

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK
Tony & Marcia Haug | JAPAN

PRAISE - Since starting our preschool in 2015, 53 students have had the opportunity to not only receive a strong foundation in English language learning, but also to hear about Christ and His message on a daily basis during their time at NB.

PRAY - Continue to pray for the salvation of Mr Okamoto (50's) and Mr. Tsutsunomi (31) both seem very interested in the gospel. Pray that they will continue coming to church and that their hearts will be opened to the Truth of the Bible.

PRAY - Please continue to pray for Setsuko Fujinaga (60) who became a Christian last year to begin attending church again and choose to be baptized.

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REACHING OUT **GROWTH GUIDE**

Handout: 07/17/22
Study Date: 07/24/22

Sending Missionaries Forward On Their Journey!

Sending missionaries must be valuable, because look at how happy it makes the apostle John. Some missionaries from John’s church, it seems, had visited Gaius’s church and told him of their work (3 John 7). The missionaries then returned to John’s church and testified in front of the whole congregation of Gaius’s love for them (vv. 3, 5). When John hears this testimony, a big smile fills his old-crinkled apostolic face, and he writes to Gaius. Listen to the joy and warmth of the first four verses of this neglected letter:

The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth. Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers. For I was very glad when brethren came and bore witness to your truth, that is, how you are walking in truth. I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth. (3 John 1–4 NASB)

According to verse 2, perhaps Gaius was not doing well health-wise, and perhaps his business was struggling — and so John feels the need to pray for these matters. But Gaius’s love for the missionaries assures John that his soul was prospering. The prospering soul is the soul that is walking in the truth (v. 3) or working together with the truth (v. 8). In other words, he’s not living a fantasy; he’s not living “the American Dream.” He is living in a way that fits with ultimate reality, where God is at the center.

The value of sending can also be seen in the phrase “you will do well to send them” (v. 6). The word for well carries with it the sense of beauty. It is beautiful to wash the feet of those who go out for the sake of the Name. If the feet of those who carry the gospel are considered lovely by God (Isaiah 52:7), it should be no surprise that God views the people who wash those lovely feet as doing something beautiful.

Finally, notice in verse 8 that in God’s eyes there is no hierarchy of value, with the missionary on top and those who send playing second fiddle. In verse 8, we read that both the goers and the senders are “fellow workers with the truth.” Both are equally valuable before God, the lives of both equally significant in God’s opinion — which is the only opinion that matters. The most important thing is to let our lives be consumed with seeking the kingdom first. Whether we seek his kingdom in Cameroon or Myanmar, or where we currently live, is a secondary issue. But if God does lead you to stay where you are, your soul will prosper as it ought only if you are involved in sending others to the mission field.

Source: “Sending Missionaries Well”, by Tom Steller

KEY VERSE

III John 1:6 (NKJV)

“who have borne witness of your love before the church. If you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: III John 1:1-5; Acts 13:1-3; Hebrews 11:1

Sending Missionaries Demonstrates Faithfulness

1. Name a missionary that you admire. What do you admire about them?
2. How does giving to missions demonstrate your faith?

Tuesday: III John 1:6a; II Thessalonians 5:12-13

Sending Missionaries Shows Love

3. When our church supports a missionary, how does that demonstrate our love for them?
4. What are some other ways that we can show our love for our missionaries?

Wednesday: III John 1:6b; Luke 19:10; Proverbs 3:9

Sending Missionaries Honors God

5. Describe God as a giver.
6. How does giving to missions honor God?

Thursday: III John 1:7; I Corinthians 9:14; II Cor. 9:10-14

Sending Missionaries Testifies To The Unsaved

7. According to III John 1:7; why did the missionaries go forth?
8. When a local church provides for the needs of a missionary, what does that communicate to the people the missionary is serving?
9. What does a poorly cared for missionary communicate?

Friday: III John 1:8; Philippians 4:16-17; Romans 10:14-15

Sending Missionaries Makes Us Fellow Workers

10. When our church gives to missions, in what way are we fellow workers?
11. As fellow workers, how is sending missionaries an opportunity for our church?
12. As fellow workers, how is sending missionaries and providing for them our obligation?