tackle the challenge of an locked room activity
  - d. Host a games night
  - e. Have a 'cook-off'!
  - f. Attend/watch a sports game together
  - g. Participate in local festivities and celebrations
- 6. Children's author Todd Parr wrote *The Peace Book*, a very clever and mature look at the different ways peace can be made in our world. Buy a copy at your local bookstore and pick one of the book's peace examples to focus on with your family.
- 7. Go with one or two friends on a **30-minute prayer walk**. You can choose any location a mall, a train, downtown, or your community. Quietly observe the Calgarians around you and pray for them. In your heart, hold a conversation with God requesting blessings of all or specific kinds to touch their lives. Don't rush. Be present to each prayer and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you.
- 8. Keep it simple; do a random act of kindness.



Visit or contact a friend or relative you haven't seen or communicated with in a long time. Or, go to a local seniors' home and spend some time with the residents. Want to go the extra mile? Pick up something nice for them on your way.

For more info, check out **DiscoveryLand's** *GodTime* handout. You can pick these up outside your child's classroom or online: faccalgary.com/kids (under Grade School Parent Resources).



Spend some time praying for each other's prayer requests and share what God is doing in your life.

• **Ask God to reveal specific things** you can do to participate with Him in carrying out His purpose to restore His relationship with all peoples, and to

restore His kingdom rule on earth.

Share what God reveals to you with others in your small group. **Commit to** pray this week for direction and guidance in these areas.











to East Asia

#### DAILY PRAYER GUIDE: INTRO TO THE FIVE "S" STRATEGY



**II** t is time for a new dream. One of the profound realities is that the nations of the world are coming to Canada. The Alliance must develop a new agility that allows us to move quickly enough to seize the opportunities that God brings to us. Over the years, we have operated with two strategic plans, one for our domestic or national interests and another for our global or international interests.

It is time to have a unified strategy, a global plan that allows us to work more effectively in this time of rapid change. We are calling this global plan the Five "S" Strategy—Sea-to-Sea, Sun, Sand, Silk, and Spice—all integrated in a global thrust to reach the least-reached people in our world.

Least-reached people groups are those in which evangelical Christians comprise less than 2% of the population. According to Joshua Project, there are over 6,600 unreached people groups representing 42.1% of all the world's people groups." President Hearn continues, "We need to rise up with renewed boldness to risk for the sake of those who have never heard. In the next 10 years, we are committed to making our greatest impact for the Kingdom."

– President David Hearn of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada

#### DAILY PRAYER GUIDE: SEA TO SEA

From Coast to Coast to Coast

#### FEBRUARY 6, 2017 - DAY 1: INTRO TO SEA TO SEA



Sea to Sea is a declaration that Canada should be a missional focus of the church. We've dedicated hands and feet to that desire, setting a goal to see every Christian and Missionary Alliance church multiply in at least one way every five years.

The ways churches can multiply are seemingly endless. Some examples include churches that reach new Canadians, missional communities that go beyond traditional brick and mortar churches and informal congregations that naturally develop the potential to become a full church.

These communities have been forming across the country already. And each one is unique ... From the Beverly Sudanese congregation in Edmonton, where they meet weekly for a service in the Nuer language, to a fledgling faith community for Vietnamese speaking immigrants who moved to Langley, BC to work on area mushroom farms, to a northern church plant in Red Lake, Ontario (population 5000) where almost everyone is connected to the local gold mine.

Sea to Sea will be successful if local church leaders passionately embrace it as core to their church and mission. A national team continues to develop resources, tools, and other means of supporting churches in that mission, and is composed of representatives from each of the six Canadian districts and the National Ministry Centre.

#### Prayer Requests:



- That the church would continue to expand and multiply in our local communities
- That God would continue raising up leaders within Sea to Sea to develop missional communities

To read more stories or learn about our Sea to Sea workers, visit **cmacan.org/sea-to-sea**. Read about new church plants in our Sea to Sea region at **newventurescanada.com**.

FEBRUARY 7, 2017 – DAY 2: BRAD YOUNG & CALEB DELAMONT, THE EXCHANGE CHURCH

Dillon's Story: "When I was sixteen my life changed forever. I had just found Christ and my world was flipped upside down. I knew there had to be more beyond my first prayer asking Jesus to be my Lord and Saviour but I had no idea what. That's when I met Chris. He volunteered at my high school and handed out coffee every Friday morning in the café. After a little while I learned that he was a

Christian and I flooded him with questions about God and my newly formed faith. He welcomed it. He invited me to youth, took me for coffee and just invested in my life. This was my first experience of being discipled.

It was through my friendship with Chris that I learned about the person of Jesus Christ. Ever since then I have had a passion for youth and discipling them much in the same way I was discipled. Over the years I have gotten to see boys grow into men of God and that is one of the greatest gifts I have ever been given.

That's why I want to be a part of The Exchange Church – a church that wants to send others to plant more churches. Because it is through going into another person's world and building relationship that we can share the gospel in a life-changing way. One day I hope to be sent by The Exchange Church to plant a new church so that another community may be reached.

Right now I feel the call to go to Cranston with The Exchange Church and reach the people there. That's why I want to move there – so that I can be fully a part of the community. Much like Chris when he came to my school to hand out coffee."

#### Prayer Requests:



- That God would raise up more and more disciples who make disciples
- That God would give us favour in the communities in and around Seton and draw people to Himself
- That God would raise up leaders and future church planters so we can multiply the work of the gospel in Calgary and beyond

#### FEBRUARY 8, 2017 – DAY 3: HARV MATCHULLIS, ENCOMPASS PARTNERSHIPS



Partnerships is a mission hub for groups committed to sharing Jesus' gospel to the least-reached of Calgary. Our partners

come alongside anyone who is treated as 'other' by the church or society. Every week throughout Calgary our partners connect with wanderers, immigrants, marginalized youth, people vulnerable to sexual exploitation, Aboriginals, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs and many more who live at the edge of Calgary's society. Some of them come to our facility to learn English, receive Bibles (3000 + in 2015), learn to cook or exercise, receive training/ coaching in healthy lifestyles, or simply have affirming conversations over coffee and tea. They are being shown the Jesus Way to true abundance. Many have responded to this gospel, and sometimes at some risk to themselves.

In the late 1990's one person began sharing the gospel with her family. Now over 100 Punjabi speaking people worship at Encompass and just in the past 2 years, 15 have come to Christ. Great news, but the road is not all easy. Recently an elderly Punjabi man was baptized at Encompass, but at great cost. His blood family rejected him while his new Christ-family opened their arms. We persevere with the marginalized because that's the Jesus Way. One of our partners mentors Aboriginal youth, who face abuse, rejection and discrimination on a daily basis. Yet by choosing to show up in the

lives of young people, a cadre of youth on surrounding reserves have been growing in their Christ-identity. They are discovering hope for their personal and community future."

#### **Prayer Requests:**



- Prayer & financial partners to keep this mission-hub operating
- That we will humbly and apologetically declare Christ as the core of the gospel of restoration
- Courage for our missionpartners – there are many roadblocks and strongholds we face when bringing God's truth and love into the darkness
- That we will have a strong voice to the church and society, that they never forget the 'least of these'

### FEBRUARY 9, 2017 - DAY 4: KYLE HARNETT, CAPSTONE CHURCH



Hen we started Capstone Church in the fall of 2014, we were a young church, full of energy, with a great drive

to see people meet Christ. It was an exciting season. Over the next 18 months, we had baptized 18 people and were thrilled with what God was doing, but there was a critical problem ... We as a church planting team were exhausted. In our excitement to reach people for Christ, we had forgotten to press into the deeper life that Jesus desires for all believers, and we had run out of steam. Over the past 6 months, we have made it our mission to "Deepen Our Roots" and experience the fullness of life that God has

for us. Over the past six months, we have seen many people in our church dramatically filled with the Holy Spirit and we've seen multiple physical healings. One quick story: A 30-year-old physiotherapist joined our church about 8 months ago, and one Sunday we noticed that she had a wrist brace on. In fact, she'd had a work-related injury and it wasn't healing, and she was in need of surgery. We decided before she opted for surgery that we would ask the Great Physician to heal her, and to our surprise she was healed fully after 10 minutes of prayer. She even had her wrist x-rayed to verify the healing, and the report came back from the specialist that her wrist was 'extremely healthy for a woman her age.' As a result of this increased activity of the Spirit, we've seen multiple people come to faith over the past few months, but we are longing for more: more of Jesus and more people to meet Him."



- That we would meet Jesus in more deep and powerful ways, both individually and as a church - we need more of His Presence
- That we would reach many people for Christ; that God would open up a door of effective evangelism for our church in the Westbrook area of Calgary
- That God will send us great leaders, and those who are to become great leaders, so we might commission them for Kingdom work, and be a training and sending church

## FEBRUARY 10, 2017 - DAY 5: DOM RUSO, THE 180



"Despite its nominally Christian majority, Montreal and the larger province of Quebec are among the least-reached regions

of North America. A 2008 Léger poll found that only 6% of Quebec's 6 million Catholics attended weekly mass, down from 90 percent in the 1960s. About 7% of Quebecers are Protestants, and less than 1% identify as evangelical.

This is not a mission field for the faint of heart.

During the summer of 2015, Dom, Bev and their three boys made their way back to Quebec with an undeniable sense of God's calling to plant a new church. After a time of discernment they found God confirming that they were to provide leadership to a new church family in the city of Laval, in the greater Montreal area.

Dom writes: 'Knowing that God is already helping us connect and reconnect with people who are processing faith questions excites me about the season we are in. Also, to see our burden and passion to re-articulate the message of Jesus in Quebec slowly coming together is a real joy. We are so blessed to have a great team emerging to help us love our communities and neighbors.' The 180 has leased a warehouse building which will serve as their place of worship and a place from which to serve and love the community.

They officially launched on September 18, 2016."

#### **Prayer Request:**



 That The 180 will flourish as a healthy church, re-engaging people with Jesus as He invites us into a new way of life

FEBRUARY 11, 2017 – DAY 6: SCOTT STREET, CHILLIWACK HOUSE CHURCH INITIATIVE



Why should we keep going? Is it even worth it? I ask myself these questions from time to time, and maybe you do

as well. We are almost eight years into our church journey – from the first leadership meeting where we prayed and asked God if we should even pursue a new church with no idea what it would look like, to today, where we are a network of four house churches working to be faithful to God.

There are days I wonder about what we are doing and why we are doing it. But I can't shake the feeling that we are slowly and methodically pursuing God, and that failure to stay on this course would be unfaithful to what we have been called to do. I look at our network and I see a group that is intentionally working to bring God's Kingdom to earth as it is in heaven. I see people intentionally engaged in relationships in the community and in conversations that build the Kingdom. I also see fruit.

Some who did not follow Jesus now do. Some who never considered it now do. Some who have never heard are now hearing. But in most cases, it is slow and requires a deep and trusting relationship.

At this time we are seeing some victories; we are also seeing some struggles. One of our house churches is exploring what victory looks like and grappling with difficult questions about healing and why we don't see more of it. One is having a bit of trouble firing on all cylinders, trying to figure out how to integrate into our network and what discipleship and being the Body looks like. We are excited and thankful, hopeful, and sometimes fearful."

#### **Prayer Requests:**



- That we will be faithful to God, and listen and respond to what He is doing in us and around us
- That we will continue to put ourselves out there, beyond our comfort zone, we will continue to grow, and our actions will be used by God for His purposes

#### FEBRUARY 12, 2017 – DAY 7: OAKVILLE CHINESE ALLIANCE CHURCH

Lat Cakville Chinese Alliance
Church in Oakville, ON! As one of
our New Ventures supported by the
Central District of the C&MA as well
as the Canadian Chinese Alliance
Churches Association, Oakville
Chinese Alliance Church began
worshipping together on October 18,
2015.

Praise our Lord, we held our first baptism ceremony and Sunday worship on September 4, 2016! After worship, we enjoyed fellowship and lunch for everyone! In less than one year, there have been a total of five people baptized and more than 20 new members; eight people have committed to Jesus Christ just since June. Moreover, God keeps leading newcomers to the church – 100 new families or individuals had visited our church by the end of August. This confirms the great need of the Chinese community in Oakville, and also strengthens our faith and calling from God to plant a new church in this city!

Currently, the numbers of Sunday service congregation members have steadily risen to around 70 people. Our church prayer meetings, Sunday School, Sunday worship, and fellowship group are also growing steadily. We also recently started discipleship training in our prayer meeting on Thursday nights and there have been about fifteen brothers and sisters participating in the study and prayer meeting in the last two weeks. Not only are we offering our sincere prayers to our Lord, but also building a solid foundation for the development of our church!

Reviewing what we have gone through in our first year, we see how the church has experienced God's amazing grace and might all the way! We are very grateful! May this story inspire you who are in the early years of church-planting to depend on the Lord!"

#### Prayer Requests:



 For the city of Oakville as a gospel field – that God would lead and use the brothers and sisters in our church to share the gospel and witness to the

- grace of our Lord
- For a pastor to shepherd and lead the congregation members, and for an intern or co-worker to lead our youth ministry
- For the evangelistic activities, fellowship groups, prayer meetings, and children's and adult Sunday school teachers

   may our Lord motivate and lead more brothers and sisters to serve Him and serve one another



#### **SESSION 2: THE BIRTH OF THE NATION**



 God has blessed you so you can be a blessing to others. How did you extend a blessing from God in your life to someone else this week?



Watch video SESSION 2 now and take notes in your workbook or journal.

This is the story of God on mission, working through Abraham's family to share His message and blessing with all people. (See chart, pages 55-56.) We see time and time again how God uses all kinds of situations for His glory and to bless those who love Him. This blessing is evidence of God in the world. However, when God's people, the Nation of Israel, do not acknowledge Him as the source of this blessing and take it for granted, the blessing is taken away. They are no longer God's representatives on earth. They lived for themselves and their worldly ways. Even still, God doesn't give up on His mission to make Himself known and reconcile all people to relationship with Him.

"Israel becomes the bridge between God and the people groups awelling around them."



• What stood out to you the most from the video session?

God used crime, malicious acts, famine, and jealousy for good – even when people intended significant harm.

- How would you have responded to God if you were sold into slavery by your siblings or raised in slavery like Joseph?
- What does this say about how God is in the midst of our situations?
- How can we fight discouragement or feeling like giving up on God when our circumstances are not what we had imagined for our life?

After the time of Joseph, Moses came on the scene. God used Moses to lead the Hebrew people out of Egypt, free them from slavery, and bring them to their own land where they became the nation of Israel. This land was situated in such a way that the surrounding nations had to cross through it for trade routes and travel. This gave the nation of Israel an amazing opportunity to be God's representatives.

What situations or opportunities in our lives are divine intersections or bridges that can be used for God's mission?

As God's representatives, we are a reflection of God's character. This is why God provides the law and calls Israel to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

- **Read Exodus 19:5–6; 20:1-17; Romans 7:7-25.** What was the purpose of the law?
- What does this instruction from God tell us about our identity as God's people?
- **Read 1 Peter 2:9.** What does it mean for God's people to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation?

The Nation of Israel, much like us today, went through seasons of honouring God and forgetting Him - becoming more focused on building a reputation for themselves than for God.

- How do we, in subtle or obvious ways, seek after our own reputations or fame?
- Are there blessings from God you take for granted or feel entitled to even when you are not living to make Him famous?
- Why is it important for God to reveal Himself?

Abraham was willing to hear God and respond to the invitation God gave Him to participate in His mission. So was Joseph. So were Moses and many others in the nation of Israel. God gives us this same invitation. Are you willing to join God in His mission?



#### hicksim live on Mission: Everyone, Everywhere, all the time

Share your experience of living On Mission from this past week. Have each person answer these questions:

this past week?

What did you learn about living On Mission?

Would you do this activity again?

situation in your life as an opportunity to live on mission for a Which LIVE ON MISSION activity did you choose to do greater purpose.

Read through the list below and have each person choose one of the following activities. Keep an open mind and allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you. Feel free to make up one of your own.

Re-envision a

- 1. Bring a breakfast snack for everyone at work.
- 2. Visit the church sometime during the week on your own. Pray in silence for the people in the community and for the struggles and addictions of both yourself and of others. Pray that God would work in the lives of those who are not saved, that they would feel at peace in this church and welcomed into our community.
- Some Christians have been imprisoned for their faith. Visit
   prisoneralert.com/vompw\_prisoners.html and use their templates
   (prisoneralert.com/vompw\_writing.html) to write a letter, encouraging a
   brother or sister in Christ!
- **4. Invite one of your neighbours over** for dinner or even a hot drink.
- 5. Donate something nice you no longer need on the **Community Connections Calgary Facebook group!** This FB community is an online place to post or seek items to be shared without cost.
- 6. For an errand which you would normally use your car, use transit. Consider how your life would have to change if this were your only means of transportation. Strike up a conversation with another transit passenger or the bus driver and wish them a good day.
- 7. Do you know someone or a family going through a difficult time? Provide care for them: **cleaning service, frozen meals, gift cards.**
- **8. Host a coffee and dessert night** and invite people who might not normally mix together.



As a family, think of someone you know who is struggling or in a difficult situation. Handwrite an encouraging letter or card and deliver it to them. Want to go the extra mile? Bring them a meal or offer to help in a tangible way.

For more info, check out DiscoveryLand's *GodTime* handout. You can pick these up outside your child's classroom or online: faccalgary.com/kids (under Grade School Parent Resources).



Spend some time praying for each other's prayer requests and share what God is doing in your life.

Ask God to reveal any ways you can bless others as God commands.
 Recommit to be part of His covenant promise to receive blessing so you can bless others.

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#### DAILY PRAYER GUIDE: CARRIBBEAN SUN

Days 8-14

South and Central America/Mexico

#### FEBRUARY 13, 2017 - DAY 8: INTRO TO CARRIBBEAN SUN



atin America is a fusion of diverse cultures. Even the food is distinct and full of flavours that often compliment each other, yet sometimes compete for your full attention. That's what it's like here. Politics, socio-economic classes, races and faith traditions merge, collide, compliment, and compete.

The sun greets a lot of things as it rises to its midday heat here – poverty, unrest, persecution, and intensely-held belief systems that often hold people in fear and bondage. But against that backdrop, C&MA International Workers see hope and freedom emerge in the beautiful people they live their lives with every day.

From the diverse and carefully nurtured church plants in Mexico, to outreach programs amidst millions of searching people in Venezuela, Panama, Jamaica, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Aruba, El Salvador, and beyond, C&MA workers are just beginning to tap into the needs amidst the hardest places in Latin America. They see God providing energy, hope and renewal in many corners, yet they are keenly aware of the magnitude of need here.

#### Prayer Requests:



- That God will lead our Caribbean Sun workers through barriers to find hearts prepared to receive His Word
- That the Lord will open doors of ministry, blessing partnerships and friendships
- That our Caribbean Sun workers will minister effectively amidst these cultures, languages, and established belief and social systems
- That the opposition of evil forces will be overcome

For more information contact Murray and Michelle Derksen at <a href="mailto:suncrd@gmail.com">suncrd@gmail.com</a>. To read more stories or learn about our Caribbean Sun workers, visit <a href="mailto:cmacan.org/caribbean-sun">cmacan.org/caribbean-sun</a>.

#### FEBRUARY 14, 2017 - DAY 9: T & R



**II T**and R have both been serving the Lord in Argentina for more than a decade as international workers. They have a passion for

challenging young people to become committed followers of Christ and helping them discover His purpose for their lives.

T does this mainly through sports and outdoor adventure projects, whilst R focuses more on teaching and equipping. They feel a strong call to mobilize Latino Christians to the Middle East (ME) region and are working towards moving to that region in the near future.

In the past year they have spent several months in Lebanon working on a project to help Syrian refugee families resettle in Argentina. This has been exciting work, especially for R who lived in Syria previously and speaks Arabic. In Lebanon they have witnessed firsthand the amazing things that God is doing amongst Syrian refugee communities.

Many churches have been offering aid and assistance to the refugee communities since the war started. The love shown by the Lebanese believers to the refugees has been in sharp contrast to the prejudice they often feel from the wider population. Through this practical witness, large numbers of Syrians have started attending churches and Bible studies and many are coming to faith in Christ. Some of these new believers have now become leaders in their churches and are witnessing to their

own communities of the change Christ has brought to their lives.

One pastor told us that he had never known such an exciting time and seen such a harvest of fruit amongst Muslims. He openly recognized that almost all come to his church to receive just material help initially. But over time their hearts become open to the Word, they feel a peace they've not known before, and they become genuine followers of Christ."

#### Prayer Requests: 2



- That God would continue to move powerfully amongst the refugee communities in Lebanon and elsewhere
- That He would grow a greater heart for ME peoples in the Latino church and raise up a multitude of Latino believers as long-term workers in the ME
- That He would guide T and R in their future ministry in the ME, especially with regards to when to move there permanently

#### **FEBRUARY 15, 2017 - DAY 10: MURRAY & MICHELLE DERKSEN**



// n the main training classroom of the Sunni mosque in a major trade city in South America, on a warm August afternoon, the

imam (religious leader), a friend, and I drank tea together. We talked about the difference between Sunni and Shiite, as well as various reasons for the massive emigration of people from the Middle East to western countries. I came away from that invigorating conversation knowing this young man was highly committed to his religion, but he was missing out on God's relational desire to walk with him and transform him from the inside out.

It was a stark reminder of our need to reach our Muslim cousins with the teachings of Isa (Jesus). Our world is changing. The east is coming to the west and opening the doors for westerners to be "Jesus" right here in Canada. Also, the era where the western Caucasian International Worker (IW) is the primary missionary force is coming to a close. The new IW era is the preparation and sending of workers from Latin America, Africa, and Asia. This is where we as Canadians have a unique opportunity.

Samuel House is a Canadian initiative in partnership with Latin Alliance missions candidates to train young adults with a call to work with Muslims, through a oneyear residence program in a Latin American city with a high Muslim population (like the one mentioned above). God has also done an amazing work in Cuba where there are 60+ established churches and 90+ new church plants in process. This momentum, initiated through a prayer ministry, is creating a desire to become International Workers and we are looking for ways to train Cuban IW's to reach parts of the world that only Cubans can go to."

#### Prayer Requests:



- For God to raise up many Latin young adults with a call to reach the least-reached of the world
- For the Canadians that will do the training – that they will disciple well the next wave of IW's from various nations
- For the national churches

- throughout Latin America as they learn to support, pray for, and care for IW's being sent out from their nations
- For open doors in Muslim communities both in Latin America and around the world – for a movement of God among Muslim people where their hearts are prepared to receive the truth about Isa (Jesus)

Murray & Michelle are the Canadian Regional Developers in the Caribbean Sun region (Latin America & The Caribbean). They have lived and worked in Canada, USA, Mexico, Egypt, and Costa Rica. They have four children (and two daughters-in-law). They have a passion to reach the last hard places in Latin America as well as to motivate and train Latinos for missional service among the least-reached of the globe.

#### FEBRUARY 16, 2017 – DAY 11: CURTIS & LINDA DOELL, ONE FAMILY AT A TIME



"Jesus is using my teammate, Cecilia, to love into the families of La Lidia, to bring light into their lives and encourage them to choose a path

towards righteousness.

My husband Curtis and I first met Yorleny's children, Ashley and Gustavo, at the La Lidia Saturday kids' group in August 2014. It was their first time attending, and a month later, Yorleny was busy in the kitchen helping with a happy heart in serving the kids and assisting Cecilia with the ministry. This is a testimony of how Christ works in drawing families

through children's ministry. During that time, both Yorlenv and Jessica attended the weekly women's Bible study and craft time. Through building friendships and relationships, Cecilia was able to speak into these women's lives. They are now going to church during the week and are choosing to live life in obedience to what they are learning. Curt had a few Bibles to give to some of the community people who were hoping to be baptized. He had one left and asked Cecilia who else might like a Bible. She mentioned that Yorleny would like one; Yorleny broke down in tears of joy from receiving her own Bible. This shows a desperation to learn who God is and a deep desire to have a relationship with her Father.

Yorleny recently invited Curtis and me to her wedding. Even though she has three children ranging from 16 to 3, she and her new husband will be walking life together with Christ in unity!

God is transforming this community one family at a time through the workers who are living and breathing Christ."

#### Praver Requests:



- Praise to God that He can reach people of all ages through children's ministry
- For this new family as they journey together in Christ and grow in His Word and image
- That they will lead others in their community to Him.

#### FEBRUARY 17, 2017 – DAY 12: DAVID AND MARILYN MILLER, SPEAKING THROUGH THE SPIRIT



It had been a long day. We had driven many miles to visit several churches on the island in the Caribbean Sun region.

Pastors had many questions, and my mind was in turmoil trying to help solve some of their problems. I was to preach that night to a group of Christians who had recently suffered greatly.

While they gathered one night in the pastor's living room, soldiers had stormed in, declared the gathering illegal, chopped huge holes in the walls, and marched out, leaving the structure barely standing. Less than a week later I would preach where the room had once stood.

An old P.A. system was set up, and people from all over town arrived carrying their own chairs. Many even stood in the street! Cars stopped to see what was going on, and people got out to listen.

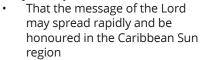
I got up and delivered what I thought was a wonderful introduction.
Then I opened my Bible to read the Scripture portion and discovered I had brought the wrong notes! I was speechless!

Stumbling and bumbling, I preached on, not making much sense to myself or certainly to the several hundred people listening. When I finally finished, I sat down, and with tears in my eyes confessed to the Lord that I had really messed it up. But then

something happened. More than 30 people came forward to receive Christ!

These people knew that they could be put in jail just for having come forward. That was when I finally realized that the Lord is the One who really deserves the glory. No matter how badly we mess up, He is the One to whom we give all the glory because He can speak through any situation."

#### **Prayer Requests:**



- That the opposition of evil forces will be overcome
- For increased courage and faith in these believers as they face political threats

#### FEBRUARY 18, 2017 – DAY 13: CURTIS AND TRICIA, PROFIT IN ICE CREAM



"God has blessed our efforts in getting this [business school] off the ground in tremendous ways, despite our

weaknesses, and we are very grateful. A few students have had difficulties in getting their businesses running, but the majority have had great success.

One student is making high-quality purses that have been a big hit. She is in a high tourist market and has had huge sales. Another student bought a freezer so that he can buy fish from local fishermen in bulk and then sell it privately; he also is making great profits.

One man has developed his own little chicken farm. He has the hens to lay the eggs, an incubator to hatch the chicks, and then various stations for them as they grow. He also slaughters them and sells the whole chickens. He only had to put up a sign at his house for a week, and clients have come straight to him since then! He is producing 40 to 50 chickens per week and has been nominated for a state award for excellence.

A neighbour of ours has also participated in the program. He started an ice cream parlour, where he makes his own ice cream. Our family are his best clients – it's hard to beat 15 cents a cone with real pineapple chunks!

Most importantly, we have seen tremendous spiritual fruit in the lives of the students. Many have testified to the powerful impact the courses and the daily devotional materials have had in their lives. We are deeply convinced that this is the key to lasting transformation."



- That students will continue to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, so that everything else they need can be given to them as well.
- Praise to God for the way He is blessing this business school and the students who take the program
- That many students will sense God's call to multiply what they have learned in the lives of those who are preceding them
- That God will equip them to have a powerful impact on the lives of new students

#### FEBRUARY 19, 2017 – DAY 14: REBECCA ROSS & HEATHER HAHN, FILLING HEARTS AND TUMMIES



aru has worked at Love to Share orphanage for eight years. Three years after she gave her life to Jesus, she

decided to serve the children at the orphanage. She was in charge of cooking the meals for more than 100 children in the morning, afternoon, and evening without receiving a salary. The incredible thing is that she is over 60 years old.

Not only was Maru in the kitchen cooking the meals and overseeing all the food that was donated; she took care of all the older girls and the youngest boy who was 3 years old, Itza. She had a true mother's heart for all the kids and wanted to see them become girls and boys with great character. She taught them the responsibility of picking up after themselves, obedience, and work ethic through chores.

Her smile lights up the room, and while she leads a life with a lot of responsibilities and sacrifice, it is clear to see that she delights in serving the Lord and the children.

Currently, Love to Share isn't functioning as an orphanage; instead, God is using this ministry to bless families who have children in the children's hospital. Love to Share distributes food to two hospitals – a children's hospital and an emergency hospital. They receive food from the same places that donated to them when they had all the children. It has

been great for them to maintain the connection with these supporters during this season without the kids, so when the kids come back they will still have these contacts.

For now, Maru now prepares meals for the children and their families at the hospital. Her life transmits love and gives not only to God but also to the needy."



- That the workers at the Love to Share orphanage would feel God's peace and love during this time and feel the freedom to rest and rejuvenate while they have a break from their busy schedule of looking after children
- That God would bring back the children in His timing, and be preparing the children that He will bring to the orphanage
- That God would be working in the lives of the children that once called this orphanage their home and are now in other orphanages

   that they would not forget the teaching they received about Jesus
- That God would open doors
   of sale opportunities for Brave
   Heart Collective (a business
   seeking to bring the gospel and
   transformation to indigenous
   artisans through business,
   internationally and in Mexico);
   for wisdom to lead and grow
   this business for the glory of
   God; and that the lives of the
   artisans we work with would be
   transformed, that they may know
   Jesus in a deep and powerful way
- That the unreached Huichol people group living in the mountains of the state of Jalisco may know and experience the love of Jesus and receive Him into their lives as Lord and Saviour

#### SESSION 3: JESUS AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD



 What situation did you re-envision as an opportunity to be on mission for a greater purpose? As a result, how did you interact with the situation differently this past week?



Watch video SESSION 3 now and take notes in your workbook or journal.

Due to the rebellious heart in the Nation of Israel, only a small remnant, the Jews, remained. (See chart, pages 55-56.) These people loved God but were scattered under the power of Roman Empire. However, the prophets spoke of God bringing salvation to all people through the Jews. This is where the New Testament record continues God's Great Story with the birth of Jesus, the coming Promised Son. Jesus reveals to us the Father in heaven and ushers in the Kingdom of God – the way things were always supposed to be.

"You will conceive and give birth to a Son, and you will name Him Jesus The Lord God will give Him the throne of His ancestor David. And He will reign over Israel forever; His Kingdom will never end!" – Luke 1:31-33

## DIGGING DEEPER

• What stood out to you the most from the video session?

This is a mystery and a miracle: the incarnation of God into a baby boy. Jesus, the Son of God, is fully God and fully man – the visible image of the invisible God. God Himself was incarnated for the sake of His mission: to reveal Himself to us and reconcile all people to relationship with Him.

- Reflect on the sacrifice and humility God displayed when He freely chose to become human. **Read Philippians 2:5-11** and discuss Christ's mindset.
- What does Jesus accomplish through His death and resurrection?
- Why is Jesus the King above all kings? Why would you want Jesus as your King?

When we repent from sin and rebellion and believe in God, we are given a new life and identity in the Kingdom of God through Jesus Christ.

People have used the "Romans Road" which is a collection of verses from the book of Romans that highlights the key points in our spiritual journey. **Read them in this order: Romans 5:12; 3:23; 3:10-18; 6:23; 5:8; 10:9-10; 8:1.** 

- What words or phrases stood out to you from the passages in Romans?
- In your own words, describe the Good News of the kingdom? Share how you would explain to someone the way to become a citizen of God's Kingdom.
- What is different between the identity you held prior to Jesus and the identity He gives you?
- As you take on the new life and identity Jesus provides to you, what changes?
   Why would you want this for others?
- Why is it important for us to learn about the Kingdom of God from Jesus' own teachings?
- Describe the characteristics of a kingdom community as it begins to emerge and grow.

Our generation lives in a day when the Kingdom of God is here already – victory has been won! However, it is not yet completely come. Currently, the present evil age overlaps the glorious age to come.

- How do you experience the present evil age in your daily life and work?
- How do you experience the glorious age to come in your daily life and work?
- How does Jesus' teaching about the Kingdom bring us hope for our lives and our people, both now and in the future?

The mission of God is Jesus' mission because He is God! But to fulfill this mission as both fully God and fully human, Jesus always had to remain available to the guidance of His Father in heaven. The Father wants us to be available to Him so we can respond to His invitation for us to participate in His mission and welcome others into the Kingdom of God. This invitation from God might be

This week, create extra space in your life so you can be available to the opportunities God puts in your path.

to phone a friend, pray for someone, initiate conversation or show an act of kindness.

- Are you available to act on the unexpected mission opportunities God places in your path?
- How could you make yourself more available?

## LIVE ON MISSION: EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE, ALL THE TIME

Share your experience of living On Mission from this past week. Have each person answer these questions:

- Which LIVE ON MISSION activity did you choose to do this past week?
- What did you learn about living On Mission?
- Would you do this activity again?

Read through the list below and have each person choose one of the following activities. Keep an open mind and allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you. Feel free to make up one of your own.

- **1. Be generous.** When you go to a drive-through this week, pay for the person behind you. Sometimes it's nice to do something without getting recognition.
- 2. Does someone owe you something? **Forgive the debt, big or small, and forget about it.** And by that we mean don't tell them.
  - Read this great article: <u>desiringgod.org/articles/forgive-us-our-debts-as-we-forgive-our-debtors</u>. Then, spend time in prayer, listening to God and responding to what you have understood.
- **3. Eat lunch with your coworkers/peers and invite everyone**, not just the 'cool kids.'
  - Initiate a themed potluck
  - Make dessert and invite everyone to come visit over the break
  - Share lunch in the same space
  - Schedule a monthly 'restaurant discovery' lunch to try new or local restaurants in the area
- 4. Entire nations can lose their identity through war, exile, genocide, or poverty. Piled on top of personal loss is the loss of cultural and corporate identity. **Choose a nation close to your heart and pray.**
- **5. Go to the same coffee shop** and learn the names of the baristas.
- **6. Visit a relative** you haven't seen or contacted in a very long time. Visit an elderly relative or friend who would be happy to have some company. Want to go the extra mile? Pick up something nice for them on your way!
- **7. Shovel a neighbour's driveway!** Hopefully you can start a conversation!
- 8. Visit someone in the hospital or a resident in a seniors' home who doesn't have many visitors. Perhaps you can use this opportunity to visit another resident, make a new friend, and bring some joy into their day as well!



Donate something nice you no longer need to a local charity of your choice. Or, head to the grocery store and fill a bag or two to donate to the Calgary Food Bank. Want to go the extra mile? Make a habit of grabbing a few extra items to donate on your way out each time you shop!

For more info, check out DiscoveryLand's *GodTime* handout. You can pick these up outside your child's classroom or online: faccalgary.com/kids (under Grade School Parent Resources).

## PRAISE & PRAYER POINTS

•		•	nd share what ow you can be or	ı

#### DAILY PRAYER GUIDE: DESERT SAND

Days 15-21

Africa

#### FEBRUARY 20, 2017 - DAY 15: INTRO TO DESERT SAND



Seven men want to follow. Three of them are believers who yearn to share the story of Jesus, the story that changed everything for them. They don't resemble most pictures of a local church, yet they are one in the truest sense. They're Sand trailblazers in their land. And they meet because, together, they

want to tell the stories of Jesus to their countrymen, and watch them discover the hope they bring.

Niger is part of the diverse Desert Sand region on the African continent, where C&MA workers introduce Christ equally amongst the upper middle class as they do amidst the abandoned, marginalized, and downtrodden. There is growing momentum here. It takes many forms. In some cases compassion ministries meet the urgent, direct physical needs of children and families grasping to survive the toll of drought or the grip of AIDS. Other workers focus on developing leaders and training nationals to better serve and connect with their own people.

The backdrops here are immensely different on this continent. The conversations are in an impossibly long list of languages. And in nearly every tongue and dialect, the stories of Jesus are told and retold, offering hope, and guiding our actions in this part of the globe.

#### Prayer Requests:

- That our Desert Sand workers will minister effectively amidst the many cultures and languages
- That the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honoured
- That God would raise up believers in all classes of society to be witnesses for Him
- For the compassion and training ministries
- For the health and spiritual wellness of our Desert Sand workers

For more information contact Richard and Merinda at <a href="mailto:sand-more">sandcrd@gmail.com</a>. To read more stories or learn about our Desert Sand workers, visit <a href="mailto:cmacan.org/desert-sand">cmacan.org/desert-sand</a>.

\*If you haven't already, you can download the **First Alliance Church App, "FAC Experience,"** tap 40 Days on Mission, and follow the Daily Prayer Guide on your mobile device.

## FEBRUARY 21, 2017 – DAY 16: R&T, SANDBOX TEAM



When we first met, I was looking at a young man who spoke a different language and prayed five times a day. I had read

much about Islam yet I felt illprepared to know how best to reach out. 1 Corinthians 13:13 quickly came to mind, "... but the greatest of these is love".

This was the starting point of my journey with Ray and so many others. Love is a language that gives us growing opportunity to establish a relationship with the people of North Africa. The more time I spent drinking tea and sharing a meal, the more I learned about their customs and traditions, their fears and concerns.

Over time trust grew. One day, Ray said, "But Christianity makes no

sense, T. If what you say is true, that God sent Jesus to die for my sin and I do not need to earn God's favour but accept Jesus' death as payment for my sin, I can go on living the way I want." I asked the Holy Spirit for wisdom as I listened.

He made perfect sense if we leave it to logic alone. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, I responded that there was a time when I lived my life without my wife. When I met R and later married her, life began to change for me. I stopped doing things I used to do, and started doing things I never did before, not because I had to but because I loved her. This is the same with lesus. I love lesus for what He has done for me and this has changed how I want to live. As we walked down road 231, Ray stopped and after a moment he said with great expression "I get it, I get it, I get it!"

#### Prayer Requests:



 For further opportunity to build relationships with the locals and open doors to share God's Word  in a practical and life-changing way
 That the words spoken will bear fruit in the coming days and months ahead

#### FEBRUARY 22, 2017 – DAY 17: GREG AND INGRID CLARKE, LISTENER IN ETHIOPIA



am 27 years old and am writing this letter to share my experiences and testify to the changes that took place in my

life while I was confined in a prison. I am not here to mention all the crimes I committed. For now, I will just share my experience since the time of my imprisonment. It was not my first experience of being seized and placed in a prison, but this one was seriously putting me into severe stress. My health was deteriorating day by day. I was suffering from nightmares and flashbacks during the night, getting scared and shouting.

There was a prison mate in the next cell, worried about my situation and trying to approach me. I refused to open myself to him, but he never gave up. Carried away by his approach, I gave up, disclosing myself to him, telling every detail about myself and my feelings.

He was a believer and was imprisoned because of a false accusation. He began to teach me basic Bible lessons and witnessed the good things God did in his life, introduced me to the radio ministry, and then requested a radio for me. One may not believe the tremendous changes that happened in my life. The radio I got through my prison mate

became my intimate friend. The Bible lessons are instilling new life, new thinking, and a new attitude in my life. I became a new creature in the Lord Jesus Christ. It does not matter where I am and how long I may stay here in the prison. What matters is the life I have now. I am praising the mighty Lord God for all the miracles He has done in my life."

#### **Prayer Requests:**



- That people seeking God would find our radio broadcasts
- For inspiration for the producers as they create new programs
- That the technical team would be able to keep all the equipment running

#### FEBRUARY 23, 2017 – DAY 18: KRISTI HOPF, GOD ON THE MOVE



I his past year in the village, I saw a significant change in the hearts of the men in openness to the Gospel. The men who attend

meetings are village representatives who are to advocate for their village, come to learn, and to teach in the village what they have heard. One representative attended the meetings; however, he spent much of every meeting answering his 3 phones and talking during the meeting, causing the training to have to stop as he sat in the middle of the hut conducting business. This man is the son of the religious leader in this area, and he always told people to be guiet while I told Bible stories. I thought he might be interested in the stories; however, the interruptions were disconcerting.

I followed the advice of my regional director to pray before each meeting against interruptions. Within a month, the villagers came to ask the chief and me to help them appoint a new village representative. They felt that this man was missing meetings, not representing them well, and definitely not teaching them what he did come to learn. The chief of the village held a meeting and assigned a new village representative! In the meetings that followed, I discovered that though I had thought he was "promoting" the Gospel by making others listen, in fact, he was likely the hindrance; for without his presence, no one actually talked anymore as I told Bible stories and the men began to discuss the stories as well!

I continue to pray that there will be men and women courageous to come and discuss Bible stories with me on a more ongoing basis, and that my home would be a refuge and safe place for those seeking truth.

#### **Prayer Requests:**



- That through ongoing development projects (well digging, agriculture improvement initiatives, animal health) among the villagers of Kongou, God's love and presence and love would be felt by the villagers
- That through the women's group and the ongoing health and nutrition training that they receive, the women would understand and feel empowered and able to change the lives of their families
- For individual friends in the city with whom I am sharing God's story – that they would continue to seek His truth and have ears to hear
- For God to bind broken hearts

and release the Fulani from their bonds of captivity and darkness; that they would find joy, praise, and be trees of righteousness (Is. 63:1-3); that the ground of their hearts would be broken up and they would plant seeds of righteousness instead of wickedness, evil, and deception; that they would shower down His righteousness upon them (Hosea 10:12-13)

 That God's Word would go forth in Kongou, and accomplish His desires and purposes for which He sent it – that it would not return empty (Isaiah 55:11)

#### FEBRUARY 24, 2017 - DAY 19: RACHEL



Rachel is serving in North Africa. She is training nurses at a local hospital, living in a 'small' town of 700, 000 where

99% are 'cousins.' There are high rates of poverty and domestic abuse reaching out to students, patients, and community members."



- For language acquisition (Arabic)
- For God to heal marriages among the locals (often strained, abusive)
- That students would come be a part of the newly-formed nursing school
- For increased divine opportunities to share the gospel
- For experienced nurses to join us as teachers at the nursing school as there are just 3 right now

#### FEBRUARY 25, 2017 - DAY 20: KATHY JOHNSON



registered respiratory therapist, I will be equipping the ladies of the already-reached Kissi, Toma, and

Kpelle people groups to influence first their own communities, ministering woman-to-woman in body, soul, and spirit to improve the health of women, children, and infants. The further aim is that these interactions will continue from the Guinean-reached to their Muslim neighbours, and from there, the world outreach.

This ministry compliments the excellent compassion ministry already being done at the Kids in Crisis Centre. By equipping nationals to identify and appropriately manage the less serious health needs of infants and children, God's preemptive work through these ministries will allow local care to flourish and may reduce the need for infants and children to be transported to KIC.

As a retired Allied Healthcare Professional, having worked at the Hospital for Sick Children and other local hospitals, I will assist Faith and her staff at the KIC center in monitoring the children while also helping create or refine tools and helping set guidelines to aid in this process. This will be done by working alongside other national providers and NGOs to meet the local leaders' self-identified needs in a holistic manner.

I pray that these God-given ministries will be but the beginning of many fruitful years of reaching the 10.7 million Guineans in all 48 people groups, speaking 43 languages. Guinea is culturally Muslim, with 88% practicing Islam and approximately 7.8% (14 people groups) practicing ethnic religions that involve worshipping ancestral spirits and animistic practices; meanwhile, 4.2% are professing Christians, 0.76% being evangelical. The Christian population is concentrated in Conakry and the southeast forests that were decimated by the Ebola outbreak. It is from the forest where the Kissi, Kpelle, and Toma evangelicals are found."



- For the ministry of Christ through me, the three Christian people groups to whom I will be ministering, and all the people of Guinea through their ministries
- For me to transition well as I wind up my ministries here, prepare spiritually, emotionally, and physically in the myriad of details and for God to give me His heart of love for the people of Guinea
- For a teachable, humble spirit to learn from and serve well in unity with those already serving
- For wisdom, discernment, love, and grace in my preparations for both leaving and arriving
- For God's choice for at least one heartfelt Seamless Link connection
- For the raising up of prayer warriors with a heart of compassion for the people of Guinea to pray for this work for which He has already planned

#### FEBRUARY 26, 2017 – DAY 21: DAN AND MELODIE IBSEN



Towa was a young Toma man from Macenta in the dense rainforest of Guinea. Because of his bright mind, he was chosen to

receive a French education. When he finished school, a French shopkeeper in the city of Kankan hired him to manage his store.

One of Cova's friends worked for Clair Ellenberger, an International Worker. While Cova waited for his friend each evening, Clair talked with him. When Clair discovered Cova could read, he gave him a French New Testament. Cova was deeply convicted by what he read and eventually accepted Christ as his Saviour.

While he was being discipled, Christ burdened Cova's heart for his own people back in Macenta, who had never heard of God's love for them. Finally, in 1931, Cova informed his employer that he was quitting his job to go back to his home to share the message of the Gospel with his people. His employer refused to accept his resignation but gave him a month off.

Together the IWs and Cova preached every day in different communities and were well received. At the end of the month, Cova returned to his boss and insisted that he needed to quit in order to continue to take the Gospel to his people. His boss offered him a large increase in salary and a higher position, but Cova refused and returned to Macenta to preach

and teach throughout the area. Many accepted Christ as a result!

Cova joined up with Woro Soumaro, a young man from the neighbouring people group. Together, they went to the Guerzés, where they again proclaimed the Good News. Today there are thousands of believers worshipping the Lord there. Cova's sacrifice produced eternal fruit for God's Kingdom!"



- That God would continue to raise up believers to witness to more people groups in Guinea
- That the Lord will open doors of ministry, blessing partnerships and friendships for believers in Guinea
- That God will keep our International Workers and all Christian workers safe from those who might seek to harm them
- That our International Workers and the believers in Guinea will be disciplined in and rewarded through the study of God's Word and through faithful prayer



#### SESSION 4: THE APOSTLES AND THE HOLY SPIRIT



• How were you more available to act on the mission opportunities God placed in your path this past week?



Watch video SESSION 4 now and take notes in your workbook or journal.

Jesus' ministry came to a close. Jesus ascended to heaven and this allowed for the Holy Spirit to descend. Before this happened, Jesus said to his disciples, "... you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). This ushered in the age of the apostles and we are still living in this calling today. (See chart, pages 55-56.) Thankfully, we are not left to get through life on our own strength. God gives His Spirit to believers. This part of the Great Story tells us how the Holy Spirit worked through the apostles to accomplish the mission of God.

may become fully sanctified and receive power for holy living effective participation in the mission of God."		

"God wants each believer to be filled with His Holy Spirit so that they

## Ç DIGGING DEEPER

• What stood out to you the most from the video session?

The disciples waited to receive the Holy Spirit just as Jesus had promised. At Pentecost, it happened! The disciples began to spread the good news empowered by God's Spirit! During this amazing ministry, they endured persecution for spreading the message and blessing of the Kingdom of God.

#### Read Acts 2:1-21

- What happened when the disciples received the Holy Spirit?
- How did the disciples respond to persecution? In the same way, we might endure hardship, rejection, bullying, etc. for sharing our faith. How can we respond?

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit came upon particular people at particular times for particular tasks. **Now, the Holy Spirit is no longer reserved for particular people at particular times for particular tasks**. Rather, He is poured out on all who follow Christ. (You can read the prophecy of this in Joel 2:28–29.) **This means the Holy Spirit is now the marker of those who are a part of the kingdom of God.** 

- Why is it significant that the Holy Spirit came to the Gentiles just as He came to the Jews? What does this tell us about the Kingdom of God and God's mission?
- "Christian" was the name given to those Jesus-followers who were breaking down social barriers. How can we as Christians break down social barriers in our situations and circumstances?

The Holy Spirit does many things: teaches, guides, convicts, calls, adopts, sanctifies (spiritual growth), and empowers. You might have the Holy Spirit in you but is the Holy Spirit *alive* in you? **Read Galatians 5:16–26.** 

- What do you think it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit?
- How can we live in the Spirit?
- What does it mean to be a Kingdom community that is set apart by God and empowered and led by the Holy Spirit?
- The Holy Spirit also provides spiritual gifts to believers. (Romans 12:6–8; 1 Corinthians 7:7; 12:7–10, 28; Ephesians 4:11; and 1 Peter 4:11). Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? How do you know? (faccalgary.com/volunteer/assessment/)

The Bible teaches about two types of Christians: those who are led by the Spirit and those who are self-propelled. The power to live differently is within us ... we just aren't using it. Nicky Gumbel describes it this way: "We have an old gas boiler in our house. The pilot light is on all the time. But the boiler is not always giving out heat and power. Some have only got the pilot light of the Holy Spirit in their lives, whereas when people are filled with the Holy Spirit, they begin to fire on all cylinders (if you

The pilot light is not enough any more.
Time to tune in to the Holy Spirit. Set apart time this week to spend with God. Listen to what He has to say about your life.

will forgive me for mixing metaphors!). When you look at these people, you can almost see and feel the difference." (Nicky Gumbel, *Questions of Life*)

 Thinking of Nicky Gumbel's illustration, are you firing on all cylinders or simply keeping the pilot light on?

In order for us to be active and effective in the mission of God we must have an ongoing relationship with God where we allow the Holy Spirit to speak to us and lead us.

• Do you spend time just listening when you spend time with God?

#### $\Longrightarrow$ live on Mission: Everyone, Everywhere, all the time

Share your experience of living On Mission from this past week. Have each person answer these questions:

- Which LIVE ON MISSION activity did you choose to do this past week?
- What did you learn about living On Mission?
- Would you do this activity again?

Read through the list below and have each person choose one of the following activities. Keep an open mind and allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you. Feel free to make up one of your own.

- Create peace in someone's life by **offering childcare** while they go out 1. for the night – without asking for payment. Or, volunteer for a Sneak-A-Peek in our children's ministry, DiscoveryLand (sign up onnline at faccalgary.com/kids, under Volunteer Opportunities)
- We all own something valuable, something we depend on, something we feel we can't do without. Here's the challenge: give it away and don't replace it.
- Get to work early and pray for your coworkers. 3.
- Walk your dog regularly around the same time and say hello to the people you see.
- Ask three people to name a few of the major needs in our country. Then 5. spend your quiet time this week interceding for our country regarding these things.
- Have you ever **thanked the emergency service workers** in our city? 6. Thank them by sending letters of encouragement and a nice treat.
- Plan lunch or coffee with someone who holds a different religious/ 7. spiritual perspective than you. This is about them, not you. Listen to their story and ask thoughtful questions. Spend time with them for the purpose of understanding their perspective – and hopefully make a friend.
- **8. Engage people in conversation** when waiting in line or in the elevator.



Think of a friend, neighbor or relative who doesn't have a church home and invite them to join you next weekend at First Alliance Church! Want to go the extra mile? Have every member of your family invite someone different

For more info, check out DiscoveryLand's *GodTime* handout. You can pick these up outside your child's classroom or online: faccalgary.com/kids (under Grade School Parent Resources).

## PRAISE & PRAYER POINTS

Spend some time praying for each other's prayer requests and share god is doing in your life. Pray that God would help you see how you camission for Him this week.	

#### DAILY PRAYER GUIDE: SILK ROAD

**Days 22-28** 

Europe, Russia, Arabian Peninsula, Central Asia

#### FEBRUARY 27, 2017 - DAY 15: INTRO TO THE SILK ROAD



A church in North Warsaw grows from a seedling to a full-fledged branch of the vine. People in this district of the Polish city were looking for help in their relationships. When God directed our C&MA workers to begin focusing on enriching marriages there, that community was drawn to the new hope the

Silk Road offered.

The Silk Road is a vast region including Europe, the Middle East, the Arabian Peninsula and Central Asia. The eyes of the world often focus here, as the region shifts and moves, regimes change and political climates heat up and cool down. There are a lot of intersecting borders in this part of the world. Creativity is the order of the day here. Our workers need to be flexible, adapting alongside their communities.

While most of us watch things unfold on the news, our International Workers are immersed in the realities of this huge region every day. They see how average people live their lives amidst uncertainty, yet find solace in faith, hope and love.

In some cases, C&MA workers have the privilege of seeing masses of people receive Christ's life-changing message. Others continually move and work and love in their neighbourhoods, watching God bring it all together on a no less significant, yet smaller, scale. Their roles are vital and you can see their passion for the people on their faces and hear it in their words.

#### Prayer Requests:

- That God will lead our Silk Road workers through barriers to find hearts prepared to receive His Word
- That the Lord will open doors of ministry, blessing partnerships and friendships, and that our Silk Road workers would recognize these opportunities
- That the opposition of evil forces will be overcome
- That fear of embarrassment and fear of failure will be overcome
- That God will keep our Silk Road workers and all Christian workers safe from those who might seek to harm them

For more information contact Rahul and Dawna at <a href="mailto:rds.com">rds@mailbox.org</a>. To read more stories or learn about our Silk Road workers, visit: <a href="mailto:cmacan.org/silk-road">cmacan.org/silk-road</a>.

#### FEBRUARY 28, 2017 - DAY 23: SHERRI



work in Skopje, Macedonia with a small church plant on the eastern edge of the capital. More than 10 years ago little

Sonja looked over the fence into her neighbour's yard where a VBS program was being held. She started attending every day, while her unbelieving Muslim background Roma family listened in through the open window of their house. She then started attending our church with another girl on the street - first for kids' classes, later for youth, and regularly on Sundays. She was involved in every drama and musical we put on, attended camp every summer, and has been a regular fixture in our church. But while she would nod agreement, she never really acknowledged a saving faith in Christ.

Last year we took our youth to a Roma area in the south of Macedonia where we led a VBS program in a park; Sonja helped teach and lead crafts and games. When we returned she commented on how there were other Roma believers (Sonja is one of the few Roma – that means gypsy – who attend our predominantly Macedonian church). Seeing people of her own nationality who were faithfully following Christ allowed her to take the step from coming and agreeing to truly giving her life to God. She now leads a children's class in her own home with neighbourhood children attending ... and her family has finally shown some interest in what she is involved in. There were so many steps in her passage to Christ. I'm grateful for each spot along the way that contributed to seeing a young girl become a strong young leader and a faithful witness in her unbelieving home and neighbourhood. She's an encouragement to me when I see things moving slowly ... Sometimes God is working beneath the surface."

#### Prayer Request:

- ž
- For the "Word of Hope" church plant that I am a part of to grow in size but also in maturity – becoming a church that will stand on its own through time
- For more families to allow their children and youth to attend our programs; these are the most receptive groups that we work with but we receive a lot of opposition from family
- That the continuing clean-up and assistance offered by the churches following the August 2016 flash flood (which resulted in the loss of over 20 lives and many homes in the area where I live and work) would be a testimony to God's love for them

MARCH 1, 2017 - DAY 24: STEVE AND NATALIJA JANZ, GOD ON THE MOVE



II A fter having purchased a house, living in a rural community, and forging partnership with the local government

over the last 10 years, we are seeing new opportunities to meet with and encourage those around us weekly. People generally do not look for contact with neighbours or easily trust people, but the Lord is opening doors. Humanitarian aid. Christmas food boxes, ESL courses, weekly Bible study, and common interests have all opened doors to relationships and opportunities to share pieces of the Good News of Jesus Christ. This past December there was an unusually perfect moment to share deeply about my faith in Jesus with our mayor. Though not a Christian,

he expressed his appreciation for the value we bring to the community and the sensitivity in sharing our faith. He has asked us to organize programs for the youth in this community on a couple occasions. To those of you who pray with us and support us in this ministry, this is your victory as well. Latvia is a very small country that is often forgotten and overlooked by the rest of the world, but God has not forgotten it and is on the move bringing much-needed healing, and building His Kingdom here.

Thank you for praying with us as Natalija and I along with our boys (Samuel, Simon, and Joshua) serve God in the Eastern European country of Latvia."

#### **Prayer Requests:**



I decided to ask Latvians we spend time in community with about their main prayers for the country. The answers were very consistent.

- For wise and just leadership in the government and against political corruption and selfish ambition
- For stability and peace especially in relation to Russian aggression and conflict with NATO
- For a softening of hearts that are hardened towards God and His Word, and continuing freedom of religion
- For unity in the church and against the lingering national spirits of distrust, cynicism, depression (my addition)
- For the ministry of connecting children and youth with Christian mentors we are working to establish

#### MARCH 2, 2017 – DAY 25: ERIN AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER



If your family hasn't been in the area for a good 300 years, you're more than likely a "blow-in" of one degree or another, even if

you've only moved from 10 km down the road. Accents can vary from one rolling hill to another in Ireland, but ours is clearly not from the next knoll over. God's creativity is limitless. He can use anything and everything and having accents piques curiosity. It has opened up conversations for us as to why we've come here and what we do. People more often than not can't believe we've moved to the west of Ireland when they have always dreamed of moving to Canada, Australia, or London. We get to share little words of hope, commenting on the rich heritage God has given them or the beautiful land He's created here.

On top of the accents, Chris and I and live in an area famous for its tourism. People often think we're just passing through. Even a year into living here we were still being asked if we were actually staying. Earning locals' trust takes an incredible amount of time with perseverance, gentleness and grace.

It has been that much more meaningful for us to quickly and easily connect with some of our neighbours. We recognize it is nothing less than God's favour! Just yesterday, I put down the watering can, my neighbour climbed off the riding lawn mower and we had a good, long chat on the side of the

road. It led to another conversation about faith in the midst of grief and being able to offer to pray with her as she wrestles with bitterness and unanswered questions. "Thanks, that means a lot," she said. "I'm not ready yet, but I'll probably take you up on that."

#### **Prayer Request:**



- For strength and wisdom for clergy – the very few here are spread over large parishes overseeing several churches each
- For more harvesters; aside from Sunday services or home visits from clergy, in our area there are no other spiritual resources available at the moment (e.g. Bible studies, care groups, discipleship opportunities)
- That families would become and remain engaged with their faith beyond the traditional practices of baptism and confirmation
- That in this largely rural, agricultural community, isolation would cease altogether
- For God's creative solutions to the lack of work in the area, which causes many young people to seek employment elsewhere

#### MARCH 3, 2017 – DAY 26: RAHUL AND DAWNA



Why
Northern
Iraq? In our most
recent trip there
with President
David Hearn and
Vice President
Brem Frentz of

Global Ministries, we heard stories of the incredible pain and suffering the Yazidi people are living through. A mother and her two young

[Image via IIme and Institut Kurde]

daughters, along with 150 other women and 400 children, thrown into a pit 25 steps below the surface of the earth and subsisting daily on one shared piece of Arabic flatbread until they were released ... A man coming home to find the bodies of his murdered family members piled in the middle of his living room ... An entire village of 200 people massacred within a few hours.

All these heartbreaking stories further convinced us that part of our call is to feed the hungry, provide water for the thirsty, invite the stranger into our homes, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit those in prison (Matthew 25:35-36).

God wants the C&MA to serve in Northern Iraq not only to be the hands and feet of Jesus, but especially because few Yazidis have heard of Jesus and there is no church among this least-reached people group. Because we serve a God who "is patient ... and not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance," we need to go in obedience to "make disciples of all the nations," and to "proclaim good news to the poor ... to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives.""

Pastors invest in leaders, train and equip them, but many leave the country. Pastors are continually starting over. They do more than pastoring; they are involved in all aspects of ministry for lack of leaders. They're underpaid and overworked. The stress of war and uncertainty take their toll on these leaders.

#### **Prayer Requests:**



 That the pastors and leaders in local churches will remain serving their congregations

- That they will have abundant strength to carry on with zeal and wisdom
- For protection from physical danger and from discouragement
- That the Lord will supply their needs according to His riches

#### MARCH 4, 2017 - DAY 27: KELLY AND JOLENE, FAITHFUL THROUGH THE FIRE



"I was given a necklace from a young lady named Hannah, a heroine of mine, whom I've only met twice. It says, "God is with me." It serves as a

reminder for me to pray.

Hannah was a part of a group of believers that was questioned some years ago, resulting in the other members leaving the country. She and her newlywed husband are always watched. Since we last saw them, they were both arrested and their business licenses were revoked.

They are now released, but they await trial. They are looking for a way to leave their country. Before, they wanted to stay to serve others in their home country, but now – though they have been faithful through the fire – it may be time to move on.

"And the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast." (1 Peter 5:10)"

#### **Prayer Requests:**

- For Hannah and Samuel, that there will be a clear way to stay or to leave, and that they will continue to persevere through the fire
- That their marriage relationship and their relationship with Jesus will grow deeper

## MARCH 5, 2017 – DAY 28: KENT & CLARA – THE DOVE GOT ME!



"It's never nice to be pooped on by a bird, but in my adopted culture, it's taken as a sign of blessing from God. A white dove used my friend,

"Erin" (name changed to protect identity), as its target of blessing. As we met to read the book of Luke together, I watched Erin marvel at Jesus. She cried every time I prayed, and for every single chapter she remarked, "This was the best chapter ever!"

Luke 11:13 delivers this mind-blowing thought: "If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" Erin wondered about the Holy Spirit. I reminded her of Luke 3, where the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in the form of a dove. That's when she told me about the dove the night before. We chuckled, but then the most amazing thing happened.

There, standing on the open window sill, stood a dove! It actually stepped in to the inner window ledge!

Erin gently closed the window. We were both in awe. "I've lived in this house for five years," she said. "Never once has a bird attempted to enter our open windows!" I remarked, "I think God is giving you a message."

I presented the Gospel and asked Erin if she'd like to invite the Holy Spirit into her life, through Jesus. The window of her heart was wide open. For the first time in the ten years I've known her, Erin prayed. Tears flowed freely, and Erin spoke of feeling an incredible sense of peace. Erin announced, "I now hold the keys to the Kingdom, but these keys are for sharing so others can know Him too.""

(Kent and Clara minister in the Silk Road region through their business, which gives them the opportunity to reach out to employees and their families.)

#### **Prayer Requests:**



- That our Silk Road workers, Erin, and other believers will be disciplined in and rewarded through the study of God's Word and through faithful prayer
- That Erin and the workers will experience rich, spiritual fellowship with other believers
- That God will guide Erin to share these keys to the Kingdom with others
- That the Holy Spirit would change the hearts of those who are resistant to His Word and to those who share the gospel



# EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE, ALL THE TIME

#### SESSION 5: OUR MISSION



 Share your experience. What is it like to set aside time to be with God and listen to what He has to say? How did 'tuning in' to the Holy Spirit change your day or your week?



Watch video SESSION 5 now and take notes in your workbook or journal.

As followers of Jesus, we are to live On Mission, Everyone, Everywhere, All The Time. But what does it mean to be a part of God's Kingdom today as we continue living in this Great Story? We reflect on how God uses the ordinariness of people and life for incredible things. We reflect on the many cultures that are welcomed into God's Kingdom. We reflect on the victory we can live in now if we become aware of it every day. There is no limit to God's mission today. (See chart, pages 55-56.)

"We are the people of God, set apart to demonstrate the Kingo to the world. Everyone. Everywhere. All the time."			



• What stood out to you the most from the video session?

**God's mission is to reveal Himself and reconcile all people to relationship with Him.** Everyone plays a key part in the success of the mission of God as it takes place everywhere on earth. We are on mission with God all the time. Everyone. Everywhere. All The Time. **Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23.** 

- After reading 1 Corinthians 9, what words or phrases stand out to you?
- How does Paul respond to cultural differences?
- How can you take on Paul's attitude towards other cultures around you in a practical way?
- Not all aspects of a culture will reflect Kingdom values. In these cases, what should we keep in mind?

- Reflect on the cultures represented in your city. Is the apostolic or missionary gifting (the ability to serve God in another culture) needed locally?
- For those of us who are gifted by God in other ways, how can we learn missionary skills?

**Everyone** plays a key part in the success of the mission of God. God is raising up believers and equipping them for His mission all over the world. Each person and each role is equally valuable.

## Think about the two different groups of Jesus' followers we can identify at work in Acts – the local Kingdom community and the sent-out disciples.

- What are their two different focuses in the spreading of the Kingdom? How are they alike?
- How do these two groups relate to one another and work as a team for God's mission?

#### Think about your Kingdom community as you answer the following:

- What are some spiritual giftings from God you can see in your Kingdom community?
- Who are the people you have sent off to other people groups?
- How do International Workers and your Kingdom community team up for God's mission?

#### Think about your life.

- How is God equipping you to be on mission for Him? (What are your gifts, interests and special skills? What education or training have you had? What is your profession?)
- Is God calling and equipping you to be on mission within your culture or in another culture?
- What next step could you take to become more effective for where God is calling you to be?

**God's mission takes place** *everywhere* **on earth.** "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10) is our prayer as we live on mission, sharing Jesus' victory everywhere.

- What would it look like in your life to have God's Kingdom come and will be done as it is in heaven?
- **Read John 17:15-18.** How can we live in the victory Jesus has claimed for us?
- How can we share this victory with others who have not experienced the Kingdom of God?

**God's mission can be lived out** *all the time.* Whether we simply live out the fruit of the Spirit in a moment of frustration or share the news of the Kingdom of God with a friend, we must not forget we are God's representatives on earth, set apart to make Him known.

 Reflect on your weekly schedule. Is Christianity scheduled in as a section of your life or is your faith your lifestyle – infused in everything you do?

What can we do to have a faith that is infused in everything that we do?

Your faith is a lifestyle.
This means that we are on mission for God in every situation as His representatives. How can you make your faith your lifestyle in a new way this week?



Share your experience of living On Mission from this past week. Have each person answer these questions:

- Which LIVE ON MISSION activity did you choose to do this past week?
- What did you learn about living On Mission?
- Would you do this activity again?

Read through the list below and have each person choose one of the following activities. Keep an open mind and allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you. Feel free to make up one of your own.

- 1. Speak or write a **daily word of encouragement** to someone in your office.
- 2. Learn how to share the gospel in a sincere and helpful way.
  - Read this fantastic article: <u>desiringgod.org/articles/three-ways-evangelism-can-be-more-believable</u>
  - Learn from Jesus: Read Luke 18:18-30
  - Do it!
- 3. Referees seldom receive anything but verbal assaults. Doesn't matter if it was a ball or strike, foul, or pick, first down, or turnover. Keep your complaints to yourself and personally **show your appreciation to the refs when the match has ended.**
- 4. Around 1 in 4 people in the world do not have access to the Bible or church communities nearby. Check out the **Wycliffe Organization** as they bring the good news to unreached people groups around the world!

   Watch this video: \_voutube com/watch?v=WrHC7bXNoV8
  - Watch this video: <u>youtube.com/watch?v=WrHC7hXNoV8</u>
- 5. It's disheartening to view national news and feel you are too small and remote to have any real impact. Instead, **try watching the local news as a group, and consider which of the stories you could get involved in** by helping the person who is the subject. Don't forget to pray for each person in the spotlight politicians, leaders, citizens, the TV anchors/ hosts ... Wouldn't it be amazing to see God transform their lives?
- **6. Download the free Joshua Project app** and pray for the least-reached groups of the world featured each day.
- 7. The Scriptures say it's a pretty good idea to be "quick to listen and slow to speak" (James 1:19). **This week hold your tongue in arguments**, even when you think you are in the right. Once you have listened, calmed down, and prayed about your response, then speak your mind. Be the active peacemaker in conflict.
- 8. Take the kids to storytime at your local library and get to know other parents.

# EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE, ALL THE TIME



Do you know your neighbours? Be intentional this week about meeting a neighbor you don't yet know. Want to go the extra mile? Offer to shovel their walk or invite them over for a visit.

For more info, check out DiscoveryLand's *GodTime* handout. You can pick these up outside your child's classroom or online: faccalgary.com/kids (under Grade School Parent Resources).

Spend some time praying for each other's prayer requests and share what



## PRAISE & PRAYER POINTS

God is doing in your life. Pray that God would help you see how you can be on mission for Him this week.				

#### DAILY PRAYER GUIDE: ASIAN SPICE

#### MARCH 6, 2017 - DAY 29: INTRO TO ASIAN SPICE



// ow wonderful to see the beginnings of a churchplanting movement amongst a fanatical people group unresponsive for decades to every effort and attempted influence of Christ's love. Throughout the Asian Spice region we see God at work in fresh ways.

Encompassing immense diversity, all the major religions, languages, culture, and political expressions are found in the grassroots rural villages and mega-cities that make up this amazing part of the world. More people live in this region than in the rest of the world, and many suffer from extreme poverty of body and spirit. Spice personnel currently engage in Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam. We are seeking God's direction for moving into other neighbouring countries; we listen to His voice and wait expectantly for the Holy Spirit's direction, and for workers and finances to move forward.

From nomads hidden for centuries from Christ's love to the expatriates of our international churches ... From the poverty of earthquake-stricken Nepal to the ultra modern streets of Japan, where thousands commit suicide each year while others search for hope and significance with lingering memories of the mammoth earthquake and tsunami ... This region's needs remain as diverse as the histories between these highly populated countries.

Yet hope still emerges, gradually replacing pain and fear in countless ways. God is using regular people with extraordinary faith who are willing to serve as International Workers across the Spice Region. Their roles have morphed, magnified, or changed altogether in the midst of a longing to be radically filled by the Holy Spirit and led to hearts that the Most High has prepared to join His Kingdom. God's love is being expressed among the least-reached as we move into the neighbourhood and are immersed in the lives of people."

#### Prayer Requests: 2



- For direction from God and open doors for moving into other neighbouring countries
- That hope will continue to emerge and through God's power replace pain and fear in these people's lives
- That the opposition of evil forces will be overcome
- For peace and guidance as our Asian Spice workers adapt their roles as needed for those they are serving and the opportunities God provides

For more information contact Mark and Paula at spicecrd@gmail.com. To read more stories or learn about our Asian Spice workers, visit cmacan.org/asian-spice.

#### MARCH 7, 2017 – DAY 30: KAURA-LEA DUECK



Jing to the Lord, praise His name; proclaim His salvation day after day. Declare His glory among the nations, His

marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; He is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens." Psalm 96:2-5

Thailand is filled with Buddhist temples on high places and shrines to household gods. Most Thai people worship images their hands have made and live in fear of the spiritual world, never knowing the saving name of Jesus Christ. The Thai population is currently less than 1% Christian, but we know God is preparing this dry soil for an outpouring of His Spirit. Rather than living by works to make merit, my Thai church preaches God's transforming grace, and I have already seen several people surrender their broken cisterns and come to the spring of living water. This church has also committed to welcoming the prostituted women my team ministers to into their community to love and disciple them; praise God for what He is doing, and pray that the women are drawn to the Lord."

#### Prayer Requests:



 For God to shake the spiritual bedrock of Phuket, transforming the island from being "the devil's

- playground" (as one brothel is called) to being a place of peace and light where God's Kingdom continues to grow
- For freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour (Luke 4:18-19)
- For the Thai people who are enslaved to false religion, that they may see and know the truth
- For those oppressed in the Thai sex trade, that they may experience Christ and live in freedom

#### MARCH 8, 2017 – DAY 31: MARK AND PAULA



ark and Paula met in Regina and married after college before serving at Cochrane Alliance for three years.

With their first son on the way, they moved to Asia and worked in Laos to bring sustainable income through various projects including crafts, silk, education, agriculture and clean water. They then moved to Thailand with their two boys and young girl in 2007.

Mark and Paula are the Regional Developers for Asian Spice and spend much time traveling and interacting with their personnel and partners. Mark loves to see development projects that impact the poor and bring them livelihood in this life and hope into eternity. Paula is passionate about bringing hope and encouragement through Christ,

prayer and the Word as people face various challenges.

They are excited about the increased hunger in people, to hear God's voice. As our International Workers thirst for God and hear His voice, they are compelled to share His light, life, and power with others."

#### Prayer Requests:



- That the poor in spirit would inherit the kingdom of God
- That we will be faithful in prayer and hope
- That our teams will walk in love, wisdom, and unity
- That Christ will lift the darkness, send His glorious light, and pour out His Spirit throughout Asia through dreams, visions, testimonies, and healing

#### MARCH 9, 2017 – DAY 32: BUZZ AND MYRNA MAXEY, FROM PRISON TO PITCH



hat does being in prison have to do with Papua United Football Club?

We could see a bit of trepidation in

the eyes of our players. These boys had been chosen to be a part of a "Selamat 2016" soccer ministry but they didn't know it would include playing at the local jail. After we all got frisked and walked through a steel door, and three gates, we were in the midst of seasoned criminals. As our players put on their cleats they observed the two buildings filled with inmates and couldn't help noticing the faces looking through the bars of the windows. But they also saw the smiles and even joy of many of

the men when they realized we had come to play soccer with them. Their uniforms displayed "prisoner;" ours "Papua United." We played a rigorous game in the rain and it was rewarding to see how through laughter and play, such camaraderie could be built. We shared with the prisoners that we all make mistakes and that although they had broken the law, God had not deserted them. We shared about God's grace and forgiveness and challenged them to be different when they were released. Then we presented them with uniforms and balls for their team that read "New Hope." They responded with a cheer and we prayed together.

What had begun with trepidation had turned into a wonderful opportunity for serving, loving, and fun together on the soccer pitch in prison."

#### Prayer Requests:



- For strong discipleship to happen with Papua United Football (soccer) Club coaches and players, especially as we develop "character cards"
- For changed, healed hearts and minds through opportunities to teach HIV and AIDS awareness as pornography, disrespect, pride, and deceit can be avenues that the enemy uses to entrap Papuan youth
- Praise to God for the international team working on the full Ngalik Old Testament: Amos & Enos (translators), Lynda (Bible Society consultant), RockPointe keyboarding team, and ourselves; for wisdom, focus, health/healing and joy as we are probably 3-5 years away from completing this project
- · For our eldest son Ben as he

Image by Michele Falzone / Digital Vision / Getty Images

trusts God for prayer and financial supporters during his 2-year Alliance apprenticeship in a cousin context in Bandung, Indonesia

MARCH 10, 2017 - DAY 33: MIKE AND KELLY MCGREGOR, NEW TRIBES MISSION, PAPUA NEW GUINEA



"Papua New Guinea (PNG) is an extremely isolated country with very few roads and little to no infrastructure with over 850

separate language groups. In the South Pacific, PNG has the lowest literacy rate and the highest HIV rate, and life is very difficult. The majority of the population are still animistic, living in fear of the spirit world. Others have heard of Christianity, but have syncretized traditional beliefs with religious works to earn their salvation. The good news is that God is at work in PNG and His church is growing. My specific ministry is as a pilot, flying a helicopter which provides our church planters with transportation and the support they need to live and work among some of the most remote people groups in PNG. The church-planting missionaries live full-time among these people teaching literacy, translating the Bible and teaching it chronologically. We are currently working in over 30 language groups. We are seeing exciting progress in many of the church plants - people growing and maturing in their faith and going out and spreading the gospel among other villages in their own language group and even sending out their own missionaries

to reach neighboring language groups. One mature leader, Kaiko, has been traveling between a number of different language groups. He visits fellow followers of Christ and encourages them in their faith (using the trade language Pidgin). It is so exciting to see the PNG believers growing and taking ownership of their church."

#### Pray Requests:



- That God would send new missionary church planters willing to go and live in unreached people groups in order to reach them with the gospel
- That our new PNG brothers and sisters in Christ would stand firm in their faith (despite facing persecution) and would have a desire to grow in their faith
- For wisdom and safety for me as
   I fly the helicopter, providing the
   necessary transportation to make
   this happen the extreme terrain
   and tropical weather make this
   particularly hazardous

## **MARCH 11, 2017 - DAY 34: GRNT AND SND**



Ain was on the way. Dark clouds circled, the air temperature had cooled, and the park had emptied. Approaching me

and our children was a man dressed in a black sarong, black top and black head covering. We engaged in conversation.

Maday was a witch doctor. His responsibility that day was to call on the good spirits to prevent the rain from putting a stop to the important

ceremony to be held there. He was well-paid, well-prepared, and supremely confident there would be no rain.

I brought the whole family back later. Our goal was to pray for rain; we wanted Maday to see the One greater than his magic. We circled the park as we prayed out loud that the God of all creation would bring rain and show himself to Maday. Then we went home and waited for the rain.

It didn't rain. But why? I thought God was stronger than any other force out there. He is strong and the victory is His and we are very confident in that. It didn't rain that day because God wanted to reveal to us an important reality our eyes had been dulled to.

You see, "our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." (Eph 6:12) In fact, the spiritual world is more real than the flesh and blood we see and touch every day. That reality is crucial for us to understand here. Absolutely everything is spiritual. There is no separation of "spiritual" from the "everyday." Darkness is everywhere and it is strong. But praise God, He will have the victory on this island and in eternity as well."

#### Prayer Requests: 2



- For spiritual protection
- For physical protection so many new illnesses here
- For eyes to see the direction He is leading
- For revival of the local Hindu people

#### MARCH 12, 2017 - DAY 35: MARG **BAKER - SAMARITAN'S PURSE** MERCY MINISTRIES - THAILAND/ CAMBODIA



"Wichai was sold to a family when he was 9 years old - but not to be part of the family ... His job was to tend to the water buffalo. After a

couple of years there was no need for the family to keep Wichai and he was left on the road alone. The local pastor brought him to our home. With the love of God, prayer, and good nutrition Wichai was restored to good health. Wichai learned to play guitar and loved to worship. At 18 he decided he wanted to leave home. make money, and work. We prayed God's perfect plan, not Wichai's plan, would prevail. The day Wichai left our home to find work, he was hit by a car on his motorcycle. He cried out to God to help him. Wichai sustained injuries but returned home and vowed to follow the Lord and serve Him all the days of his life.

While studying God's Word at Bangkok Bible School, he guestioned the Lord and realized how much God loved him, and that God had "made him an orphan for the orphans." Wichai and his wife are leaders in one of our homes. They continue to teach all the children in our foundation. Wichai is also a pastor and preaches God's Word at our church with the senior pastor. Wichai continues to be a godly man and leader in our foundation, faithfully serving God in Thailand and Cambodia.

We presently have 11 "home grown children" on staff at our homes. Some of our other children are presently serving God in other ministries. We are thankful to our Lord for each one of the babies and children He has brought to us, all for the glory of God's kingdom."

### Prayer Requests: 2

- For safety and continued religious freedom in spite of expected political unrest as the Thai people observe a year of mourning for the recent death of the Thai king
- That the teachers and students of our school in the slums of Poipet and our Christian school that will be built in 2017 would be the light of Jesus in that very dark place
- That God would heal the broken hearts of our new children, that they would accept Jesus at a young age, and would follow and glorify Him all the days of their lives



# EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE, ALL THE TIME

#### SESSION 6: THE END MARKS A NEW BEGINNING



• How did you make your faith your lifestyle, living on mission in a new way this week?



Watch video SESSION 6 now and take notes in your workbook or journal.

esus walked this earth and ushered in a spiritual Kingdom that is active and working in our world. However, we are still waiting for when the Kingdom of God will come fully and forever with Jesus' second coming. (See chart, pages 55-56.) In the meantime we are given a task, encouraged with visions of our future hope, and encouraged to overcome evil with good in the name of Jesus who has claimed this victory for us!

testimony to all, and then the end will come." Matthe					

## DIGGING DEEPER

• What stood out to you the most from the video session?

The Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Darkness are both active in our world today. Although victory has been won, we wait for the final and complete triumph of Jesus as King.

- How do you see this spiritual battle going on in the world around you?
- What is the ultimate consequence of rebellion against God?
- Do you experience this spiritual battle in your personal life?
- How can we participate in God's mission to save and actively frustrate the Enemy's plan to destroy as many as possible before Jesus returns?

Life in heaven is described in Revelation using many different metaphors because it is so incredible and unfathomable. What we understand from these passages is that one day we will experience the ultimate restoration of all of God's creation. All will be made right and God will dwell with us.

- Read Revelation 21. What did you learn from Revelation 21 about what heaven will be like?
- What restoration do you look forward to most in heaven?

Eternity with God is hard to imagine. Even with all the images and metaphors, it is still beyond our comprehension.

- How do we get past our unanswerable questions and embrace the mystery of forever with God? Is "embracing mystery" hard for you? Why do you think that is?
- How does God's promise of this hope being "trustworthy and true" (Revelation 21:5) help us interact with the mystery of eternity?
- How can this future reality revealed in Scripture bring us hope?

As believers, we are the recipients of God's message and blessing. How do we respond as recipients of this gift? How do we pass on the blessing and not just keep it to ourselves?

- How does the hope of eternity in the Kingdom of God shape the way we live here? How do people who think of home as their eternal life with God live differently than people who see the earth as their only home?
- In light of eternity we must make what is eternal important and what is not eternal unimportant. God does not value the same things as we do. What do you need to re-evaluate?
- God's mission reached you. Who are you on mission for?

#### Closing thoughts:

- What is God's mission?
- What is your biggest take-away from this series for your life?

### LIVE ON MISSION: EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE, ALL THE TIME.

Share your experience of living On Mission from this past week. Have each person answer these questions:

- Which LIVE ON MISSION activity did you choose to do this past week?
- What did you learn about living on mission?
- Would you do this activity again?

Read through the list below and have each person choose one of the following activities. Keep an open mind and allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you. Feel free to make up one of your own.

- 1. Go out for dinner and give a good tip. Even if a restaurant server is bad, give a good tip and kind thank you. Maybe they were having a bad day and need extra grace to turn it around.
- 2. Find others that live near you and **create a carpool.**
- Go grocery shopping as you normally would. Then, donate everything to the local food pantry. Check out local organizations wish-lists too! Knowing what is needed is a way we can effectively help the organization meet the needs of their clients.
- **4. Host a movie & discussion night.** Choose a documentary or movie with content that will create thoughtful dialogue.
- 5. Who do you know that hasn't been to church? **Invite them to church with you next weekend.**
- 6. More Christians have been persecuted in the last 100 years than all of the previous 1900 years since the time of Christ. Check out this website (opendoorsusa.org/take-action/pray/) and pray for one of the requests each day.
- 7. Like to go to the farmers' market? **Frequent the same vendors and learn their names.** Maybe you could pick up a meal for someone while you are there and deliver it on your way home!
- 8. Write a letter of kindness and encouragement to someone you have had a difficult relationship with. Rather than rehearsing to yourself what is frustrating about that individual, express in the letter what you appreciate about them. Let them know you are praying for them.

Spend some time praying for each other's prayer requests and share what



#### **PRAISE & PRAYER POINTS**

God is doing in your life. Pray that God would help you see how you can be on mission for Him this week.				

#### DAILY PRAYER GUIDE: ON MISSION

Everyone, Everywhere, All The Time

#### MARCH 13, 2017 – DAY 36: CATCHING THE VISION: C&MA CANADA - EVERYONE

Jesus' disciples are ordinary by the standards of the world. Yet Jesus taught them and empowered them by the Holy Spirit to share the Good News of the Kingdom of God with many people. And guess what? God wants to use you too. God wants to use you to connect with other people and share His Great Story.

 What does it mean to love all people as Christ loves you?



Ask God to open your eyes to see and your heart to love the people around you. Ask God to show you who you need to share His love with, and initiate a conversation today.

#### MARCH 14, 2017 – DAY 37: CATCHING THE VISION: C&MA CANADA – EVERYWHERE

hen Jesus teaches us to ask of God, "... Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10), what are we really asking for? What does it mean that we ask for the Kingdom of God to come and spread everywhere throughout the earth as naturally as in heaven? It means we believe so strongly in God's mission that we pray for it to come to completion everywhere and bless all people. We look forward to when God does rule over all things because that means all things will be restored once again. We hope for that restoration to be experienced everywhere on earth.

 What does it mean to participate in God's mission wherever you are?



Look through your schedule today. Ask God to show you how you can live on mission for Him wherever you are today.

MARCH 15, 2017 – DAY 38: CATCHING THE VISION: C&MA CANADA – ALL THE TIME

We are born into the Kingdom of God once, but we must learn to live in it every day, all the time. Everyday, our goal is to overcome evil with the good of God's Kingdom – in our personal lives, our relationships, our communities, and our world. Because there is no situation, big or small, that is insignificant in God's mission, we must pay attention to each of these areas and how they impact our ability to be on mission all the time.

 What does it mean to stay present to the leading of the Holy Spirit at all times?



Ask God to help you to be present and aware to the Holy Spirit's guiding and leading today.

MARCH 16, 2017 - DAY 39: CATCHING THE VISION: C&MA -WESTERN CANADIAN DISTRICT

In the Western Canadian District (WCD), the emphasis on becoming "Christ-centred, Spirit-empowered and Mission-focused" is experiencing

fruit at the grassroots level in our congregations.

#### Christ-Centred

We are praising God for the ways in which lesus has been revealing His story in the church ... Based on 48 WCD churches surveyed, 98% indicate that within any given month, an attendee would be exposed to a clear declaration of the Gospel with an invitation to respond. In many WCD churches, the revitalized Alpha program has resulted in significant conversion response, with more than 1,000 new believers across Alberta.

#### Spirit-Empowered

There is a groundswell of desire throughout the district for a fresh encounter.

#### Mission-Focused

A special thrust exists toward reaching least-reached groups in new Canadian cultures ... We are also seeing remarkable generosity for global missions, with 37 churches engaged in 52 Seamless Link Covenants.

We feel this is just the beginning. There are some things that God will do only in response to the prayers of His people. I am full of anticipation for His will to be done in new ways in response to these dear partners in ministry as we seek to serve one another and reach the lost!"

(Excerpted from an article which first appeared in the Fall 2014 issue of cmAlliance.ca magazine, written by Brent Trask, District Superintendent of the Western Canadian District )

- How have you been impacted by the mission of the Western Canadian District?
- How do you or could you shape your life around being Christfocused, Spirit-empowered, and mission-focused?

#### Prayer Requests: 2



- That God would continue to guide the leadership of the Christian & Missionary Alliance
- That God would lead First Alliance Church to be effective for the purpose He has for us
- That God would reveal to you how your life is valuable to this purpose
- Thanks to God for the provision of the Christian community where we live and how it has been a blessing to you

#### **MARCH 17, 2017 - DAY 40: CATCHING THE VISION:** C&MA – FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH

A prayer from Pastor James:

"Lord, as we look around at our world today we see people everywhere who have lost hope. Restore our hope; remind us that our hope is in lesus, in His death and resurrection.

Lord, we are blind. In every area of our world people are groping around in darkness. Help us to see the light. May the light of hope of Jesus shine from us that others may see and desire it for themselves.

Lord, we are lazy. We prefer comfort. Energize us and help us to serve those in need, to do good in our world.

Lord, we are impatient. We live in a world of quick fixes; give us patience and endurance. Grant us excited anticipation as we wait for the fulfilment of hope – Christ in us the hope of glory. Amen."

- What does it mean to have hope in Jesus for today? For the future?
- What does it mean for you to shine for Jesus that others may see and desire Him for themselves?
- How are you living on mission?



#### ... WHAT'S NEXT?

Here are some **Next Steps** for you to continue to grow from the foundation you've laid in the last 40 days:

- Join a small group to continue exploring the Bible in community.
   Stop by the Connect Desk on Main Street to find out more information.
- Keep praying for the 5 "S" Regions! If you are interested, you can sign
  up to receive the weekly emails as a way to continue in prayer for our
  International Workers. Visit cmacan.org/resources/global-update.
- Keep going through the activity list. Start back at week 1 and try a different LIVE ON MISSION activity.
- What is your mission field? Whether it's your family, a local need in your community, or international ministry, take a first step and make a clear commitment to get involved this year.

If you're interested in local or global mission opportunities through First Alliance Church, visit <u>faccalgary.com/globalimpact</u> for ways to be part of living on mission with us!

## SESSION MAP & H

Session

1. THE EARLY STORY OF GOD'S PEOPLE

2. THE BIRTH OF THE NATION ISRAEL

3. JESUS AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD

God's People

Abraham's Family

The Hebrew people, the Nation of Israel The Jews

When in the Bible

The Old Testament Genesis The Old Testament Genesis through Malachi The New Testament The Gospels: Matthew-Iohn

Characters We Meet

> God Satan Adam Eve Abraham

Abraham's Family Jacob Jacob's Sons (including Jospeh) Pharoah, Moses, Earthly Kings (David, Solomon) Prophets of God

Jews Gentiles Jesus Romans Disciples

## Big Events

Creation. God has relationship with Adam and Eve. However Satan tempts Eve and Adam to doubt God and as a result of their sin humanity now participates in Satan's rebellion against God. However, God is on a mission to change this and God wants to use people to help Him. God calls upon Abraham to join Him on this mission.

Abraham's family line grows. We meet Joseph who is sold into slavery by his brothers but God uses this tragedy for good, helping Abraham's family continue to grow. Their size was a threat to Egypt and so they were enslaved. God calls Moses to lead them into their own land and become known as the Nation of Israel. Israel was to be God's representatives on earth. However, conflict eventually lead to a national split.

Only a remnant of the Nation of Israel remains, the lews, who *live under the control* of the Roman Empire. The Bible is translated from Hebrew into Greek. God sends Jesus - fully God and fully man to teach us about the Kingdom of God which includes both the lews and Gentiles. Jesus recruits and trains disciples to carry on the mission given to Abraham. Iesus' death and resurrection claim victory over Satan, sin and death.

God's mission: To reveal himself to us and

## ISTORY TIMELINE

#### 4. THE APOSTLES AND 5. OUR MISSION 6. THE END MARKS THE HOLY SPIRIT A NEW BEGINNING Kingdom Community Kingdom Community Christians for Eternity on Earth Real life .... today! The New Testament The New Testament Reveltion Acts through Jude **Apostles** You King Jesus Holy Spirit Me After His resurrection, The mission of God has *The spreading of the* Jesus ascends and the continued through to gospel to all people is Holy Spirit descends. today, bringing us to the marker we have

After His resurrection, Jesus ascends and the Holy Spirit descends. The disciples receive the Holy Spirit at an event we now call Pentecost. The disciples and followers of Jesus begin to minister just as He did, breaking down social barriers and crossing cultural ones. This is the Age of the Apostles. Many come to believe. Kindom communities (churches) are born and continue to grow near and far.

The mission of God has continued through to today, bringing us to this Bible Study. God continues to raise up belivers in all areas of the world to be on mission with Him sharing His blessing and message in all cultures. We look for signs of Kingdom values, as Jesus taught, in our Kingdom communities. Becasue of Jesus' death and resurrection, we can live in victory.

The spreading of the gospel to all people is the marker we have for when Jesus will return. Jesus will return as King and usher in His full and complete reign over all things. At this time there will be a judgment for all people. Those who believe in Jesus will be welcomed into God's eternal Kingdom. God will make all things new and heaven and earth will be restored.

Our desire is that every day you fall deeper in love with Jesus. Over the Course of six sessions, discover the Great Story of God on mission from Genesis to Revelation including us today. This workbook is designed to supplement the 40 Days On Mission weekend teaching to go deeper in your understanding and knowledge of what it means to live On Mission: Everyone, Everywhere, All The Time.

#### This workbook offers:

- conversation starters
- discussion questions that go with weekly video sessions (available on DVD, online: facthisweek.com or on the "FAC Experience" app)
- practical ideas to put your faith into practice each week
- space to write down praise and prayer points
- a daily personal prayer guide focussing on the Five "S" regions of the Christian & Missionary Alliance in Canada

