

Called to be a Blessing!

Dear Friends of the Missions:

“Every Sunday, after church, a pastor and his 11-year-old son used to go through the city giving out copies of the Gospels. One Sunday, on a rainy and cold morning, the boy got ready and invited his father to get going and make the rounds. His father had no intention of leaving the house. So his son asked permission and decided to go on his own. When he got down to the last book, he pounded on the door with all his strength and waited there patiently. After some time an older lady appeared and inquired what the kid wanted. With a big smile the youngster replied, ‘Miss, I’m sorry to bother you, I simply wanted to tell you that Jesus loves you very, very much. And I want you to have this copy of the Gospels which tell you about Jesus and his great love.’ With that the kid disappeared into the rain.

The following Sunday, in church, the pastor asked if any member of the assembly would like to say something. An older lady stood up and said, ‘None of you know me. It’s my first time in this church. I wasn’t raised a Christian. I live alone. Last Sunday, I was tired, sad, and depressed. I had decided to take my life and I was about to do it, when I heard someone pounding on my door. I decided to go and answer, since nobody knocks on my door or visits me. When I opened, a kid that looked like an angel to me, with a big smile, said, ‘Miss, I came to tell you that Jesus loves you very, very much. He gave me copy of the Gospels and disappeared. I closed the door and sat down to read the Book. Since this church’s address was in the book, I have come to say, ‘thanks’ to the angel God sent to me so I could be saved.’ Among tears and applause, the pastor went down to where his son was sitting and hugged him.”

It was not a book that God sent to us... but Himself, in Jesus, the Lord and Prince of Peace, the Savior and Redeemer. And those who open their hearts and lives to him, experience Love himself, and they will never be the same again.

Often enough angels come our way bringing a particular message from God... And often enough, perhaps, you and I are unable to recognize them and pay attention to their message... calling us to conversion, to reach out to someone, to share time, talent, and treasure with others... especially those most in need around us and in our Missions overseas. And we may miss opportunities to experience heaven here on earth.

In Jesus our Lord, God gave us his very self, all he had and is. God loved us to the end. And God continues to love us to the end. God won’t change his mind, no matter what, because God is faithful even if we are not.

We are called to be a blessing and ‘Good News’ to others especially at a time of a pandemic and divisions... through our generous love, support, prayers, and sacrifice, working for unity, reconciliation, and peace. Will you and I heed to Jesus’ invitation this Lent: *“Repent and believe in the Gospel?”*

If we do so we will experience resurrection and new life at Easter and always.

Thank you for being a vital part, for so many years, of this Mission entrusted to us all. **Thank you** indeed, from the bottom of our hearts.

Fr. Mark and the Xaverian Missionaries