

For we walk by faith not by sight

"I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless.

Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

Genesis 17:1-2

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

Isaiah 30:21

July 2012 Newsletter

## God, what are you waiting for?

Have you ever felt that God seems to be deliberately ignoring you? Have you ever wondered why He hasn't given you the confirmations you desire and feel are necessary to set into motion the 'calling' that He has burned into your heart? Why don't things move forward?

You wait, you pray, you hope for a miracle, you search for His leading and draw as close to Him as you can, and still it seems that the reality of the vision He planted within you is light-years away.

This is a subject of discussion that I've had with people numerous times over the years. I'd like to share with you my personal perspective on it.

First of all, we must check our heart. Is there sin, either known or unknown that we need to repent of? Have we been so in love with our own ambitions and desires that we deceive ourselves into believing them to be God's will? Or in our enthusiasm to serve him, have we run ahead of God and his timing?

Is the underlying motive an effort to overcome guilt or to win approval from God or people? Or am I simply motivated by love for my Father?

Second, I find that if I wait until I'm 100% certain that I'm taking the perfect, God approved steps before moving forward on what I believe to be God's will - I'll probably never move at all.

If I refuse to move until I clearly see Jesus leading the way so that all I have to do is to simply follow Him - risk free - into God's perfect plan, I'll never be sure I'm seeing clearly enough.

And then I find that so many sincere Christians are immobilized by the fear

of missing God's will or they are so bound by fear of what those on the sidelines will think or say if they miss God's will, they can't move at all!

What I discovered for my own life is that God wants me to learn to **"walk by faith - not by sight"** (2 Cor. 5:7). He made that very clear to Abram when He told him to **"walk before me faithfully and be blameless"** (Gen. 17:1-2).

God didn't tell Abram to "follow Me". That would have been easy. Instead God required daring acts of bold faith!

Abram could have been paralyzed by fear of missing God's will when called to that distant unnamed destination. God didn't give Abram a road map or a name or location of this 'promise land'. But God's plan required Abram to just 'go', taking bold steps forward by faith, and setting things into motion. All he had was God's promise that He would be there to show him the way step by step into the reality of His calling and promises. Abram's job was to believe God and act on it!

You may argue that Jesus calls His disciples to "come follow Me". I certainly agree. I find that there are times when God reveals His will in such detail and without question, it is as if Jesus Himself was walking right in front of me. But, I also find that much of the time this journey is a matter of moving by faith while listening carefully for His guiding voice - coming from behind. I find that once I move - then I begin seeing Him move!

**"Without faith it is impossible to please God!"** (Heb. 11:6) God allows situations that require faith. That pleases Him! Is that why He seems to be waiting?

## God's 'Baggage' Scanner

We arrived in Hong Kong on the night of April 8, a bleary-eyed, jet-lagged team of 17 travelers. The beds in the apartments welcomed our exhaustion as we finally surrendered to the tug of gravity after 24 hours of travel.

The following morning brought the amazing news that the 'Green Channel' was open on the China border at Customs. This sent a thrill to my soul that quickly washed away the remaining effects of our long flight and short night of sleep.

The opening of the 'Green Channel' had only happened on a few rare occasions since my first border crossing in 1980. It gave our team of Bible couriers great reason to rejoice. Why? This meant that we would not be required to put our suitcases loaded with Bibles on the dreaded luggage scanner! As long as the 'green channel' remained open, we could walk uninhibited through the China Customs - worry free of having our precious Bibles confiscated...

...or so I thought!



While it is not illegal to take Bibles into China, Bibles will be confiscated at the border large numbers are if detected. The reason given by the Customs Officials is always, "You have too many"! Often they will only confiscate a percentage which can be retrieved at the border on our departure from China.

As we made our first border crossing later that day, I was confident of success; confident because the luggage scanner would not be posing the normal intimidating threat. Regretfully though, my confidence was not completely reliant in trusting our miracle working God, as it normally must be when placing a suitcase full of Bibles on the scanner while knowing that everything will be obvious to the customs officials.

So, as I calmly strolled past that inactive scanner thinking this was going to be a 'piece of cake', a customs official suddenly intercepted me and declared, "You have Bibles! Go over to the counter and take them out."

"You are right," I begrudgingly admitted, a bit taken back by his skillful profiling ability. I sheepishly acknowledged my over self-confidence, realizing that while the customs scanner had not been operating, God had his own scanner working and it had just scanned my heart revealing what was inside. I was not impressed with what He had seen and quickly realized that God was teaching me a lesson, even at the expense of a suitcase full of Chinese Bibles being confiscated. I had better learn quickly, or the whole mission trip might be a disaster - for me as well as for those waiting for a Bible!

I repented of self-confidence. I knew now that regardless of the 'Green Channel' being open, we really needed God's grace and miraculous intervention as much as ever if we were going to get any Bibles across the border. God's grace and miraculous power is what I should have been excited about and dependent on in the first place!

Besides, the real opposition we face in taking Bibles into China is not that scanner or the Customs Officials. Our opposition is spiritual, a dark evil power that strives to destroy or distort God's Word and the knowledge of His love, to prevent people from ever encountering God's power by any means possible.

Over the next week we made numerous daily trips across the border and, by God's grace, that was the only time I got stopped. Every trip after that was made with a strong awareness of how much I need to depend on God each day.

By the end of the two weeks an unusually large amount of over 12 tons of Chinese Bibles had been safely hauled into China! Before we left China those Bibles were already on the final leg of their journey, heading out to twenty of China's twenty-two provinces for distribution primarily to Christians living in rural farming communities.

## Next China Bible Courier Trip

...includes 4 exciting days in Vietnam!

**September 29 - October 13**

(Sign up deadline: July 28)

Another China Bible Courier Trip:  
January 12 - 26, 2013



Email Go Forth Ministry for more information: [goforthministry@gmail.com](mailto:goforthministry@gmail.com)

### What is Prayer Walking?

Prayer walking is a method of intercession that invokes God's power into a specific area. It is prayer on the move, a physical act that, as led by the Holy Spirit, becomes spiritual through which the Lord uses his children's plea or petition to the Father on behalf of those in distress, darkness, and bondage. It is a simple way to bring glory to our Father by acting as a gatekeeper to reclaim His territory.

#### **in·voke** [in-vohk]

*verb (used with object), in-voked, in-vok-ing*

1. to call for with earnest desire; make supplication or pray for:  
*to invoke God's mercy.*

Prayer walking employs all five senses to focus on the One who can accomplish things beyond human ability. With blinders removed, insight into the Father's heart stirs our heart as we see what God sees and feel what He feels by physically being in that location. Prayers become passionate, inspired by compassion. They become mountain-moving prayers that move His heart and hand.

The purpose of praying on site is to open the doors of our prayer closets and take the Spirit to the Field, allowing Him to prompt us to pray for specific places, people, or subjects. We become a person of secret influence by bringing praise and petition to the Father in the Name of the Son with the Holy Spirit.

Our goal in prayer walking is to glorify the Father through bringing others' needs to Him as if they were our own, and by giving Him the Praise He deserves in places He may not be receiving it.

**H**aving traveled throughout Asia for the past 33 years, I've become increasingly aware of the fact that there are definitely dark spiritual strongholds in certain specific areas. This was brought more directly to my attention recently when some of the Vietnamese believers requested that I bring teams to pray and intercede in areas that have been locked shut by this spiritual 'darkness' to the light of the Gospel.

Vietnam is a nation filled with idolatry! Everyone seems closely tuned into the spirit world. Most obvious is Buddhism. Ornate temples filled with idols and covered in symbolic sculptures abound throughout the nation.

Caodaiism is the third largest religion in Vietnam (after Buddhism and Roman Catholicism). It is a religion which combines elements from many of the world's main religions, including Buddhism, Confucianism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Taoism, as well as Geniism, an indigenous religion also of Vietnam.

The practice of witchcraft, necromancy (talking to the dead), and Satan worship is wide spread. In some areas people will not make any decision at all without first consulting a fortune-teller (and paying for the service).

Reigning over all this is an anti-God, Communist government, many of whose members actively participate in

and support the previously described 'dark' lifestyle.

So, after nine days of hauling Bibles into China, 12 members of the team headed out for Vietnam. We spent the next 4 days prayer walking in various strategic spiritual areas under the guidance of Brother H. who is pastor of a house church in that district.

Our prayer walks took us to a number of key locations, including one of the most important Buddhist Temples in Vietnam where priests are trained.

After a 3 hour boat ride the team arrived at the Điện Hòn Chén temple which is most famous for several annual ceremonies attended by thousands of devotees. At these gatherings the followers, including top government officials, go into a demonized trance in which they communicate with dead ancestors.

We went to the ancient Chinese Forbidden City, also called the "Purple Palace". From this place China introduced its Taoist and Confucius ideologies, and the spiritual powers on which they ride.

There is a place called "The city of the Dead" by the locals. Huge tombs that are elaborately decorated cover an area as far as the eye can see. Families invest their life savings in these as they compete among themselves for the most notable grave markers. This honor extended to the deceased is offered in the hope that the deceased will bless them with wealth from 'beyond'. Many of the families starve while spending hundreds of thousands of US dollars on these monuments!

Throughout that region family run temples abound as the power of fear control peoples minds and hearts. Fear so controls the people that even in the most basic decisions they must first consult a fortune teller.

I have discovered prayer walking to be a very powerful tool. I believe that it needs to be a greater part of overall evangelism efforts. In general, the Western church has laid aside the power tools of spiritual warfare. In effective evangelism, so much is dependant on our ability to tune into what God is already doing and saying and our ability to respond to His lead. This requires focused prayer that moves both our heart and God's heart.

In addition to the Prayer Walking, the team successfully brought into Vietnam 400 DVD's of the "Jesus Story", each in seven different languages found in Vietnam, and around 50 solar powered mp3 audio players of the Bible in Vietnamese. These have been distributed from the North to the South and among several of the minority tribal groups.



The 'Prayer Walking' Team in Vietnam



"There are tens of millions of Chinese Christians without a copy of God's Word. With the ongoing rapid growth of the church, this is unlikely to change!"

"There will always be Christians in China without a Bible unless increasingly large amounts are both carried into China as well as discreetly printed inside China."

- Go Forth Ministry will begin efforts to raise awareness and finances to help with the cost of printing Chinese Bibles.
- Our 12 month goal is to finance the printing of 50,000 Bibles.
- The cost to print and deliver one Bible is only \$3.00!
- Would you be willing to ask God if He wants you to be a part of this opportunity to invest in His Kingdom?

## A church in formation

They came from the South, the North, and from the Hre and Stieng ethnic minority groups. Vietnamese Pastors and Christian leaders who have relentlessly "fought the 'good fight'" came together for the third annual conference in which God is shaping uniquely diversified people groups into his church.

They are modern day heroes of the faith! Many, if not most, have stood up to intense trials and opposition to their faith. Yet despite great challenges, in most areas church growth has doubled in the past year!



A church in formation - God's Kingdom advancing!

Why the rapid growth? The simple answer: By God's grace they stay focused on the person of Jesus Christ and the Great Commission! They live and preach out of love, thankful hearts, sacrifice, and passion! That results in boldness, miracles, signs and wonders, and the Baptism, fruit and gifts, of the Holy Spirit.

Especially noteworthy was the presence of new leaders from North Vietnam. In the past 18 months, 5 house churches have been established - the fruit of the first few Vietnamese believers returning to Vietnam from Brother Barnabas's ministry in Taiwan. The multiplication of those 5 churches is already happening with 80 new believers receiving baptism this July.

Also attending the conference was David Yardy whose quite life investment as Director of Asia Missions under the Free Methodist Church has impacted tens of thousands of lives. Traveling with me from the States was my friend and GFM board member, Mike McFarren. Both brought outstanding teaching that was a great encouragement to these young leaders.

Mike McFarren had these thoughts to share about his experience in Vietnam...



## The Usual

by Mike McFarren;  
Ohio Superintendent of the Free Methodist Church

Our trip to Vietnam began 'as usual.' Passports, visas, and a fifteen hour plane ride. That was the end of the usual. As is often the case, when working for the Kingdom, God intervenes to make our usual into His miraculous. But wait, **God's usual is miracles!**

The purpose for our trip began two years ago as the coordinated effort of an independent missions group, Go Forth Ministry, and the foreign missions department of a denomination sought to ease the persecution of house church pastors in the southern part of Vietnam. The result has been to the benefit of pastors that have chosen ordination and those who have chosen to remain independent. Wait a minute, a miracle!

As the expansion of this ministry has continued it has been necessary to put some foundational structure under it to alleviate growing pains. Often times, this causes the introduction of human jealousies and prejudices into a fruitful ministry. I would be lying if I said that we were not concerned or if the potential of these problems had not caused us to question the future of this cooperation in ministry. We needed a miracle.

First came the miracle of salvation. A youth in a house church on his first Sunday attending, yielded to God's urging and accepted Jesus as his Savior. Then, before the first session of the administrative conference, a woman asked if she might get saved, and so, before the planning and structure even began we were reminded what God intended the purpose of the planning and the structure to be. Nothing less than a miracle.

Second, the miracle of God revealing His heart, and man submitting to it. As this ministry has expanded into all areas of the country, it has touched different tribal cultures and general attitudes that are steeped in tradition and old ways of thinking. It is hard to believe that the spirit of keeping things 'the way they have always been' could exist in a ministry that is only two years old, but there it was. Through prayer and teaching and prayer and sharing hearts and prayer and late night meetings...did I mention that there was a lot of prayer...the formation of a Board of Administration took place. In itself, this is nothing out of the ordinary until you realize who was chosen to serve on that board. It is six people; some from the north and the south; two separate tribes represented; and a woman. Nothing less than a miracle!

Finally, the miracle of grace. While persecution seems to have eased in some ways, it is still very much present, and the question remains of how we can overcome it. Personally, I have always been partial to the Old Testament process of God "smiting" the offenders. However, I saw, in the heart of the persecuted, the miracle of God's presence, and it transformed a man into His instrument of grace.

**The Principle: Relentless Persecution Requires Relentless Grace.** Please let that soak in. We were taught, not by a theologian, but by one of the pastors who has been persecuted relentlessly. He said, *"The battle against persecution is not against a government but against the bitterness in a man's heart. If we fight the bitterness with our*

*own feelings of anger and hate, persecution wins. However, if we resist bitterness with forgiveness and compassion, God's kingdom overcomes".* Nothing less than a miracle.

The process continues. There will be more meetings and difficult issues of administration that will threaten the effectiveness of this new way of 'doing' missions. Persecution will continue in new ways that will require that we be "...shrewd as snakes, and innocent as doves." But rejoice! The 'usual' for our God is miracles!

**A**nd now, here is the BIG NEWS! Daisy and I are first-time grandparents...and we find that to be just 'grand'!

Special 'Thanks' goes to our daughter Ellie and her husband of nearly two years, Clint, for making this possible! They just happened to be in Kauai, Hawaii for the event, which just happened to be at the time we had a scheduled Bible Courier Trip to China, which just happened to allow Daisy and I an

extended flight layover in Hawaii on the way home so that we could be there just in time for the birth - which did happen...right on schedule!



"Happy Birthday"  
Tekoa Benjamin Snyder!  
April 28, 2012 7lb. 1oz.

Tekoa is the name of a city in south Judah (2 Samuel 14:2) and is probably most famous for being the home of the prophet Amos.

The name Tekoa means Trumpet, the instrument that unites people at a sudden impulse. ([www.abarim-publications.com](http://www.abarim-publications.com))

**A**fter a journey of 26 years, God is calling Go Forth Ministry to something new. The call to bring the ministry to a new place is clear, but I'm pretty clueless as to where God is taking us and how to get there. We are at the place where moving forward by faith in the confidence that God is with us is about all we have to go on.

What we do know is that God will be bringing other people along side the ministry for this journey. **Please pray with us as we step forward into this next chapter.**

It is with grateful hearts that we look back over the years and see how God has guided and called to life things that, in man's effort, would not exist. To Him we say, "Thank you so much for the privilege of walking out each day with you and having the opportunity to be a part of what You are doing!"

"Thank you Father for every person you have brought along side to share this in this journey. Bless them with the assurance of your love and with favor."

In His joy,

Wendell & Daisy Martin