

PRAYERPOINTS

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS: A PRAYING PEOPLE IMPACTING A LOST WORLD

Indigenous missionaries plant gospel seeds

IN NOVEMBER 2014, two missionaries, Limber and Chango, left Panama in a small boat and went to northern Colombia to work among their own people who had never heard the gospel. They spent three months traveling the rivers of the Amazon jungle, sharing the gospel in many communities with restricted access to outsiders. They were able to move about the area freely because they were indigenous.



In July 2015, IMB missionaries went on a follow-up trip to visit one of the communities where Limber and Chango had been. During a Sunday morning worship service, one young woman interrupted the missionaries to say that she wanted to give her life to Christ and make a public profession of faith. She told the missionaries that Chango had witnessed to her, but she hadn't been ready to respond then. However, after hearing the Bible stories this day, she felt strong conviction. The young woman knelt and prayed aloud in her own words, asking Jesus to be her Lord and Savior.



After the worship service, she and four others were baptized in the river. All five had been witnessed to by Limber and Chango in November 2014. Praise God for the faithful testimony of these brothers, and pray that these five new believers will grow in their faith and share the gospel with many others.



Left: Limber and his family
Top right: Chango chats with an IMB missionary
Bottom right: Baptized in the river

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declared the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9, ESV)

1 AMERICAN PEOPLES. David and Cameron Olson were met with skepticism when they began using chronological Bible storying to teach their adult Sunday School class at their church in Lima, Peru. Pray that this discipleship method will take hold, and ask God to use it to lead believers to share the gospel with others.

2 TSWANA OF BOTSWANA. This January, classes began at the first Baptist seminary in Botswana. The focus of this school is to train leaders to make disciples, train other leaders, strengthen existing churches, and start new churches. Ask God to use this seminary to expand His kingdom in Botswana and beyond.

3 HOKKIEN OF EAST ASIA AND BEYOND. Hokkien Harvest is a vision led by Hokkien people to reach the Hokkien people and beyond. There are two teams in Southeast Asia, workers in East Asia, and a new group in Southeast Asia. Ask God to draw many to Jesus through the Hokkien Harvest ministry.

4 AMERICAN PEOPLES. The Brazilian Home Mission Board has been training church leaders using a method called Multiplying Church, which involves multiplying small groups and planting churches out of them. Pray that many new small groups and churches will result from this training effort.

5 RUMELIAN TURKS OF THE BALKANS. Praise God that a worker recently completed her language training! Pray for her as she invites her tutor to continue meeting as friends to discuss the Bible. Ask God to draw the tutor to Himself and

give her understanding.

6 BRIDGE PEOPLE OF INDONESIA. The Bridge people fear and honor the religious leaders who tell them what to believe. To question a leader is to shame the leader and to bring shame upon oneself. Pray that the Bridge people will be open to the gospel despite these cultural norms.

7 AMERICAN PEOPLES. Jeff and Liesa Holeman are utilizing "Hands On" students in Oaxaca, Mexico, to reach indigenous people groups for Christ. Praise God for these young people who faithfully and energetically share the gospel in this difficult area! Ask Him to bless their efforts for His glory.



IMB missionary Liesa Holeman using a flannelgraph with children in Mexico.

8 NORTH AFRICANS OF PARIS, FRANCE. Give thanks for mature, local churches that live out their faith in their communities by praying with people, distributing the Word, and extending an invitation to fellowship. Praise God that many who are lost are entering these churches and are walking out with new hearts.

9 DECCANI MUSLIMS OF INDIA. Pray for the local church in the Deccan of India, asking that believers will share the gospel with the Muslims around them. Pray that God will meet

their physical needs and give them the grace to lead their families and children in ways honoring to Him.

10 AMERICAN PEOPLES. There is a dire need for programs among the indigenous people groups of Brazil that battle alcohol abuse. The local government is allowing Jonathan Edney to implement the Celebrate Recovery program in Altamira, Brazil. Ask the Father to use this ministry to help many find freedom in Christ.

11 DEAF PEOPLES. A new outreach group for the Deaf in East Asia is growing. Recently, five new Deaf believers were baptized. Praise God for these new brothers and sisters, and pray that they will grow in their faith and share with others.

12 EUROPEAN PEOPLES. Christianity is on the decline in the Netherlands. Church buildings go on the market every day in this openly permissive society. Pray that God will raise up strong believers who will help turn the Netherlands back to Christ.

13 AMERICAN PEOPLES. Latinos are being called out in unprecedented numbers to take the gospel to other countries. Pray for these believers as they go to closed countries where they realize that they may even have to lay down their lives



An IMB missionary shares Bible stories.

for the sake of the gospel.

14 LAST FRONTIER. There are many obstacles that are hindering the work among one Last Frontier people group. Pray for wisdom and discernment for workers. Ask God to turn the obstacles into bridges to facilitate engagement and the sharing of the gospel.

15 NYUNGWE OF MOZAMBIQUE. Many Nyungwe believers are the only believers in their extended families. This often causes conflict when a believer will not participate in traditional ceremonies. Pray for Nyungwe believers to stand firm in their faith even in the face of opposition.

16 AMERICAN PEOPLES. There are Spanish-speaking missionaries from the Americas serving in England, Spain, Germany, and many other countries around the world to reach Latinos for Christ. Praise God for their faithful service, and pray for a great harvest among the global Latino diaspora.

17 UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN SEOUL, KOREA. Pray for university students from a marginalized population whose disadvantaged backgrounds often make it difficult to adapt to a highly competitive environment. Pray that they will adjust well and maintain healthy spiritual lives amid the stress.

18 AMERICAN PEOPLES. August will be a busy month, with many short-term teams coming to the Americas. Pray for these teams to be used strategically, for them to be effective in sharing the gospel, and for lasting, Christ-centered relationships to be formed.

19 TAJIKS OF AFGHANISTAN. A believing father longs for his family to follow Jesus.

He recently shared "God Is Love," a film produced by Iranian believers, with his wife. Ask God to soften her heart so that she may believe. Pray for other Tajik men who believe to boldly proclaim the gospel to their families.

20 THAI-MALAY OF THAILAND. In February, the Thai-Malay Team distributed the Book of Luke to many Thai-Malay people. Pray that the Lord will open doors for those who are seeking to study the Scriptures further, and pray that other Scripture portions will be quickly prepared for distribution.

21 AMERICAN PEOPLES. When missionaries first arrive on the field, they must learn the language and be mentored in order to be successful in their ministry. Pray for new missionaries to grasp the language quickly and to adapt to their new cultures with minimal difficulty.

22 MOROCCAN ARABS OF MOROCCO. Love clothed poor and orphaned children in warm clothing while sharing the gospel with them. Pray that those who received these gifts of warmth, truth, and encouragement during the winter months will be drawn to the Father.

23 KARACHI, PAKISTAN. Gulshan-i-Iqbal Town is a large town in Karachi with likely more than 1 million people. Many minorities live in this area, including a large population of Christians. Lift up the believers of Gulshan-i-Iqbal Town, asking that they will shine God's light to those around them.

24 AMERICAN PEOPLES. Pray for David and Regina White and their two young sons as they lead Bible studies in many small Guatemalan villages. Praise God for the groups that meet regularly and are growing in their faith. Pray for these believers to share with those around them.

25 EUROPEAN DIASPORA OF SOUTH AMERICA. Kyle and Valeria Roy serve in southern Brazil among the Talian people, descendants of Italians who came to Brazil 140 years ago. Many Talian are trapped by the ties of traditions and their family religion. Pray that this people group will find freedom in Christ.

26 LAST FRONTIER. Changes in visa requirements present a challenge for workers who want to stay in their country of service for more than a year. Pray that workers will receive visas that make the country their home, allowing them to develop long-term relationships that result in kingdom growth.



A volunteer spends time with a child in Argentina.

27 AMERICAN PEOPLES. Children of missionary parents live in a variety of cultures and can be an amazing resource in reaching the lost. Pray for these children to make friends in their schools, neighborhoods, and churches, and to shine like lights in the darkness.

28 LUSAKA, ZAMBIA. Some churches in Lusaka have opened community schools for

children whose families are unable send them to government schools. Ask God to provide teachers and supplies, and pray that the children will respond to the gospel as they learn.

29 JAPAN. The city of Shizuoka, Japan, is home to Mount Fuji. The Japanese say, "All roads lead to the top of Mount Fuji," which they interpret to mean that all religions will

lead to heaven. Pray that the people of Shizuoka will realize that Jesus is the only way to God.

30 AMERICAN PEOPLES. There are more than 175 unengaged people groups in the Americas. Pray for a clear strategy to reach these people groups, whether through foreign or national believers. Pray for Bible translations to be available in their languages.

Trusting in His ways

PREPARATIONS HAD BEEN COMPLETED and Josh Murphree was ready to lead a two-day chronological Bible storying training in a remote Peruvian town with two national partners. Russ Fleetwood, Josh's teammate, and Pedro, another national partner, had not planned to go on the trip, but in the final weeks of planning decided that they should.

On the morning they were to leave, Josh fell ill and made the hard decision to stay home. The two national partners that were to accompany him were also unable to make the trip, so Russ and Pedro traveled to the town and Pedro led the training in the Quechua language for 50 enthusiastic learners. When at the end of the first day of training a community workday was announced to take place the following day, one of the church leaders declared, "This is where all of us believers need to be. We'll work for the community another day."



On the road to a Peruvian town.

Josh, Russ, and their national partners had planned and prepared for every detail of this training, but God had different plans. The teammates and national partners trusted that the Lord would work things out, and He blessed and provided in special ways. Praise the Father, and ask Him to help all the missionaries, national partners, and believers to trust in His ways as His Word goes forth.

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