

BE A BRINGER

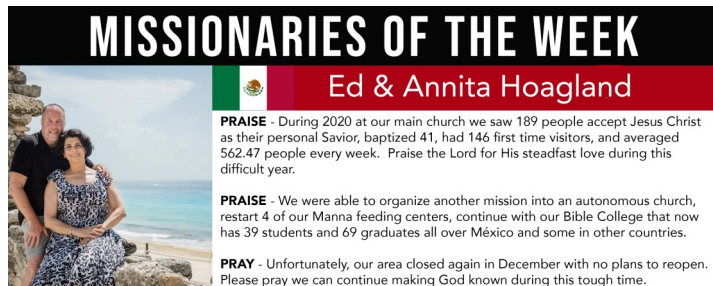
“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

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
Ed & Annita Hoagland

PRAISE - During 2020 at our main church we saw 189 people accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, baptized 41, had 146 first time visitors, and averaged 562.47 people every week. Praise the Lord for His steadfast love during this difficult year.

PRAISE - We were able to organize another mission into an autonomous church, restart 4 of our Manna feeding centers, continue with our Bible College that now has 39 students and 69 graduates all over México and some in other countries.

PRAY - Unfortunately, our area closed again in December with no plans to reopen. Please pray we can continue making God known during this tough time.



FORWARD
BY FAITH
growth guide

Handout: 01/17/21

Study: 01/24/21

Faith That Goes

I Thessalonians 1:7 tells us the Thessalonian church became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. But how did they do this? Paul explains in verses 8-10. Verse 8 explains how they became an example: The word of the Lord effectively echoed forth throughout the region as an expression and product of their faith. Verses 9-10 explain why they became an example. Because they had received the ministry and teaching of the missionaries, they turned to God from idols and this resulted in a dynamic effect—they began to serve God and wait up for His Son from heaven.

One of the logical, natural, and necessary products of imitating the character of the missionaries and the Savior was to become a witness to others of the saving grace of God. Before looking at the details of their witness as examples, we can summarize their witness in three distinct developments:

1. Their witness echoed throughout the surrounding regions.
2. The report declared the drastic change of life (turning to God from idols they began to serve).
3. They had a new hope and focus for life; they were living in the light of the return of Christ, a hope which gave them endurance and courage.

The first characteristic concerned how their witness had spread. The message of the Lord (literally, “the word of the Lord”) echoed forth from this church.

The term “sounded forth” or “echoed” is the Greek *execheo*, “to cause to resound, sound or ring forth.” It seems that the Apostle saw the Thessalonians as amplifiers who first received the gospel message but then sent it reverberating on its way with increased power and scope much like an echo in the mountains.

After receiving the gospel, the Thessalonians took it to others. It was Paul’s mission strategy to plant churches in the population centers and to let these churches take the good news to the surrounding districts. From Thessalonica the word of the Lord “rang out” (the Greek word *exechetai* denotes a loud ringing sound—giving us our word echo). That message was still being heard when Paul wrote. In fact it had gone beyond the border of Greece.

The meaning is, that their conversion and its circumstances were so noted, that they carried the gospel through the province as if by the ringing peal of a trumpet. The rumor of what had happened at Thessalonica sped its way through Greece, and carried with it the gospel—sounded abroad loudly, fully, distinctly, the blessed message.

Source: 1 Thessalonians: An Exegetical and Devotional Commentary by J. Hampton Keathley, III

KEY VERSE

I Thessalonians 1:8 (NKJV)

“For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: I Thessalonians 1:1-10; Romans 1:8

Introduction

1. What words or phrases does Paul use to describe the authenticity of the Thessalonians faith?
2. . What are some ways your life has changed since you first encountered Christ? What are the visible markers of your faith?

Tuesday: I Thessalonians 1:1; Acts 17:1-4; Philippians 4:15-17

Give To Send Missionaries Who Go

3. What made the church in Thessalonica a missions focused church?
4. Why should churches financially support missionaries?

Wednesday: I Thessalonians 1:2-3; Ephesians 1:16-17

Pray For Others To Become Followers Of Jesus

5. How often do you pray for others to become followers of Jesus?
6. List people who you can pray for to become followers of Jesus and pray for them today.

Thursday: I Thessalonians 1:4-7, 2:2; Romans 1:16

Tell Others That You Are A Follower Of Jesus

7. Sketch a map of your street or neighborhood. Which neighbors know you are a follower of Jesus? Do the same exercise with your workplace.
8. What are things that prevent you from telling others about Jesus?
9. What are some ways that you can tell others in your life that you are a follower of Jesus?

Friday: I Thessalonians 1:8-10; Ephesians 3:8; I Cor. 3:6

Invite Others To Become Followers Of Jesus

10. The Thessalonian church was full of believers whose lives were changed because of an authentic encounter with Christ. How did this affect their relationships with each other and with the world?
11. Has evangelism been a natural outpouring of your faith in Christ? Why/ why not?
12. I Thessalonians 1:8 describes faith that sounds forth or rings out to the world. Think about the message that your life is sending and ask God to help you and Capital Baptist to be an example of this kind of faith.