

PASSION PLAN AND PARTNERS



WITH FOOTBALL SEASON WELL UNDER WAY, I'M REMINDED OF THE WELL-KNOWN STORY OF VINCE LOMBARDI. AFTER LOSING A DECISIVE GAME, THE NEXT WEEK AT PRACTICE, HE SAID, "GENTLEMEN, WE ARE GOING BACK TO THE BASICS." HE THEN HELD UP A FOOTBALL AND SAID, "THIS IS A FOOTBALL!"

WE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE GOOD TO EXPLAIN OUR FOOTBALL (BASICS) TO YOU, OUR PRAYER PARTNERS. IT INVOLVES 3 BASIC BUT IMPORTANT CONCEPTS : OUR PASSION, OUR PLAN, AND YOU, OUR PRAYER PARTNERS.

WHAT IS OUR PASSION?

What drives us at CrossWay International and makes our heart beat faster? It is, quite simply, to take the clear presentation of the gospel of God's grace to a lost and hurting world. This is the core value that we will preserve at all costs and never change.

Just last August, I had the opportunity to share with some of the community in Las Velaques, Nicaragua the plan of salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. They stood there for 45 minutes as I shared in great detail how God loves them and has prepared a way through His Son, Jesus Christ, to have all their wrongs forgiven, not by their works or through a religion, but only through faith in Christ, who died for them and rose again. 60 of the 70 individuals present gave clear indication that they not only understood the message, but also took the step of faith to trust in Christ alone. Francisco Caldera, our Field Director for Nicaragua, interpreted for me and did his usual excellent work.

While in Liberia last September (my third trip this year), I went to the 15th Gate School with our coworker, Isaac Zoedah. We had the privilege of speaking to the entire teaching staff and the whole student body. After sharing the CrossWay Gift Cube, we had a few more than 50 of the kids raise their hands, indicating that they understood the gospel of grace for the first time and were putting their trust in Christ alone.

The next day in Monrovia, we experienced the same kind of reception for the gospel when I spoke at an orphanage/school with 286 students. At that gathering, 30 kids trusted in Christ alone for their salvation. The fields are truly white unto harvest! It's these kind of events that make it all worthwhile, and it is this passion to reach the lost and hurting world that we will preserve as a core value.



WHAT IS OUR PLAN?

Our plan has been modified over the years and involves many aspects. This may change from time to time as we adopt various strategies that can set up a platform to gain a credible hearing for the gospel. Unlike our passion and its core value which will never change, our strategies will change from time to time as God shows us how best to open doors.

For several years now, we have moved into different fields of service to test the waters for a more fruitful and long-lasting effect. This includes not just evangelistic events and evangelism training, but now also water wells, caring for orphans and needy kids, medical clinics, farming and livestock, schools, and Pastors' Conferences. All of these have served as a platform to take the clear presentation of the gospel of God's grace to the lost and hurting of the world. For example, two of the evangelistic opportunities mentioned on the front page were the direct result of our water well drilling ministry in each of those countries. And the third one came about through our care for orphans and needy kids.

These opportunities create a positive platform to gain a hearing for the gospel. It is one thing to say "God loves you" and quite another to allow God to love others through tangible ways that speak louder than words.

WHO ARE OUR PARTNERS?

The third critical element that we keep in our focus is you, our prayer partners. It would be remiss of me if I didn't mention the important role that each of you have in our ministry together; Paul says in Philippians 1:19, "For I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance." Paul recognized the important role of not only God in his life, but also the prayers of his prayer partners. In the same way, you are a vital part of our work together as we reach out to a lost world with the gospel of God's grace through your prayers and encouragement.

Secondly, many of you also support our mission organization through your donations and special gifts, whether it's sending us a check, donating for a bag of CrossWay coffee, or donating online. This gives us the means to provide the humanitarian aid that sets the platform to take the gospel to the lost and hurting of the world.

So as you celebrate Thanksgiving this year, know that we, too, celebrate our partnership together in reaching out to a needy world as we fulfill the Great Commission together. With God's abundant help, we'll continue to focus on our passion, plan, and you, our partners.

Dean

P.S. Thanks to many of you, our CrossWay Coffee Ministry has raised \$18,000 over the past 2 1/2 years in support for needy children around the world. For your holiday gift-giving consideration, we have included our new brochure of our freshly roasted coffee and holiday gift baskets. (And if you're ordering for the holidays, shipping deadline is Dec. 9.) Thanks for all your help!

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