

BE A BRINGER

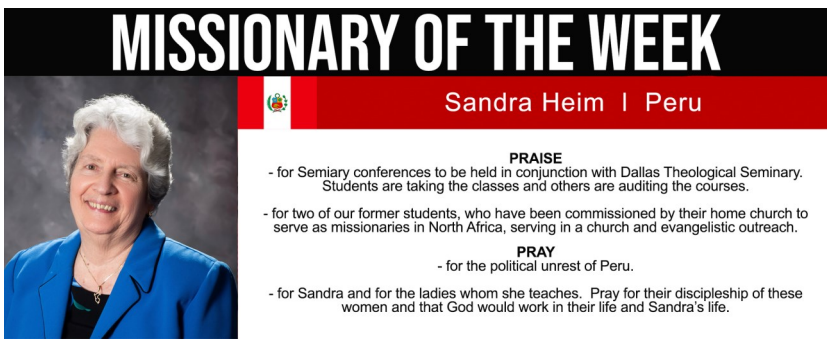
“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

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



MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK
Sandra Heim | Peru

PRAISE
- for Seminary conferences to be held in conjunction with Dallas Theological Seminary. Students are taking the classes and others are auditing the courses.
- for two of our former students, who have been commissioned by their home church to serve as missionaries in North Africa, serving in a church and evangelistic outreach.

PRAY
- for the political unrest of Peru.
- for Sandra and for the ladies whom she teaches. Pray for their discipleship of these women and that God would work in their life and Sandra's life.



Handout: 09/03/23
Study Date: 09/10/23

Let the People “Move Up”

In Romans 12, Paul describes the worship of our God as becoming living sacrifices to our God, giving up seeking what we want from life and learning to know and serve what God wants. That begins with using our spiritual gifts to serve each other in the church. Paul's list of commands describes a lifestyle of setting ourselves aside. Our goal as Christians is to love and lift each other up. We must focus our expectation on eternity and wait with patience and prayer for our Father to provide.

Romans 12:3–8 describes the first responsibility of every living-sacrifice Christian who worships the Lord. The church is like a body: Christ's body. Each Christian has a part to play using the specific spiritual gifts God has given to us. These gifts of grace provide all the power and ability we need to serve each other, but we must still do it, whether our gift is service, teaching, exhortation, mercy, or something else.

Paul is building a metaphor to describe the first purpose of every Christian. He is showing what it looks like to sacrifice our bodies and minds in service to God as a response to His great mercy to us.

All Christians together are meant to operate as a single human body. Since we are all in Christ, by definition, we are Christ's body on earth. We are to function in the world as a single entity. That does not mean, however, that God intends for each of us to be exactly the same. We are not robotic. We serve wildly different functions just as all the different parts of a human body serve different functions. Our job is to serve our function, in service to each other, in the power of God. Paul describes our differing functions in the body with the word "gifts." In the church, we usually call these the "spiritual gifts." These gifts are given to each believer through the Holy Spirit to use in our specific service to and in the church. We might describe each of these gifts as the supernatural ability to perform or fulfill a specific function that our fellow members in the church truly need.

Spiritual gifts should be understood to be different than talents or abilities, as the list of gifts Paul provides in the following verses will make clear. Three other lists of spiritual gifts are found in the New Testament (1 Corinthians 12:8–10, 28–30; 1 Peter 4:11; Ephesians 4:11).

Paul writes in this verse that God intends for us not just to have these gifts of grace but to actually use them. He begins by saying those with the gift of prophecy should use it in proportion with their faith. In other words, proclaiming a prophecy from God to the other members of the church is an action that requires faith that the message has been given by God.

KEY VERSE

Romans 12:6 (NKJV)

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Romans 12:1-8; I Peter 2:4-5; Ephesians 4:15-16

Introduction

1. Describe a team or another situation in life where your presence was needed and helpful.
2. What can we learn from today's reading about getting in the game?

Tuesday: Romans 12:1-2; Isaiah 6:8; Hebrews 13:15-16

Present Yourself

3. How would you define what it means to be a living sacrifice?
4. It has been said that the greatest ability is availability. How available are you to serve God?

Wednesday: Romans 12:3; I Corinthians 12:18; II Timothy 1:6

Evaluate Yourself

5. What are you gifted to do?
6. What do you love to do? Where does your personality style best suit you to serve?

Thursday: Romans 12:4-5; I Corinthians 12:12-14

Humble Yourself

7. In what ways is Capital Baptist a body?
8. Why is humility essential in the exercising of spiritual gifts?
9. What does today's readings teach us about the importance of each member?

Friday: Romans 12:6-8; I Timothy 4:14; I Peter 4:10-11

Apply Yourself

10. How are spiritual gifts described in today's readings?
11. How would you feel if you gave someone a gift and they never unwrapped it?
12. What gifts have you been given? How will you apply them in our church?