

Jan 7, 2011

Annie gives the devotion on "The Threefold Prayer of Mission" based on Matthew 9:37-38

- Touched by Lilius Trotter, first missionary to Algeria 1888-1923:
 - Was a talented artist
 - The doctor stopped her from going to Algeria because of heart condition.
 - She went nonetheless because of great burden in that region of world.
 - Was discriminated heavily in a Muslim country.
- She only prayed for "heavens may be opened.." When she left, she had the threefold prayer:
 - Doors might be opened
 - Hearts might be opened
 - Heavens might be opened
 - Then the harvest will come.
- She left Algeria when her heart condition worsened. But raised indigenous people and other missionaries to carry her work.
- A difficult lesson to learn is to depend on the Lord; and harvest will come in His own time.
- She finally learnt Arabic, and able to make inroad into the Muslim world.
- In 2010, God opened the doors, that hearts were opened; and heavens have been opened. Then we see harvest indeed have come.
- Vision statement for 2011: "Following the Lord of Harvest into the Harvest field". God has given his church a harvest field. God is leading us into the Chinese speaking fields besides the English speaking that have been targeted in the history of Gilead.
- Pray that all will enter into field of harvest.
- Acts 10:11 Peter's Vision "He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its corners."
 - God did not explain the vision
 - Instead three men asked him to go
 - And showed Peter that God will bring salvation to the gentiles.
 - Especially 10:33 "Answer finally given: Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything ..."

Jan 21, 2011

Flora gave the devotion on Proverb 3: 5-6.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and he will straighten your paths.

We can be content when we trust in the LORD that He is the Almighty and will work things out for us and accept the way He has planned.

Submit and trust God, rely on Him and surrender to Him are the keys.

Jan 28, 2011

Karen will give her devotion on Psalm 20:7

- Question? Do you name your child? Is there special reason for giving this name? Do you have any expectation or hope on the child? Noble thought, name of tribe – being great, praises to God granting the child
- The name is important. Psalm 20:7. “Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. “
- There are many passages mentioning the name of God, especially in Psalms.
- What does the name of the LORD mean? In the O.T. time, the name of a person represents the character of the life of that person. When we name our children, we usually give him name so that his life can be a reflection of that name. Like Jabez, his mom gave him this name because of her pain. So God’s name describes an attribute of God, His character.
- What are the names of the LORD? God has many names according to the Bible. These are some that I learned in Sunday school with the junior highs and still remember:
 1. ELOHIM: God “Creator, Mighty and Strong” (Genesis 17:7; Jeremiah 31:33)
 2. EL SHADDAI: “God Almighty,” “The Mighty One of Jacob” (Genesis 49:24; Psalm 132:2,5) – Speaks to God’s ultimate power over all.
 3. ADONAI: “Lord” (Genesis 15:2; Judges 6:15) – Used in place of YHWH. In the Old Testament, YHWH is more often used in God’s dealings with His people, while Adonai is used more when He deals with the Gentiles.
 4. YHWH / YAHWEH / JEHOVAH: “LORD” (Deuteronomy 6:4; Daniel 9:14) This name specifies an immediacy, a presence. Yahweh is present, accessible, near to those who call on Him for deliverance (Psalm 107:13), forgiveness (Psalm 25:11) and guidance (Psalm 31:3).
 5. YAHWEH-JIREH: "The Lord will Provide" (Genesis 22:14) – The name memorialized by Abraham when God provided the ram to be sacrificed in place of Isaac.
 6. YAHWEH-RAPHA: "The Lord Who Heals" (Exodus 15:26)
- Why can we trust in the name of the LORD our God? The names of the LORD tell God’s characters and God cannot change to be contrary to His characters. He will do anything to protect His name to uphold His name and to bring glory to His name. Therefore, we can trust in His name.
- God said in Isaiah 48:9 – 11 "For my name’s sake I defer my anger, for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you, that I may not cut you off. 10Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction.11 For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another”
- God said in Ezekiel 20:9, 14, 22, 44 (4 times in same chapter. God withholds his wrath and grant mercy on His people) “9 But I acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations among whom they lived, in whose sight I made myself known to them in bringing them out of the land of Egypt. 14But I acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations, in whose sight I had brought them out. 22 But I withheld my hand and acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations, in whose sight I had brought them out. “44And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I deal with you for my name’s sake, not according to your evil ways, nor according to your corrupt deeds, O house of Israel, declares the Lord GOD.”

- In conclusion, In the same way, I think we can praise and pray His name when we pray. God is faithful even when we are faithless. For His name's sake, He will work everything together for the good of those who love him and are called according to His purpose.
- Man also guards and protects his name jealously; but will sue & take vengeance immediately when his name, logo or company has been infringed. But God's attribute in His name exercises mercy and slow to anger although we profane His name profusely. Man is prone to retaliate right away.