

BE A BRINGER

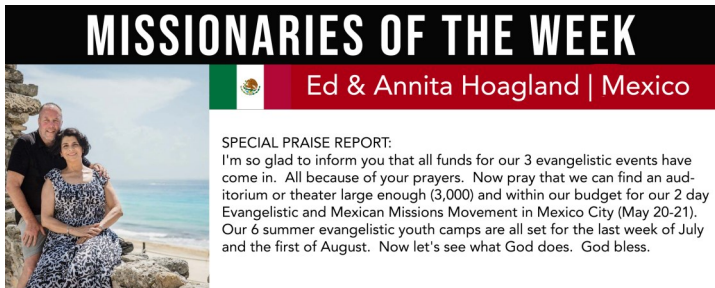
“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

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 | Mexico

SPECIAL PRAISE REPORT:
I'm so glad to inform you that all funds for our 3 evangelistic events have come in. All because of your prayers. Now pray that we can find an auditorium or theater large enough (3,000) and within our budget for our 2 day Evangelistic and Mexican Missions Movement in Mexico City (May 20-21). Our 6 summer evangelistic youth camps are all set for the last week of July and the first of August. Now let's see what God does. God bless.

The Story Of The Good Samaritan

The Parable of the Good Samaritan tells the story of a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho, and while on the way he is robbed of everything he had, including his clothing, and is beaten to within an inch of his life. That road was treacherously winding and was a favorite hideout of robbers and thieves. The next character Jesus introduces into His story is a priest. He spends no time describing the priest and only tells of how he showed no love or compassion for the man by failing to help him and passing on the other side of the road so as not to get involved. If there was anyone who would have known God’s law of love, it would have been the priest. By nature of his position, he was to be a person of compassion, desiring to help others. Unfortunately, “love” was not a word for him that required action on the behalf of someone else. The next person to pass by in the Parable of the Good Samaritan is a Levite, and he does exactly what the priest did: he passes by without showing any compassion. Again, he would have known the law, but he also failed to show the injured man compassion.

The next person to come by is the Samaritan, the one least likely to have shown compassion for the man. Samaritans were considered a low class of people by the Jews since they had intermarried with non-Jews and did not keep all the law. Therefore, Jews would have nothing to do with them. We do not know if the injured man was a Jew or Gentile, but it made no difference to the Samaritan; he did not consider the man’s race or religion. The “Good Samaritan” saw only a person in dire need of assistance, and assist him he did, above and beyond the minimum required. He dresses the man’s wounds with wine (to disinfect) and oil (to sooth the pain). He puts the man on his animal and takes him to an inn for a time of healing and pays the innkeeper with his own money. He then goes beyond common decency and tells the innkeeper to take good care of the man, and he would pay for any extra expenses on his return trip. The Samaritan saw his neighbor as anyone who was in need.

Because the good man was a Samaritan, Jesus is drawing a strong contrast between those who knew the law and those who actually followed the law in their lifestyle and conduct. Jesus now asks the lawyer if he can apply the lesson to his own life with the question “So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?” (Luke 10:36). By ending the encounter in this manner, Jesus is telling us to follow the Samaritan’s example in our own conduct.

Thus, the lessons of the Parable of the Good Samaritan are three-fold:
(1) we are to set aside our prejudice and show love and compassion for others.
(2) Our neighbor is anyone we encounter; we are all creatures of the creator and we are to love all of mankind as Jesus has taught.
(3) Keeping the law in its entirety with the intent to save ourselves is an impossible task; we need a savior, and this is Jesus.

KEY VERSE

Luke 10:33 (NKJV)

“But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion.”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Luke 10:29-37; Philippians 2:4; Romans 15:1-3

See The Needs Around You

1. What kind of answer do you think the lawyer was expecting from Jesus when he asked, “Who is my neighbor?” What do you think he thought and felt as he heard Jesus’ answer?
2. How would you answer the question, “Who is my neighbor?”

Tuesday: Luke 10:33; Matthew 5:46-47; Colossians 3:11

Shed Your Personal Prejudice

3. Why do you think Jesus picked a Samaritan, someone from an ethnic group Jews detested, as the “hero” of the story (vv. 31-33)?
4. What prejudices do you have in your life? How do they negatively impact your ability to love others?

Wednesday: Luke 10:34; Matthew 7:12; Acts 20:35

Step Into The Messiness Of Someone Else’s Need

5. Describe the Samaritan’s actions from the point of view of his convenience and risk.
6. What messiness in your life has God stepped into? Why is willingness to help others essential in our Christian walks?

Thursday: Luke 10:34-35; Isaiah 58:10-11; Proverbs 3:27-28

Sacrifice To Meet The Need

7. Describe the Samaritan’s actions from the point of view of his time and financial cost.
8. Describe the sacrifice that Jesus made for you. What need did you have that He was meeting?
9. Is there someone in your life like the wounded traveler? How can you be a Good Samaritan to them?

Friday: Luke 10:29, 36-37; Micah 6:8

Select Who You Need To Show Mercy

10. “Go and do likewise” (v. 37)—what exactly was Jesus telling the lawyer to do? In what practical ways can we “Go and do likewise” today?
11. Think of a time you experienced love from someone which was expressed in a practical way. What was it like to be loved in this way?
12. What truth have you learned from this parable about the character of God? What can you do to grow this characteristic in your life?