

End of the Beginning

It's hard to believe we are this close. Lord willing, we will be leaving for the field in just under three months. Plane tickets are on hold, documents are being gathered for visas, and we are enrolled to start language school on May 2nd. God has been so good to us. We thank Him for His many blessings and for His people who invest in our ministry.

In the last two months we travelled to the states of CT, MD, NJ, NY, PA, and all the way to California. We had wonderful meetings and were blessed to meet many new people. We thank God for the churches who decided to partner with us in getting the Gospel to Madagascar. With their help, we are now at 85% of our support.

As we begin the final leg of deputation, the reality of missionary life is starting to set in. Saying goodbye to family and friends who we will not see for several years has brought tears to our eyes. Yet, there is a sweet peace in knowing that this is not in vain, but for the glory of God. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4:17, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory..." We take joy in knowing that our "light affliction" is temporal while souls won for Christ are eternal.

The Lord has filled our schedule for the next three months. By the time we finish deputation, we will have presented our ministry in nearly 120 churches across the United States. The Lord has met every need along the way and has taught us to rely on Him to accomplish His work. We are asking God to supply the remaining 15% of support needed and to guide in our affairs as we make our final preparations for France.

Allow me to close this prayer letter with a simple thought that has been passing through my mind lately. Jesus said in Matthew 9:38, "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." As far as I know, this is the only prayer request Jesus ever gave, and yet, it is one that is so often overlooked. Every day the mission field grows by a staggering 200,000 people (2,500 a day in Madagascar) while it seems like fewer and fewer missionaries are going to the fields. I ask, "Why are we in this dilemma?" Could it be because we are not asking God for more laborers? Could it be because we are not praying this simple prayer?

Recently I spoke with a pastor who informed me of a young lady in his church that is interested in serving the Lord in Madagascar. I was thrilled by the thought of another missionary serving the Lord in such a needy harvest field. But then again, I wondered, why are there not more individuals ready and willing to serve the Lord on the foreign field.

I believe it is time for us to add this prayer request to our daily prayer list and begin begging God for more laborers. I believe it is time we start praying specifically for individuals to surrender their lives to serve the Lord in missions. Would you join me in praying earnestly for the Lord of the harvest to send forth more laborers into His harvest field to reap precious souls before the harvest season is passed?

The Browns to Madagascar

Prayer Requests

- That the Lord of the harvest would send forth more laborers
- For the provision of our remaining 15%
- For the visa process to go smoothly and without issue

Prayer Praises

- God's continued provision of our support
- God's protection and blessings as we continue our travels

"That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations. Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee."

Psalm 67:2-3