



PRAYER 21 DAYS OF
21
for
21

JANUARY 2021

*The whole church taking the
whole gospel to the whole world*



the **gathering**
CHURCH

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JESUS' PATTERN

BY DANIEL A. BROWN, PH.D.
speaker, author and founding pastor of The Coastlands
(Aptos Foursquare Church) in Aptos, Calif.

week 1 | DAY 1
the whole church

“So Jesus said to them again, ‘... As the Father has sent Me, I also send you’”

John 20:21, NKJV

Beginning in my earliest ministry role as a Bible study leader at UCLA, I did my best to follow Jesus’ patterns with people.

He didn’t just give the disciples things to learn; He gave them things to do. He shared His spiritual understanding by teaching, but He also shared His ministry assignment by enlisting and deploying those He taught.

Jesus got His followers involved in people-changing activity by finding little ways, along the way, to engage them day after day. He didn’t wait for them to graduate from His training course. The need for workers was too great to allow for such delay.

Since 1973, I have believed that any ministry opportunity for me should become one for others, too. That was Jesus’ pattern.

Daniel A. Brown, Ph.D. wrote a related article titled “Three patterns from Jesus’ ministry that show us how to lead.” Read it online at 4sq.ca/dbrown.

PRAYER + REFLECTION

- Ask yourself: Do I rely too much on teaching, and not enough on utilizing people? Do I believe that I can teach people into ministry? Ask the Lord to shine His light on people in your life who are ready to be utilized and for the confidence to delegate and inspire them.
- What “little things” can I ask people to do, so I have an opportunity to entrust them with “greater responsibilities” in the future? (Luke 16:10, NLT)
- If I presume that my leadership style and approach is the main reason why I cannot mobilize my congregation, what should I change about how I lead? Ask God for courage and the ability to change as needed.

REGENERATION

BY NATE POETZL

senior pastor of Faith Chapel in Billings, Mont.

week 1 | DAY 2
the whole church

I have been wrestling with a passage found in Luke 8.

A man who had many demons cast out of him begged to go with Jesus. “But Jesus sent him away, saying, ‘Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you.’ And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him”

Luke 8:38-39, NKJV

This man:

- had been demonized for some time.
- had refused to wear clothing.
- had terrorized the village.
- had been uncontrollable.
- had been homeless, living in tombs.

A crazed, demonized, naked man is not a typical candidate for a missionary-yet Jesus commissioned him! Luke gave us a second description of the man after his deliverance. He was clothed, in his right mind, sitting and listening to Jesus (v.35).

This is called regeneration. New life. Only Jesus can alter someone so drastically and quickly.

I tend to think a great deal of education is needed before someone is sufficiently equipped. How much did this man know when Jesus sent him? I have a feeling that he had messy, insufficient theology. I would have been terrified to send him.

Jesus took big risks with this man, but He had transformed the man’s life. Telling people what God has done for us begins at regeneration, not when someone is tidied up and becomes knowledgeable.

PRAYER + REFLECTION

- Ask that God would radically alter lives in your church and community, that you would see this regeneration.
- The man in Luke 8 might have spent too many years in the “discipleship process” at church. May the Lord manage our equipping, that it would never interfere with our sending.
- Ask God to help you tell everyone about the regeneration God has done in your life, without worrying about how prepared you are. Share from your heart.

AN EVERYDAY DISCIPLE

week 1 | DAY 3
the whole church

BY PAUL OTREMBA

area missionary of Central and South America for Foursquare
Missions International

I was working as a mechanic in a factory in Germany when an Argentinian worker who had immigrated with his wife approached me, asking if I believed in Jesus.

The man told me how his wife had been healed after prayer, and how he had been freed from an addiction to alcohol. He also said that his sins had been forgiven and that his life had changed by following Jesus. I didn't know Jesus.

I started reading the Bible and going to the church that he was attending. I soon understood that I should submit my life to Christ. My life changed completely, and for the first time, I knew that my sins had been forgiven.

The Argentine and his wife accompanied me on the path of faith for about three years. Together, we read the Bible, prayed and talked about the things of the kingdom of God. This relationship helped me stand firm and grow in the faith in my early years as a Christian.

This man simply shared the gospel of Jesus Christ in his workplace and community—he was an everyday disciple.

PRAYER + REFLECTION

- Pray for effective ways to equip and send the whole church to do the work of the ministry in every community (Eph. 4:11-12).
- Pray that every Christian in the church will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel and do what Jesus did (Acts 1:8; Matt. 10; John 14:12).
- Pray for God to show you creative ways to reach and disciple children and youth (Ps. 144:12,15).

DON'T FORGET ME

week 1 | DAY 5
the whole church

BY CHANDA M. CRUTCHER

missional pastor of Restoration Church (Huntsville Foursquare Church) in Madison, Ala.; chief visionary officer at American Senior Assistance Program

“Do not cast me away when I am old; do not forsake me when my strength is gone”

Ps. 71:9, NIV

Everyone has a story.

Ms. Thelma was in her 80s when we met while working on a community project. Recently, her health began to fail, and I found myself sitting at her kitchen table discussing quality of life. I realized how much I didn't know about her.

Adults over age 65 represent one of the fastest-growing demographics. The U.S. Census Bureau predicts that by 2030, 1 in 5 residents will be over age 65. Research

suggests many people over age 65 do not identify as saved (Pew Research). Many feel hopeless or forgotten.

Ms. Thelma, now in her 90s, represents a mission field. Have we maximized opportunities to listen, learn and engage with older adults?

I challenge you to ensure we aren't failing the frail of body, mind or spirit by excluding them from the gospel. Let's commit to praying for the 65-and-up generation today, while intentionally looking for ways to reach them with the love of Jesus.

PRAYER + REFLECTION

- Ask the Lord to send a spirit of revival in the older generation as “old men shall dream dreams” again (Acts 2:17, NKJV).
- Ask God for a new strategy on how to comprehensively disciple, evangelize and empower older adults in your church and community.
- Pray for generational wisdom not to pass away, that hope, healing and restoration will still be sought by those nearing the end of their earthly lives.

DISCIPLES AND DISCIPLE-MAKERS

week 1 | DAY 4
the whole church

BY PETER HENDERSON

senior pastor of Living Way Fellowship in Highlands Ranch, Colo.

“Then He said to them, ‘The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. Go your way ...’”

Luke 10:2-3, NKJV

When Jesus spoke these words, He wasn't saying we should just pray for more pastors, as though the work of worldwide evangelism ought to be relegated to paid professionals. Also, this task was not reserved for the 12 apostles alone.

Instead, Jesus sent out 70 of His disciples with the same mission to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom in word and deed. We don't know who these disciples were. Perhaps some were the Galilean women who helped fund Jesus' ministry. What we know is that they all came back from their journeys rejoicing in the authority and power of Jesus' name.

Every follower of Jesus is meant to be a laborer; every disciple a disciple-maker. Jesus sends us to the places where He Himself is ready to work, whether it's an office, a neighborhood or a school. He asks us all to beseech Him for more laborers, and in His next breath, He bids us to go.

As we faithfully pray for laborers, we may discover that we're praying for ourselves. For the whole church to take the whole gospel to the whole world.

PRAYER + REFLECTION

- Ask God to renew your passion for His harvest and for Him to help you to identify the “persons of peace” around you (Luke 10:5-6).
- Let's pray for the believers who do not see themselves as laborers in the harvest, that the words of Jesus would reframe how they see themselves and compel them to step into the harvest.
- Let's pray for unreached and unengaged people groups around the world who currently have no gospel witness. May God motivate and send many laborers out among every people group, nation, tribe and tongue.

PRAYER MATTERS

week 1 | DAY 6
the whole church

BY JUSTICE COLEMAN

senior pastor of Freedom Church (San Fernando Valley Freedom Foursquare Church) in North Hills, Calif.

Sometimes, when I compare myself to Jesus' disciples, I feel better about myself. In His greatest hour of need, Jesus asked His disciples for prayer, and they fell asleep.

In Matthew 26:40-41, "[Jesus] came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, 'What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak'" (NKJV).

I know it sounds terrible, but this really encourages me. I have always struggled with a dedicated prayer time—Becoming a pastor didn't help; it just made me feel worse!

All joking aside, I find this passage encouraging because it reminds me how

much God believes in prayer. Jesus is God. God asked for prayer? Jesus, the Lord of all creation, the one who spoke all creation into existence and by whom all things are made, asked for prayer from humans?

Jesus shows us that prayer really does change things. It is clear He believes in prayer more than any of us, and it makes me want to take His direction for prayer more seriously. Your prayer matters to God.

Today, let's remember His direction to pray for workers in the harvest, not only as a commandment, but also as an invitation (Luke 10:2). Once again, Jesus reached out to His disciples for prayer. He believed their prayer could change things.

May our prayers change the landscape of worldwide evangelism.

PRAYER + REFLECTION

- Ask the Lord for His perspective to see ourselves the way God sees us.
- Ask the Lord for His perspective to see others the way God sees them.
- Ask the Lord for His perspective to see the lost the way God sees them.

PETER'S VISION

week 1 | DAY 7
the whole church

BY ANNETTE MCCABE

co-lead pastor of New Hope Foursquare (Vancouver Foursquare Church) in Vancouver, Wash.

Today, I want us to pray for ourselves as we reflect on Peter's second conversion, the one where he learned about the greatness of God's reach.

Acts 10:9-19 tells about a dream Peter had that blew up his worldview of whom God would choose to bring into relationship. Peter's life had been about following a God of boundaries and rules. Even after his time walking with Jesus, Peter still existed within the narrow confines of what he felt was "clean" in God's sight.

Peter was following God in the way he best knew how. He wasn't a bad leader; he just was doing what we all do, walking in the familiar and safe.

The broadness of God's reach was far beyond what Peter could have foreseen, but the key to understanding the reach is that it's based in the great power of Christ. "Do not call something unclean if God has made it clean" (v.15, NLT). Christ's victory was so great, it has demolished the boundaries of where God is at work.

PRAYER + REFLECTION

- God, we are trying our hardest to follow Your call, but we confess our view is limited. We draw lines and boundaries about whom You can reach. Forgive us.
- We want to live in the great power that raised Jesus from the dead and made even the unclean things clean. Lord, give us a greater revelation of the power of the cross and resurrection.
- We know there are people ready to hear Your message waiting for us as the messengers. Today, we open ourselves to You and say we will go to their houses and be with them, no matter how far outside of our "normal" that might be.

MISSED MOMENTS

week 2 | DAY 8
the whole gospel

BY BURT SMITH

pastor emeritus of Living Water (Olympia Foursquare Church) in Olympia, Wash., member of the board of directors of The Foursquare Church and of the Endowment Committee

I would love to be able to revisit missed moments—in my sermonizing and, especially, when praying. I used to pray for myself, those I cherished and the church I served. Then I'd pray for precious people desperately seeking a miracle from heaven.

Thinking back, I realize often my sermons and public prayers were risk-averse. Because my personal prayers for the supernatural often did not “come true,” I began to doubt they could for others as well.

If we are going to reach the world with the life-changing power of the gospel, we must be people who take risks, who ask and expect in big ways. We are not trying to get people to say a prayer, but discover a real, personal and powerful God with Holy Spirit power (1 Cor. 2:4). God wants us to step out and believe Him.

Oh, God, that we might not just pray for salvation and deliverance, but that we would bring the full gospel in word as well as deed to those we reach.

*Burt Smith wrote a related article titled “Ministering in the full power of the gospel.”
Read it online at 4sq.ca/bsmith.*

PRAYER + REFLECTION

- Ask God to do whatever it takes to put you into situations that require more faith than you think you have.
- Ask God to remind you of His power and presence when faced with seemingly impossible situations.
- When fear seems to prevail, praise God for what He said He would do, not for what you see, or think you see.

SEVEN SIMPLE STEPS

week 2 | DAY 9
the whole gospel

BY CERE MUSCARELLA

senior pastor of Life Foursquare Church (Angleton Foursquare Church) in Angleton, Texas

As He commissioned the apostles, Jesus told them, “Go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give”

John 20:21, NKJV

This is a compelling, great adventure. Jesus gave the disciples seven actions to accomplish.

1. Go.
2. Deliver the Good News of God’s love and His kingdom, which is near.
3. Heal all manner of sick stuff.
4. Reach marginalized groups.
5. Bring back to life dead bodies, souls and spirits.
6. Break the net effects of the enemy.
7. Resource from God’s eternal sources.

If we focus on these seven actions, and do not worry, we can truly reach a crazy, confused, compressed and complex world—so simple!

PRAYER + REFLECTION

- Ask yourself: Am I keeping my life and ministry this simple?
- Ask God: Am I transmitting this simple track to the people whom I love and serve?
- Pray about anything you are worried about that takes time or attention away from your commission.

PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS

week 2 | DAY 10
the whole gospel

BY KRISTIAN HERNANDEZ

author, founder of The Kerygma Group and lead pastor of Hope Church Astoria in Astoria,

The work of evangelism is sharing the Good News of Jesus, namely what God has accomplished on our behalf through His Son.

The gospel is not our attempts to modify people's behavior by prescribing our ethics or traditions as a way to improve their lives. We point to what God has done in Christ, and call people to respond in faith and repentance.

We share the gospel in word, deed and presence. The gospel is a message, but

it's also proclaimed in our love for the poor, through the Spirit's power and by everyday, neighborly presence with others.

It is the privilege of every follower of Jesus to do the work of evangelism as we preach the whole gospel to the whole world. During this season of seeking God, may we be grounded in the gospel afresh, and may that fuel us to proclaim the Good News.

PRAYER + REFLECTION

- During this season of fasting and prayer, how is the gospel message renewing and anchoring your passion for Christ?
- Toward what aspect of the gospel (word, deed, presence) do you feel stirred?
- To what people group, region or sinful brokenness in our world are you sensing a call to preach the gospel?

FAITH BY WORKS

WEEK 2 | DAY 11
the whole gospel

BY TED OLBRICH

missionary to Cambodia with Foursquare Missions International and the country director for Foursquare Children of Promise.

When I came to Cambodia in 1998, the country was the poorest nation on Earth. The people were lifeless shells, their country devastated after losing one-third of their population to the Pol Pot genocide and disease. I did not know where to start.

The Cambodian people responded to anything material, but not the gospel. I went away to fast and seek the Lord. He gave me a plan that we still use to this day from James 2:18: “But someone will say, ‘You have faith, and I have works.’ Show

me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works” (NKJV).

Since then, our motto has been: “We will show you our faith by what we do.” God always began with a miraculous sign or healing. When the Cambodian people saw us do those works (Isa. 58:6-8), they knew we had more than just “stuff,” and they listened. They actually believe they can do what Jesus did.

PRAYER + REFLECTION

- Ask God to show you how to touch the felt needs of people with His supernatural power.
- Ask Him to give you the faith to believe that you and your church can actually do what Jesus did.
- Ask God for a heart that is not afraid to start with the “least of these” (Matt. 25:40).

PRAY CONTINUALLY

WEEK 2 | DAY 12
the whole gospel

BY RO ANDERSON

senior pastor of The Gathering Place (Marion Foursquare Church) in Delaware, Ohio

“Pray continually”

1 Thess. 5:17, NIV

These two words are a simple, short and straightforward command.

However, to pray continually is not easy. Where do we find the time in the busy seasons to be praying continually? There is hope, because “pray continually” is an encouragement to our hearts. Jesus reminds us that He is at work in our lives every day, and especially when we pray.

Praying continually also is evangelism. Pray today for open opportunity: a moment in time when the Holy Spirit makes the heart and mind available for the message of the gospel and the mystery of Jesus Christ to be believed and trusted.

I am excited that Jesus is at work in the world, compelling people from every background, tribe and tongue to believe the Good News and put their trust in Him.

PRAYER + REFLECTION

- Ask Jesus to give us the strength to pray continually, even when it’s hard. He does understand.
- Be encouraged that when we pray, Jesus is at work in our lives every day. He wants our time with Him to be a delight, not a burdensome task.
- Pray for the open opportunity to evangelize. Pray that the Holy Spirit will compel people from every background, tribe and tongue to receive the Good News and place their trust in Jesus.

THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST

WEEK 2 | DAY 13
the whole gospel

BY EMILY MANGINELLI

associate pastor of The Square (Smyrna 2 Foursquare Church) in Smyrna, Ga.

My favorite book to teach in our church's Bible school is 2 Timothy. There is something about an abandoned Paul, cold and alone, that moves me to tears as I read his reflections on pastoral ministry and his affection for Jesus.

I believe Paul was harkening back to 2 Timothy 2:1-7 as he finished his exhortation to Timothy to "do the work of an evangelist" (2 Tim. 4:5, NKJV).

- A good soldier suffers, and Paul had fought the good fight (vv.3-4).
- An athlete competes according to the rules, and Paul had finished the race (v.5).
- A farmer receives the first fruits of his crops, and Paul had kept the faith (v.6).

Many of us see how "fighting" and "running" can be the work of an evangelist. Often there are tangible, immediate results, and we can look back at our own efforts and see how hard we worked to spread the kingdom.

But there is something about "keeping the faith" that Paul would call the victory of a farmer.

This year, may we be pastors who believe that waiting for the seeds we have planted to bring forth fruit is part of our attainment, even if it takes our whole lives.

PRAYER + REFLECTION

- Where in your life do you see waiting as a failure instead of as the faithful work of an evangelist? Confess those examples to God.
- If you were approaching death while still waiting for seeds of evangelism to sprout, would you still have faith that God would grow a crop? Ask God for more faith.
- How does waiting intersect with the full gospel as we wait for healings, salvations, baptisms and Jesus as our Soon-Coming King?

PREACHING THE WHOLE GOSPEL

WEEK 2 | DAY 14
the whole gospel

BY LINDSEY*

a Foursquare worker serving in Europe and the MENACA region

I can acknowledge that Jesus is the Savior, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, Healer and the Soon-Coming King, but everything changes when He becomes my Savior, my Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, my Healer and my King.

I serve in a context where there is often great resistance to the message of the gospel. However, the gospel of Jesus Christ is not only a message I preach, it also is a new reality of fellowship with God that has transformed my life and continues to do so day after day.

I cannot stop proclaiming what I have heard, what I have seen, what I have looked at and touched (1 John 1:1-3). His life has come to mine—this is truly Good News! Time and time again I have seen the Lord, heard from Him and then been placed by Him in contact with someone else who needs to see and hear exactly what I have just witnessed.

Daily living in the fullness of the whole gospel, we share His life with others, giving what we have received.

PRAYER + REFLECTION

- Lord, in the areas of life where I have not yet experienced you as my Savior, Healer, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit and King, come.
- I want to preach Your whole gospel with my whole life. Let Your life be revealed in and through mine.
- Open the eyes and ears of those to whom You have sent me, that they too may have fellowship with us and with You.

* full name withheld for security reasons

PRAYING FOR A WORLD

WEEK 3 | DAY 15
the whole world

BY JOHN L. AMSTUTZ

missions consultant for The Foursquare Church and author of *Disciple of All Nations* (Foursquare Missions Press)

I was in my senior year at college. I had just received a job offer to work as a physicist at the U.S. Naval Test Station in China Lake, Calif.

During a missions conference at our church, the Lord clearly spoke to me: “Who’s in charge of your life? Will you do what I want you to do, go where I want you to go? Will you do your thing, or My thing?” I had it out with the Lord, and He won!

After graduation, instead of going to China Lake, I went to seminary. While I was in seminary, my pastor, a man of prayer,

challenged me to pray for the world. He called my attention to 1 Tim. 2:1-4.

How do you pray for a whole world? He introduced me to a world prayer map from Every Home for Christ. It was updated regularly and listed all the countries of the world and their current leaders, along with guidelines of how to pray. I use these guides to this day. As a result, the Lord gave me His heart for the world. And He has given my wife and me opportunity to serve abroad and travel to many of the countries for which we have prayed.

John L. Amstutz wrote a related article titled “The four ‘alls’ of going into all the world.” Read it online at 4sq.ca/jamstutz.

PRAYER + REFLECTION

- Feel overwhelmed in praying for the whole world? Talk to the One who died for our world, and ask Him to give you His heart for His world.
- Do you have neighbors or acquaintances who need the Lord? Begin praying for them by name, show love to them, and ask for opportunities to share Jesus with them.
- Get to know immigrants from other countries in your community. Hear their stories. Pray, care and share the Good News with them.

PROMPT OBEDIENCE

WEEK 3 | DAY 16
the whole world

BY GABRIEL O. FAROMBI

co-lead pastor of Grace Pentecostal (Chicago Foursquare Church) in Chicago

“And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs”

Mark 16:20, NKJV

It is one thing to hear the commands of the Master, but it is another thing to obey them promptly. Being compelled by God’s command, Mark 16:20 says the disciples went out to spread the Good News.

The Lord of the harvest did work through them by performing signs, wonders and miracles to confirm that He sent them. Some young people and I traveled for personal evangelism to a small town in Nigeria,

the most populous nation in Africa, where we were overwhelmingly amazed to see Jesus save, sanctify and heal many inhabitants in the town. Most of the people who believed responded encouragingly, and the need for a building to accommodate the converts was immediately built. A small work had grown big, and missionaries were sent to other places from Nigeria.

It is in our complete and total obedience to the Lord’s commands that we can witness and enjoy the fulfillment of His promises.

PRAYER + REFLECTION

- Ask the Lord for sensitivity and submission to Holy Spirit promptings.
- Pray for supreme guidance and Holy Spirit leading, as He did for Paul and Barnabas.
- Pray for your heart to receive the true burden of unconverted souls in the world, that you might continually lift them up to the Lord. Pray for prompt sensitivity and submission to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

JERUSALEM, JUDEA AND SAMARIA

BY BOB HUNT

executive director of Foursquare Missions Press

WEEK 3 | DAY 17
the whole world

My neighbor hated Christians—she leaned politically left of Chairman Mao. But she lived next door and seemed to like our occasional chats. Would she throw me off her porch if I mentioned my faith?

A man had only days to live. No medical degree was necessary to understand that AIDS was ravaging his body. Yet, his mind remained sharp. Would my talk of eternity intrigue or disturb his final moments?

In the middle of the Amazon jungle, a blind woman waited. By the time I arrived, she had heard Jesus was healing. Would He heal her?

In Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria—even the ends of the Earth—Jesus' strategy of

global evangelism was brilliant in its precision, inclusiveness and simplicity. But it was only possible with the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).

Two thousand years later, nothing has changed. Our responsibility to witness continues.

Whether to the Amazon jungle (she was healed), across the street (she enjoyed our faith conversations) or in your own Samaria (that place we fear—he listened to the gospel, and I trust he eventually believed), all we are asked to do is go and testify to what we have witnessed, trusting and praying He will do the rest.

PRAYER + REFLECTION

- Holy Spirit, give me ears to hear and eyes to see what the Father is doing today in my Jerusalem.
- Lord, give me power and compassion to bring the kingdom to my own version of Samaria.
- Father, give me your heart for every nation and people group, and show me how to respond in Your love.

WHAT LIES HIDDEN

WEEK 3 | DAY 18
the whole world

BY KALLI DAVIS

co-lead pastor at Ponca City Foursquare Church in Ponca City, Okla.

The first winter in our new home, I dreamed of cozy blankets, hot cocoa, snowfall and the sounds of a crackling fire.

Then the season came, and I was hit with the reality that the leaves fall, and the barren trees expose all that was once hidden. Our neighbor's junk, previously masked with beautiful fall foliage, was now on display, tainting my pretty view. So, what is our response when our vision of blankets, cocoa and comfort are traded in for the discomfort of what is really lurking in our own backyard?

When the mess of others lowers our own property value and changes our personal

view, do we simply close the blinds, shelter in place and pray for snow cover? When the harshness of winter seeks to divide, will we instead throw open the blinds, pack up our cocoa and cross the street in the bitter cold?

When the world's brokenness comes close to home, impacts us, maybe even hurts us, let's pray that love, not self-preservation, will always compel us (Phil. 2:3-4).

PRAYER + REFLECTION

- Pray that the church would be mobilized—that we would lay down our rights, cross streets and bridge divides.
- Pray for perseverance through the pains of ministry so we may see springtime and new life birthed in our communities.
- Pray to see not only what nature has exposed, but also—with supernatural vision—to see all people as image-bearers of God.

A NEW WAY

BY FERNANDO TOBIS

church-planter and pastor of Igreja do Evangelho Quadrangular, a Brazilian Foursquare church in Marietta, Ga.

After 11 years pastoring a Foursquare church in Brazil, I was compelled by Jesus to move to the U.S., to the city of Atlanta, and plant a church. This was undoubtedly the biggest challenge of my life.

As a church-planter in another country, it was easy to focus on what I didn't have yet, and it was hard not to let negative thoughts direct my attitudes or affect my vision for the future.

Living this experience, I learned that God changes us before changing our circumstances. I didn't see a way to reach people.

I didn't know how it would happen, but Isaiah 43:19 promised me He would "do a new thing" and "make a road" (NKJV).

In the midst of doubt and the unknown, I found rest and favor in a God who works for those who wait for Him. Then some "divine encounters" began to take place, and we saw a path to growth.

Let us keep the flame within us burning for evangelism because without that fire of passion, ministries may stagnate, relationships languish and dreams die (Rom. 12:11-13, MSG).

PRAYER + REFLECTION

- Oh, God, let us not be distracted, but focus on the mission You have set before us.
- Help us to find new ways and opportunities like "rivers in the desert" (Isa. 43:19).
- May the flame of passion be constantly lit within us.

CALLED IN MANY DIRECTIONS

WEEK 3 | DAY 20
the whole world

BY PIET BRINKSMA

chairperson of the Shared Missions Committee of the Foursquare Global Council

I am fascinated when people experience a calling to serve in missions on the other side of the world, and then people from their target country are called as missionaries in the opposite geographical direction.

“Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him” (Acts 28:30-31, NKJV).

This passage is the final words of the book of Acts, which started off in Jerusalem

where Jesus commissioned His disciples for God’s mission to the ends of the Earth. Acts ends with Paul bringing the gospel of the kingdom to the people of Rome, the center of influence of the whole world for that generation.

God’s mission does not follow our rules of logic. For some reason, no Christian church is called to focus solely on their Jerusalem. We are partners in missions to the whole world. A taste of “global missions” becomes a revitalizing ingredient to the missional lifestyle recipe for our church.

PRAYER + REFLECTION

- Ask the Lord to give each person called to global missions a taste of how the kingdom is expanding all over the world.
- Pray that the priority to partner in God’s global mission to touch this world will help us tear down walls and build bridges in our communities, so that all can play a role in kingdom partnerships.
- Pray for the apostolic and prophetic empowerment within our movement, for overflowing encouragement, resourcing, strategies and direction to accelerate our missional impact in the whole world.

HEARTS WIDE OPEN

WEEK 3 | DAY 21
the whole world

BY KJ*

a Foursquare NextGen leader in Southeast Asia

The world is moving in on itself. Borders are being crossed, and entire nations are being scattered.

Cross-cultural marriages and international businesses are filling our cities and villages with diversity that was not there before. Multicultural and blended families are becoming more commonplace, and the majority of the world is multilingual.

As the hands and feet of Jesus, we are called and commanded to open our arms to all people, just as Christ stretched His arms wide open on the cross. Our hearts must be open to loving the person in front of us. Our

hands always ready to serve every tribe and tongue. Our homes should be equipped to minister the gospel to our communities with the love of the Savior, even when we don't share the same skin color or primary language.

Are we sharing the love of God with neighbors, nations and generations, wherever the Lord has planted our feet? How will they see the Savior, unless they see Him through us?

“Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the Earth! For I am God, and there is no other” (Isa. 45:22, NKJV).

PRAYER + REFLECTION

- **Open Heart** – Pray that the desires of your heart would reflect the heart of Father God, which is that all people would know His love.
- **Open Hands** – Ask God for His leading as you seek to serve your community and city generously, lovingly and effectively.
- **Open Home** – Pray over your home and be led by the Holy Spirit as you become a friend of sinners, as Jesus was, wherever you are.