

One Life is Important to God

Luke 15:4 *Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses **ONE** of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?*

How lovingly and tenderly the Father seeks His lost sheep! In a village in Nepal, a carpenter named Badri wandered in darkness. He was well-known in his village as a devout worshipper of the idol Shiva. When Bob Adhikary and his co-worker Deni first met Badri in Kathmandu and shared the gospel with him, he was vehemently opposed. But God continued to search for Badri. As Bob and Deni shared the gospel a second time, and a third time, Badri's heart was softened. He finally came to the Lord, and was so excited about his new faith that he returned to his village to preach the gospel to his neighbors and friends. Although Badri experienced persecution, he remained faithful. Now his wife has come to the Lord as well.

In Aguascalientes, Mexico, the Father was calling out to a lost sheep named Cristina. After meeting Andrea Byrne, hearing the gospel and coming to Christ, Cris wrote this letter to Andrea:

Have you realized how important you are to God? A few months ago I had been asking Him that He send me someone that would guide me towards Him, someone who would be close to Him, who would have a big heart and lots of patience to teach me His ways. I begged Him that it would be soon because my faith was weak and could break at any moment. And then you appeared, Andrea, an angel sent directly from Jesus' army.

God sent an EFM team to Aguascalientes because of His overwhelming love for Cristina. Now the angels are rejoicing that a lost sheep has been found!

All over the world, EFM missionaries are seeking out the lost sheep that God loves so deeply. Let us rejoice along with the angels for each one that is found!



ONE OF US TOUCHES
touches Jesus Himself

Matthew 25:37-40 *“Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?”*
The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for **ONE of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’**

Would we look at the suffering and the needy any differently if we saw in their faces the face of Jesus? In Rwanda, Africa, David and Debby Thomas are surrounded by poverty and suffering. As they struggled to find ways to make an impact on such enormous need, they committed to spend time together each day in intercession, asking God to reveal ways to touch the lives of the people around them who were suffering. God has answered those prayers in amazing ways. Projects like fuel efficient stoves, compact gardens and Moringa tree nurseries have not only been the means for dramatically improving the nutrition of starving families, they have also provided a means of income and the dignity of self-support to many churches and communities. As David and Debby share the hope of the gospel with Rwandans, they are also reaching out to the hungry and the thirsty – seeing the face of Jesus in each one.

In Nepal, Dr. Samson Retnaraj and his wife Priscilla are bringing God's love to places like the Humla district, near the border of Tibet. This remote area is inaccessible by road, so all of the supplies had to be carried in over steep mountain trails. Dr. Samson found unbelievable hunger, sickness and poverty in this area that has suffered from several years of drought. Many of the young adults, in desperation, have joined the Maoist army in order to receive some food.

As we join with the Thomases, the Retnarajes and other EFM missionaries to reach out to those who are suffering, let us see the face of Jesus in each one that is given medicine, food, clothing, and the hope of salvation.

The Power of One

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Today is the first Sunday in our month-long missions emphasis, “The Power of One”. As we learn together about how God is working all over the world, we will see the enormous value that God places on ONE life; the tremendous power in ONE act of kindness; the amazing harvest that can come from ONE seed, and the incredible impact that can be made by ONE person: YOU!

Maybe you don't think of yourself as a missionary. But you are an important part of God's plan for reaching the lost around the world! Romans 10:13-15 says:

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And 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?

Over the next several weeks, please spend some time prayerfully considering how God wants to use you to send people out to seek His lost sheep. Three weeks from now our church will celebrate “Commitment Sunday”. On that day, you will be given an opportunity to make a commitment to partner with other Friends in reaching out to the world – whether through prayer, through giving, or through going. Pray that we as a church body and as individuals and families would be obedient to answer God's calling, whatever it might be.



Raginder, a Nepali evangelist from a village called Sakroul. He used to have a bicycle shop and did the Lord's work part-time. He would say that if he didn't share the Gospel for at least two hours before opening his bicycle shop that he wouldn't be satisfied that whole day. Now he is so active working for the Lord that he is a full-time preacher.

Today is the second Sunday in our month-long missions emphasis, “The Power of One”. As we learn together about how God is working all over the world, we will see the enormous value that God places on ONE life; the tremendous power in ONE act of kindness; the amazing harvest that can come from ONE seed, and the incredible impact that can be made by ONE person: YOU!

In a society so affluent that the weight-loss industry nets billions of dollars every year, it is easy to forget about the many people around the world who go to bed hungry every night. As we look for solutions to medical problems like the escalating cost of health insurance and long waits in the doctor's office, it is hard to imagine communities where the people have no access at all to even the most basic medical care. But when we stop to think about those around the world who are hungry, sick and suffering, it is easy to despair at the enormity of the problem and our powerlessness to change the world. David and Debby Thomas have shared how years of living in the midst of poverty in Rwanda had caused their hearts to harden to the need, a subconscious means of protecting themselves from the pain of the suffering around them. As they began to feel compassion for those around them and earnestly sought God for solutions, God showed them that ONE family can make an enormous difference. And we are privileged to be a part of that, not only through the Thomases but through other EFM missionaries around the world.

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Debby Thomas with a Rwandan man planting Moringa trees