

Colossians 3:16

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
teaching and admonishing one another
in all wisdom,
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*



This is our Celebration of Missions week at First CRC. We have invited some of our missionaries to share a devotional this week. Today's is from Al with Operation Mobilization in Zaventem, Belgium.



Find out more about OM at: www.om.org/be/be_en

Scripture and Prayer

1 Corinthians 15:58 *Be steadfast, let nothing move you, always abounding In the work of the Lord.*

2 Corinthians 5:20 *We are therefore Christs ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us.*

Acts 13:2 *While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."*

Romans 10: 14-17 *How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?*

The words of 1 Corinthians 15:58 motivate me, words like: always abounding in the work of the Lord. For a hyper-active person by nature these words really keep me going. But of course this verse does not stand alone. It comes at the end of a whole chapter about the resurrection, about eternal life and futility of this life if not lived in the light the resurrection and of eternity.

2 Corinthians 5:20 says that we are God's ambassadors. That he has chosen to speak to the world about himself through us is a very daunting idea. God using us in reconciling the world to Himself through Christ, wow! One could ask was this text meant for the Apostle Paul only, or was it meant for missionaries as well, or should we include pastors in this text, or every Christian? Jesus said, we are all light and salt. He also said "you will be my witnesses." The question I ask is there a difference between a missionary and a Christian who has stayed at home? Is there any difference as to our calling to be a witness for Christ?

The word in Dutch for missionary is Zendeling, which simply stated is sent one. In Acts 13:2 we see a beautiful example: the church in Antioch in worship, praying and fasting, and the Holy Spirit speaking very clearly to set Paul and Barnabas apart and to send them out. And as they were sent out the Holy Spirit continued to lead them in a very clear way where they should go and even to whom they should speak.

When I gave my heart to Christ, from that very weekend I had within my heart a desire to serve in some way. Later, while in Bible school at a Friday night prayer meeting, God impressed it on our (Julie as well) hearts that we should be open to be the answer to our prayers for missionaries to be sent out. While doing outreach in Belgium for a summer, God impressed on our hearts that we should give the rest of our lives to full time Christian work.

So what do we see here? The Holy Spirit speaking through our hearts desires and through prayer. My only regret is that we got it backwards, we told the congregation that we had been called. It would be so much richer had we asked for prayer and discernment from the elders. Yet, after 40 plus years in missions, we can testify that God by His grace and through His Holy Spirit leading (speaking), we are blessed with I Corinthians 15:58 motivation. The difference between full time missionaries and every other Christian? Just this, being SENT to another culture.

It is my prayer that every member of First CRC would know the calling of the Holy Spirit to be steadfast and abounding in the work of the Lord, whatever that looks like in the circumstances of life. I pray for motivation by God's empowering to love Him with a whole heart, soul, mind and strength. Our perspective in this life is eternity.