

BE A BRINGER

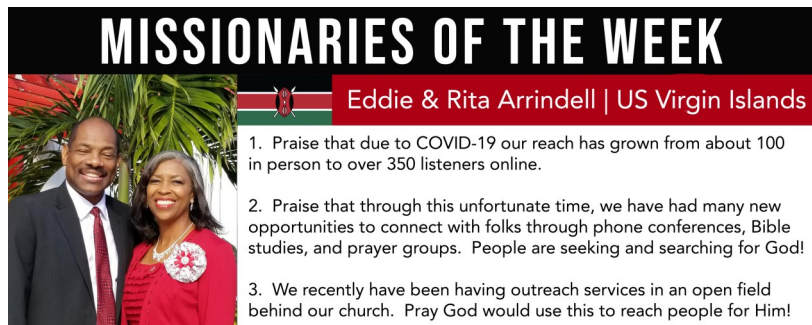
“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

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
Eddie & Rita Arrindell | US Virgin Islands

1. Praise that due to COVID-19 our reach has grown from about 100 in person to over 350 listeners online.
2. Praise that through this unfortunate time, we have had many new opportunities to connect with folks through phone conferences, Bible studies, and prayer groups. People are seeking and searching for God!
3. We recently have been having outreach services in an open field behind our church. Pray God would use this to reach people for Him!

GROWTH
GUIDE

WELCOME
Home

Handout: 06//21/20

Study: 06/28/20

Who You Are In God’s Family

Why did God create within us this need for acceptance? His purpose was to give us the desire to become part of His family. Coming to Christ is not the only step necessary for receiving the wholeness and healing He alone can give. We must fully accept the Savior’s unending love for us. Through the Son, we’re counted worthy by our heavenly Father.

Believing God accepts us is tremendously important. Why? He knew before you were born the ways in which the world would reject you. He knew there would be times when your faith would cause you to be persecuted, rejected, or mocked.

Remember, Jesus knows how rejection feels. When He was arrested in Gethsemane, His followers rejected Him and fled. One of His closest disciples, Peter, denied three times that He even knew Him.

And from the cross, Jesus cried out in anguish, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Matt. 27:46). As the full weight of humanity’s sin fell upon our Savior, the Father withdrew His presence, since He does not remain in the presence of sin. Jesus had never known a moment of separation from the Father and had never felt unacceptable to Him. That rejection was agony for Jesus ... and it’s agony for us as well. An unfulfilled need for acceptance and belonging leaves a person truly bereft—especially when it comes to the Father’s love.

God intends for us to have places on this earth where we feel completely secure and accepted. That’s the Lord’s desire for us in our families. He wants each person to have a sense of being an integral part of a family, regardless of personality quirks or unusual traits.

The Lord also desires the church to be a place of belonging. In a local fellowship, people of many spiritual gifts and practical talents can find opportunities to serve the Lord and work together in furthering God’s kingdom on earth. The body of Christ is a place for sinners to find loving acceptance while they’re encouraged to turn away from sin. The church is meant to be a place where we find appreciation as children of God. There, we experience a common life far beyond simply signing a membership roll or attending regularly.

The Father calls His children to be one in the Spirit. As we unite with other believers for the purposes of praise, worship, ministry, and service, the kingdom of heaven is advanced on earth, and we discover our unique place in the family of God.

Source: “Belonging To God’s Family” by Charles Stanley

KEY VERSE

I Peter 2:5 (NKJV)

“you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: I Peter 2:3-10; Romans 8:14-17; Psalm 34:8-10

Home In God's Family

1. Are you part of God's family? If so how did it happen?
2. What is the best part of being part of God's family?

Tuesday: I Peters 2:3-4a, 9a; Ephesians 1:3-6; Romans 15:5-7

You Are Acceptable

3. How has God accepted you?
4. Since God has accepted you on account of Jesus, how does this affect the way you should accept others in God's family?

Wednesday: I Peter 2:4b; Ephesians 1:7-14; Romans 5:6-11

You Are Valuable

5. What price did Jesus pay for you? How does that demonstrate that you are valuable?
6. How does being in a relationship with Jesus give your life more value?

Thursday: I Peter 2:5-9; Hebrews 10:19-22; I Peter 4:10-11

You Are Capable

7. In the Old Testament only priests had direct access to God. What gives believers the ability to have direct access to God today?
8. How do you partake in your access to God? Do you have a plan to spend time with God regularly?
9. In the Old Testament priests had the privilege of ministering to people. How is it both your right and responsibility as a believer in Christ today to minister to others?

Friday: I Peter 2:10; Hebrews 4:14-16; John 3:16-19

You Are Forgivable

10. Have you received mercy from God? How would you explain this to someone who doesn't know God?
11. How does life apart from Jesus lead to guilt and condemnation?
12. How does receiving forgiveness from God make it easier to forgive others?