

Day 33, August 6th

Bible Text: Matthew 9:35-38

By Michael Lim

Reflection:

When Jesus taught His disciples to pray for laborers for the harvest, His instruction did not merely come from His mind *knowing* that the laborers were few and the harvest plentiful but out of His heart's *compassion* for harassed and helpless sheep without a shepherd. Prayer without compassion tends to die in our hearts, but compassion wells up to bring earnest prayer from within us, even prayer with tears. Likewise, compassion comes not merely from our minds *knowing* that there are people harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd but from our hands and feet *going* out to see and meet these people. Compassion comes from knowing people personally rather than knowing about people. Looking from the outside in may lead to prayer, but earnest prayer comes from obedience to go inside with Jesus and lovingly be present with other people to sense plainly, powerfully, and painfully the depth of their need for Jesus. This is exactly what Jesus did, motivating his teaching, and surely his own private prayer too.

1. To those whom you witness to or pray for, how is God calling you to be more like Jesus in compassion and presence?
2. What does Matthew 9:35-38 say about the importance of your personal involvement in ministries like evangelism, VBS and children's ministry, and GO trips to your spiritual maturity to become like Christ?
3. Are you ready to commit to pray regularly for the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers? Are you ready to answer the call together with CBCM if the Lord would call you in a specific way?

Closing Prayer:

Lord, you are compassionate and full of steadfast love and mercy. I once was lost but now am found by my Good Shepherd. You alone are my hope and my rescuer. Return me to my knees in confession to refresh the sweet sound of your amazing grace. Lead me to see anew what a wretch I was, so that I am full of stories of your grace to tell. Thank you for my church, CBCM, that for 50 years you have blessed us to participate in missions for your glory. Lord, to whom are you leading us now? I pray that you bear the fruit of faithfulness within me so that I respond to you with my church, "Here I am! Send me." O Lord of the Harvest, send out your people to labor for those whom you love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Recommended Song of Reflection: Be Thou My Vision

https://youtu.be/76_XJmvmNVE?si=eKmuTg5_LpI1VX8r

Prayer Focus: Please pray that CBCM will grow in our effectiveness in developing servant leaders for Christ from all generations.

