

Ministering in the Mission Field

by Denny Kenaston

Denny Kenaston's sermon encourages the church to actively send and support missionaries to share the gospel with those who have not yet heard it, particularly focusing on the Concoma people of Ghana.

Duration: 1:23:04

Scripture: Romans 10:8, Romans 10:14-15, Revelation 4:2-4, Revelation 4:6

Topics: "Mission Field"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher focuses on the foundational issue of God calling people unto himself. He references Revelation chapter four, where John hears a voice and is caught up into heaven. John sees a throne with someone sitting on it, described as looking like a jasper and a sardine stone, with a rainbow around the throne. The preacher emphasizes the importance of preaching the gospel and how people cannot believe in someone they have not heard of. He encourages language learning as a way to spread the gospel and emphasizes the need to be sent for this purpose. The sermon concludes by highlighting the miraculous nature of language learning and the joy of wasting one's life on preaching the gospel.

Transcript

Hello, this is Brother Denny. Welcome to Charity Ministries. Our desire is that your life would be blessed and changed by this message.

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These messages are offered to all without charge by the free will offerings of God's people. A special thank you to all who support this ministry. I'm sure that you parents whose children were on their knees in this little half circle, you know, you know what I'm talking about.

It's kind of a mixture, you know, you wouldn't keep them back, absolutely, and you wouldn't want them doing anything else and you wouldn't want them to do or wouldn't want them to want to do anything else. But that doesn't make it easy to send them away. And it doesn't get any easier as the years go by.

So I extend Christian greetings to each one this morning in the precious name of the Lord Jesus Christ. He's the reason why all these young people are going away. He's the reason why we dedicate our lives to Him.

He's the reason why we dedicate our children to Him. They're His. He gave them to us that we might give them to Him.

And we gladly do that. I assure you, every one of you, one small glimpse in God's presence, in God's throne room, makes all of this seem very, very small. Very small.

Well, this is ascending service this morning. Rhoda, God bless you. Thank you for coming.

Rhoda was also in that room in Emmanuel's house those years ago. This is ascending service, a commissioning of another missionary family to the regions beyond. Also, it is ascending of another youth team to Ghana, West Africa.

I want all you young people to know that everything I say here, it's for you. As also for Sam and Kate, it's for you. But it's for all of you.

We bless you. We thank God for you that you're willing to go, that you're willing to walk away from the American dream and go and serve God and lay down your lives for the sake of His name. That name, Samuel.

For the sake of His name, you're willing to do that. God bless you. What a joy to our hearts.

What a joy to the heart of God this morning as He sits upon His throne to look down upon. Such a circle to look down upon. Such a young man, such a wife, such a little boy.

Who are willing to go for the sake of His name, out of a desire, out of a burden that His name would be made glorious upon this earth in a place where they don't know His name. Oh, how God must look down with a smile on His face this morning to see such activities going on in the church of Jesus Christ. Samuel and Kate, God bless you.

It seems like yesterday you were sitting here on your wedding day. Now God has given you a little son. And God has given you some work to do.

And I know that you sense the privilege of it, but I want to remind you it is a tremendous privilege that God would entrust you with His work. This is a sending service this morning. And I'd like to open up this sending service and this message reading from Romans chapter 10 if you would turn there.

Samuel already read a few of these verses, but they could be read ten times. And we'll never get all out of them. We're going to read from verse 8 through 15, but I just want to reference the first part of verse 15 and then we'll read the whole context here.

Samuel read, How shall they hear without a preacher? Now I'm reading, How shall they preach except they be sent? How shall they preach except they be sent? Romans chapter 10 and verse 8. But what saith it? That being the Scriptures. What saith it? The Scriptures. The Word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth and in thy heart.

Aren't we glad for that? That it's in both of those places. And if it is not in our heart, it will not be in our mouth. But we thank God this morning that it is in our heart and because it is in our heart, it is in our mouth.

That is the word of faith which we preach. And here is that word of faith. That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, that Jesus is the Lord, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

That's a simple word, Samuel. If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in thine heart that God, the eternal God, hath raised Him from the dead, anybody who will do that shalt be saved. Praise God.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness. That's the only way it will ever happen. And with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

For the Scripture saith, whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek. There is no difference between the American Christian and the Konkomba or the Dogomba or any other tribe of people on the face of this earth.

There is no difference. For the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him. Hallelujah! Think about that.

Our responsibility? To go out and tell them that if they will call upon the name of the Lord, they will be saved. Saved! Oh, they'll get to go to heaven. No, no, no.

Saved! Saved from their sin. Saved from their self. Saved from this world.

Saved from the purposes of this world. Saved! Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Oh, that's a beautiful word to us this morning as we sit here, brothers and sisters.

That is a much more beautiful word when you look at it in the eyes through the light of a Konkomba, some dark African who's dancing around and idle today, when you look at the beautiful verse like that and realize that He also can be saved from all of His idolatry and all of His impurities and all of His drunkenness and all the other things that He may be involved in. He will be saved! Hallelujah! Now, that's the word of faith, isn't it? And oh, that word springs up in the hearts of the children of God day by day. And that's what makes us speak.

Now, let's look at verse 14 and we get down into the sending part of all this. Those are beautiful truths, simple truths about the gospel of Jesus Christ. But then Paul goes on to reason with them, How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And it's assumed answer there, And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? They won't.

And how shall they hear without a preacher? They won't. And how shall they preach except they be sent as it is written? How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things. That's how God looks at you this morning, Samuel, Kate, you young people.

That's how God looks at you this morning. Beautiful feet. How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things.

This is a sending service this morning. We believe you need to be sent. Praise God for everyone who goes here and there and opens their mouth for the gospel.

But, we believe the Bible teaches that you should be sent. And so, we are sending you this morning, Samuel and Kate. Imagine it this morning.

Imagine with me this morning, God, who dwelleth in light that no man can approach, has pulled back the veil to reveal some of the mysteries of His glory. He has spoken unto us in these last days by His Son, who is the express image of His person. God has done that.

He has done that in these last days. The mysterious God of the universe has revealed Himself to us in His Son. The invisible God made visible to man in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Oh, what a glorious thing this is. Now man can find out what God is like. Oh, Samuel, tell them about Jesus, my son.

Tell them what Jesus is like. Tell them how He lived. Tell them how He walked.

Tell them how He talked. Tell them the things that He did. Tell them about Jesus.

He is the express image of the Father. Now the concubines can find out what God is like. Yes, it's true.

This day, many of them bow down to an idol and call that idol's name the highest of gods that they understand. But oh, what a glorious privilege you have to go over there and tell them about that high God. And when they begin to see the beauty of His Son and the character of His Son, it will be nothing for them to throw away their little calabash and begin to worship and kiss the Son with bowed, obedient reverence.

It will be nothing when they see who He is. Tell them about Jesus. The mysterious God of the universe has revealed Himself to man in His Son to show the light of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

God is calling you and sending you to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ among the Concoma people. And I know there's a few other little tribes here and there, a village here and there, but it is among the Concoma people. That would be enough privilege, but it is greater than this.

It's a privilege to go anywhere and preach the gospel of the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. That would be privilege enough, but it is greater than this. I thought about the Concomas and I thought about Lydia.

You remember Lydia in the book of Acts there, where Paul went to Philippi, went out by the river where certain women gathered to worship on the Sabbath days? It says of Lydia, and it is also that way with the Concomas, Paul said, she heard us. Paul said of Lydia, whose heart the Lord opened. And Paul said of Lydia, she attended unto the things which were spoken.

And as I looked at that little lady and her response to the good news of Jesus Christ, I thought about the Concoma people. That is exactly the way they are. They hear.

What a privilege to go and tell, but what a greater privilege to go and tell those who hear. To go and tell those who attend unto those words, whose hearts you can tell the Lord hath opened. That's the way it was with Lydia.

And that's the way it is with these dear people, Samuel. The Lord has opened their heart. Go and tell them.

We all know the joy of finding a seeking soul that is in this state, and we have from time to time, we stumble on one like that, where you just realize, my, the Lord has just placed this person right in front of me, and they're hungry, and they're open, and they're teachable, and they're asking questions. But oh, what a great delight. Here we have a whole tribe of people who are just like that.

Teach me. Tell me. Guide me.

Preach to me. Oh, joy. Oh, delight.

To be able to go and do that. The high and lofty one that dwelleth in eternity, whose name is holy, hath called you with a holy calling. Not according to your own works, but according to His own purposes, which He purposed in Christ before the world began.

I don't understand what that means, Samuel. But I can get a little bit of an understanding of what it means, if I understand those verses, that means it was in the heart of God, before the foundation of the world, before even the world began. God looked ahead in His foreknowledge, and He knew that there would come a day, when a little boy named Samuel would be born in a little room up there in the second floor of an Amishman's house.

And He had a plan for that little boy. And all through the years He guided, and He also had a plan for a little girl who was born somewhere else. I don't understand these things, but they make us stand in awe, as you realize, the Mysterium Tremendum of the universe, the very God of heaven, has called me.

He has something He wants me to do. What else would you want to do but that? Brothers and sisters, all of us, what else would we want to do but that? The Almighty Sovereign of the universe is calling the peoples of the world unto Himself. And we get to be His mouthpiece.

Hallelujah! Think about it, just like Paul says there in 2 Corinthians 5, as if God did beseech you by us. And that is exactly what God wants to do. God wants to beseech the peoples of the world by us.

Young people, He wants to use your voice over the next six weeks to beseech the people that are over there in western Ghana unto Himself. Unto Himself. It's all about Him.

It has nothing to do with us. It's all about Him. And we simply come and yield our lives as empty broken vessels.

We yield them to Him and He can pick us up and He can use us as a mouthpiece to preach the glorious gospel, the saving gospel, the life-changing gospel to a world who doesn't know. And oh, my brothers and sisters, that's not just for these that are going away, is it? There's plenty of work to do right here where we live. Yes, there are lesser issues, but they all culminate in Him.

All of them. Yes, we know the state of man is bad. We know that we have a compassion for the lost.

These are good issues. Heaven is an issue. Hell is also an issue.

A better life for the cucumbers, that is also an issue. All these are beautiful things, but God is calling the cucumbers unto Himself. That is the foundational issue.

God is calling people unto Himself. I've been meditating some on the character of God in my preparations for the Advanced Bible School. And these verses in Revelation 4, they're good for us to consider in light of this great commission which God has given to us.

In Revelation 4, we see that John heard a voice, and by the hearing of that voice, he was caught up into heaven. And as he was there, he immediately, he was in the Spirit, and behold, he saw a throne that was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. He that sat was to look upon like a jasper, and a sardine stone.

And there was a rainbow round about the throne in sight like unto emeralds. And verse 5, and out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices, and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God. John saw God.

He saw God there. These verses describe the terrifying beauty of the thrice holy God. God has not painted Himself in pretty colors.

That's not what John was seeing. But this awe-inspiring beauty that John saw, and I believe it's the same beauty that Ezekiel saw, and it's the same beauty that Isaiah saw, and it's the same beauty that Job saw, and who knows who else, whoever got a glimpse of God in the beauty of God's character, it's the same beauty that they all saw. God is not painting Himself with colors in these verses, but rather this is the manifestation of the character of Almighty God that we see.

God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. And God is calling the people of the world unto Himself. Oh, if they only knew who God is! If they only knew the glorious, tremendous, powerful, life-changing God who is calling them, surely they will run to Him.

This beautiful picture, this terrifying beauty that we see in these verses, and verses that follow, that's who God is. It is God. It's a manifestation of His purity, of His love, of His mercy, of His justice, His eternal being, His righteousness, His omnipotence.

All these things together, they make up God. And you've been called to go and tell. This God is the only true God, and He's calling the Comcomas to stand in His presence, before His throne, and worship and serve Him for all of eternity.

That's what it's all about, Samuel. Standing in the presence of God, holy, unblameable, and unreprouable, for all of eternity. That's the invitation.

Now, that is heaven. Amen? That's heaven! Sometimes I think we get a pretty earthly view of heaven in our shallow reading of the Scriptures. We begin to picture this heaven as gold and pearls, and we see this beautiful city, and that's going to be heaven.

I don't think so. I think it's so much more beautiful than that. It is so alive, it is so otherworldly, that we can hardly imagine what it is.

And this same awesome God is calling you to be a part of this process, to bring these people who have never heard face-to-face with this God who knows all things. That's heaven on earth. I want to give you some sure words of prophecy this morning.

Sam and Kate, can I do that? In 2 Peter 1, verse 19, we find those words. Peter says, We have also a more sure word of prophecy, whereon do ye do well that ye take heed as unto a light that shineth in a dark

place. And that's what a sure word of prophecy will do.

It is a light shining in a dark place. And I just want to encourage you with these words that I will be bringing. They will come as a light shining in a dark place in the days to come.

Because reality is, you're going out in a real world to face a real people, all kinds of real needs in their lives. Some of them worshipping a real devil who the last thing he would have is for these people to find out who God really is. So, this sure word of prophecy is a light that shineth in a dark place until the day dawn and the day star arise in your hearts, knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation.

For the prophecies, the ones I'm going to read to you, these prophecies came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. By God the Holy Ghost. Sure words of prophecy this morning, hear some of them.

In Isaiah chapter 11, I think it's verse 10, we find these words, In that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign or a banner of the people. To it shall the concombres seek, and his rest shall be glorious in their lives. Now, I'm putting the word concomber in there, but if you take the word concomber out, you'll find the word Gentile in the Scripture.

And basically what God is saying is simply this, I will call out a people out of every nation and kindred and tongue for My sake. So, God will do it. He will raise up an ensign, a banner, and the concombres will see it, and they shall seek it, and their rest shall be glorious.

Isaiah 49 verse 22 says these words, Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the concombres, and set up My standard to the people, and they shall bring Thy sons in their arms, and daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders. Look at that beautiful verse. Now, of course, God is speaking these words to His Son, but His Son is sitting on a throne this morning, waiting.

He's waiting for the concombres to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. He's waiting for the day when they will come carrying their sons and daughters and laying them at His feet, just like we did here this morning. He's waiting for that.

And here we find a sure word of prophecy that not only is He waiting for it to happen, but He is waiting for it to happen because it is already done. According to the foreknowledge of God, it's already done, Samuel. Already.

In God's eyes, it's already done. He already sees them turning, repenting, forsaking their idolatry, coming to the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, realizing that their little children are gifts from God, and turning around and bringing those little children and laying them at the feet of Jesus and raising them that they might be servants of the living God. Oh, that pleases God! It's already done.

You will see it with your eyes. They will come with their little children. Isaiah 60 verse 1 says, Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people. But the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee, and the concombres shall come to thy light, and the kings or the chiefs to the brightness of thy rising. These are prophecies that you find in the book of Isaiah, but they are prophecies that are just as sure today for the Concoma people as they were for the Gentiles

that Paul preached to almost 2,000 years ago.

Paul lived on these verses. This was Paul's missionary theology. He believed these verses as he went out among the Greeks and among those at Ephesus and those at Corinth and the heathen down there at Athens.

Paul believed these verses. These verses are a sure word of prophecy for you also this morning, Sam and Kate, and all of you young people as you go. It's sure.

The Concomas and the Dogombas and the Twi and the Ashantes and all the other tribes of people that you will minister to as you're over there, they shall come to the light. I so appreciated some of the prayers that were prayed for you young people already. That not only that God would open up your mouth, that you might be able to speak the gospel, the glorious gospel, but that God would by your life shine so clearly into the hearts of those people that they will have that witness within their heart that you are the children of God by the way you live while you are there.

Isaiah 62 verse 1 and 2 For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth and the Concomas shall see thy righteousness and all the kings or the chiefs shall see thy glory and thou shalt be called by a new name which the mouth of the Lord shall name. Isn't that a beautiful portion of Scripture? Isaiah says, many a preacher has said, many an intercessor has said, I will not keep silent until these things come to pass. The Concomas shall see His righteousness.

The kings, the chiefs of the villages in Concomaland shall see the brightness of God's rising and they shall call Him by a new name. They will call Him by a new name. Malachi chapter 1 and verse 11 From the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the sea my name shall be great among the Concomas and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name and a pure offering for my name shall be great among the Concomas saith the Lord of hosts.

Look at that verse. Yes, God's name. God's jealous for His name.

God's jealous that His name will be lifted up. God's jealous that the people will see His name for what it is. And His name shall be great among the Concomas.

Yes. And it's happening. And it's a joy to see it.

I've seen it with my own eyes. I've seen those incense rise up. A pure sacrifice being risen and offered up to God out of Concomaland.

I've seen it with my eyes. It's beautiful. God will do it.

It is a sure word of prophecy when things get a little dim, when sickness sets in, when discouragement is there, when you don't know what to do next and you will be there. You will be there when you don't know what to do next. My name shall be great among the Concomas saith the Lord.

And they shall offer unto My name a pure offering saith the Lord. My name shall be great among the Concomas saith the Lord of hosts. Sometimes you need a word like that.

You begin to question. Oh, everything is difficult. Maybe it's sickness.

Maybe it's pain. Maybe it's a little baby boy who's not doing very well and you're on the edge and you don't know if he's going to live through the night. My name shall be great among the Concomas saith the Lord.

Isaiah 52 verse 13 Behold, My servant shall deal prudently. He shall be exalted and extolled and he shall. Amen.

He shall be very high as many were astounded at Thee. And his visage was so marred more than any man and his form more than the sons of men. But, so shall he sprinkle the Concomas.

The chiefs shall shut their mouths at him, Samuel. For that which had not been told them shall they see and that which they had not heard shall they consider. It will happen.

God will use you to sprinkle that people with the blood of Jesus. It's the reward of his suffering, Samuel. It's the reward of his suffering.

And one last verse and there are many, many more. As the earth bringeth forth her bud. Isaiah 61 verse 11 As the earth bringeth forth her bud and as the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth from before the Concomas.

Think about it. All of us. The simplicity of that picture.

We know that so, don't we? We go out into our gardens and sow our seeds in faith every spring knowing that the buds will come forth and fruit will come forth and the garden will grow and we'll have fruits to eat and all the vegetables that God gives us to eat. We know that. We sow those seeds knowing it's going to happen.

And God says, in the same way, this shall also come to pass. Let's turn to Romans chapter 15. I just want to show you briefly here.

This is these verses and other verses just like these verses with a foundation of Paul's missionary theology. And Paul's missionary theology was this. It is done.

It is finished. That was Paul's missionary theology. Oh, how different.

How different is our unbelieving theology at times. Paul didn't go to a city and think, well, I guess maybe we'll go there and preach. Maybe, just maybe, we might find somebody to believe on the Lord.

Walking into the city gingerly, carefully, sharing a little here and there, that wasn't Paul's missionary theology. Paul looked at a new city and said, they're in there! They're in there! They're waiting! They're already saved! I'm going after them! I'll find out who they are! That was his missionary theology. Reading in Romans chapter 15 and verse 8 and following, Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister, a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God to confirm the promises made unto the fathers, and a minister that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy.

Paul believed that. Jesus was sent to confirm the promises to the Jewish nation, and also he was sent that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy. Samuel, Kate, The cucumbers will glorify God for His mercy.

Why? Because Jesus came and died, and rose again on the third day. The cucumbers will glorify God for His mercy. It's already done! Now I don't want to present too pretty of a picture here.

We still have an enemy. And the enemy also knows these verses. And the enemy would like to do everything he can to distract, to confuse, confound, to bring you to a place of shame.

But the Bible says, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. These words of prophecy become sure words of prophecy because there is an enemy who does not want these people to hear. And because of that there will be dark times when you will question.

And then the words come. Wait a minute. This is what God says.

As it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the cucumbers, and sing unto thy name. This is Jesus testifying. And again He saith, Rejoice ye cucumbers with His people.

Rejoice all ye cucumbers with His people. And again, Praise the Lord, all ye cucumbers, and laud Him, all ye people. And again Isaiah saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to rule and reign over the cucumbers, in him shall the cucumbers trust.

Ah, those are beautiful words of prophecy. And Paul finishes by saying these words, And now Sam and Kate, the God of hope. Where do you get the hope? From those promises that we just read.

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing that ye may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Ghost. Ah, let's keep reading. And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort as putting you in mind because of the grace that is given to me of God. Now I want you to notice something here, and this is for all of us this morning. Paul is using these verses to encourage the church at Rome to reach out around them.

Go out into all the world. The promises are already given. He is using these words.

And after he gives them these sure words of prophecy, then he says to them all, the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing these promises. And I would say the same thing to you, Sam and Kate. May the God of hope fill you with all joy in believing these promises to be sure and true for the people that He is sending you to.

And Paul finishes in verse 16 with these words, that I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable being sanctified by the Holy Ghost. Samuel, God is calling you and giving you a charge to minister Jesus Christ to the concomitants, ministering the good news, the gospel of God, that the offering up of the concomitants might be acceptable being sanctified by the Holy Ghost. Same thing.

We see the heart of God in these words. You know, this is the joy that was set before the Lord Jesus as He hung on the cross. A people sanctified by the Holy Ghost lifting up an offering to God.

What better way to waste your life than on that? Well, let me just turn a corner here a little bit and give you a few practical encouragements. I have written five. I could give you 25.

But let me give you some practical encouragements this morning. First of all, I want to say a few things about language learning. Samuel, Kate, that is not an easy task.

And I know that you know that. It's a miracle of God's grace to learn another language. Especially a difficult language.

I want to encourage you this morning. You make it a miracle of God's grace. Every day.

Do your part. But do your part in faith. Do your part.

But do not despair while you do your part. It is a miracle. Make it a miracle of God's grace every day.

My mind goes back to the story of the famous missionary Jonathan Goforth. Who had the Chinese language to learn. Which also is a very difficult language.

And there were times when he despaired. How will I ever get this language? But God brought him as God does often bring his servants. God brought him on his face to the place where he was at the end.

And in despair he fell on his face and he cried out to God. God, I can't do this. I can't learn this language.

And according to his testimony from that time forward. The language just started falling into place. In his mind.

I want you to remember that. There will be times when you will be discouraged with this language. In fact, about six months from now.

When you've been wading through all of these different sounds. And clicks and clocks. And all the things that you'll have to do to speak that language.

And about six months from now. You will feel like your head is just spinning with all of that. And your temptation will be to say, I just can't do it.

That experience is the normal experience that all who learn a language go through. And most people will testify that it is in that place right there. That is just before the language starts falling into place in your mind and starts making more sense.

Do not give up. Do not give in to the discouragement. Pace yourselves and be steadfast.

That's my encouragement to you. Learn it the way you learn. We all know how we learn the best.

Number two. I want to challenge you and commission you this morning, Samuel. Not just I, but all of us here.

The mission board. To go and establish a beachhead in the southern part of Konkoma land. That is your assignment.

Daniel is in the center of Konkoma land. And brother Weston is in the northern part of Konkoma land. And you will be going to the southern part of Konkoma land.

From these three centers, the leaders that will be trained shall reach all of their people. Go and establish a beachhead in the southern part of Konkoma land. I don't believe there will be any other missionaries going there from here.

It is from these three centers that everything will grow. And we are trusting. We are trusting God.

We are trusting the spirit of God. We are trusting these prophecies that we just read to you. That the people who you minister to will grab the same promises and believe them with the same fervor that you do.

And rise up and go out and save their own people. We are trusting God for that. But someone has to begin.

And that's where the missionary comes in. Someone has to bridge the gap. Cross over the culture.

Cross over the language barriers. Cross over the difficult environment. Go there.

Be where they are. And show them Jesus Christ in word and deed every day. And God is calling you to do that.

Number three. Take heed unto thyself and your family. Missionaries have no church.

All of this will not be there. And I know you know that. But missionaries have no church.

Up until now, you've had the tremendous sanctifying influence of all this. All your days. But missionaries have no church.

But don't despair. You still have God. But I encourage you to take heed to thyself and to your family.

Stay in the word. Wash your wife in the word. Get the rest you need.

Take times to build. Take heed to thyself. It's not easy where you're going.

It's not easy to do what you're going to be doing. You will get stretched beyond measure. Take time.

No matter how busy you get. Here it is, son. Remember? This is it.

Take heed to thyself, son. Stay in the word. Spend time alone with God.

Don't neglect the early morning hours. Or whenever you can have them. Don't neglect them.

They're your life, your strength, your sustenance. Stay close to one another. By love, serve one another.

Just like you've been doing. You just keep going just like that. Don't let your marriage suffer.

Because you're on a mission field. Number four. Be a man under authority.

And I know you are. And I'm glad for that, son. But you be a man under authority.

You have authorities in Ghana. You have authorities here at home. Continue to be a man under authority.

I want to admonish you. Communicate. Communicate to them.

You're entering into the realm of many, many busy ministers. Whether they be on this side of the ocean. Whether they be on that side of the ocean.

There are many busy ministers. Push your way in. Don't let them be too busy for you.

Call them. Talk to them. Draw them out.

Ask them the questions you have. Communicate with them. I want to encourage you in that.

On this side of the ocean and on that. Your questions, you ask them. Don't let the busy minister's busyness keep you from coming and getting the direction you need.

That's my encouragement to you. Be an initiator in these relationships, son. Your authorities are men with full lives.

Get in there. Okay? I mean that on this life too. Just get in there.

Minister's lives are filled up with the people who get in there and ask the questions. Many times. Not always, but many times.

And lastly, and again we could say many things here. But lastly, on the practical side. You can't do it.

You absolutely can't do it. And I know that you feel that undone-ness today. I know that.

But I pray that God will keep you in such a place in your heart. That you will sense that every day. That this is something that you cannot do.

Young people, the same goes for you. And God will graciously bring you face to face with many things that you don't know what to do. When you get to that place, do not despair.

Fall on your face. And prove God's sufficient grace. It is only when you get to that place that you will find out who God is.

If you never get to that place, you will never know who God is. But if you will fall on your face when you come to that place where you don't know what to do. You will find out who God is.

You will begin to taste the glorious thrill and realize that God is using me. And by the way, that's why we're sending all of you young people. That you might taste just that.

And that that taste will never ever go away all the rest of the days of your life. That you will realize that God is. That God really is.

And He really does reward those who diligently seek Him. We want you to find that out. And prove Him in ways that you never have before.

Fall on your face. And trust in the Living God. In closing, I want to leave you with just this meditation, Samuel.

Found in Psalm 22. Psalm 22 is titled the Psalm of the Cross. The Psalm of the Cross.

That's the Psalm that begins with, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? That's the Psalm of the Cross. We're not going to read this psalm, this whole psalm. It would take too long.

But as you go down through the verses, it's very clear that these verses are speaking about the cross of our Lord Jesus. In fact, at the top of this psalm in my Bible, I have it written, The cross according to Jesus. The cross from Jesus' perspective.

What He went through. How He described what He was going through. Oh, the things that are in there.

The bulls have compassed me about. Roaring lions and my bones are out of joint. And my heart is like wax and is melted in my bowels.

And my strength is dried up. My tongue cleaves to my jaws. The dogs are compassed about me and have closed me.

They pierce my hands and my feet. And on and on He goes. It's the cross according to Jesus.

That's the Lamb that was slain. That's the Lamb that was slain. We all know that.

But if you read a little bit further down in the psalm, you'll see the reward of His suffering. In verse 27. All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the Lord.

And all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before Thee. For the Kingdom is the Lord's and He is the Governor among the nations. There's the reward of His suffering.

That's why Jesus went to the cross. Oh, how can we see it more deeply? Only God can open up the eyes of our understanding to see it more deeply. But there it is all over again.

There's the reward of His suffering. That's what made it all worth it. There's the joy that was set before Him.

That caused Him to despise the shame and endure the cross. All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the Lord. And all the kindreds of the nations shall worship, shall kiss with bowed obedience reverence.

All the ends of the earth. You get to be a part of that, my son. You get to be a part.

How can this be? How can this be that you get to be a part of that? He that is faithful and little shall be given much to do, son. Shall be given much to do. Continuing to read in Psalms 22 there it says, A seed shall serve Him.

It shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation. They shall come and shall declare His righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that He hath done this. What a privilege to speak of those things to a people and that by speaking to them about those things they shall be born.

Born of what? Born of the Spirit. Hallelujah. Amen.

Well, we'd like to open it up to the congregation this time to maybe share words of blessing, encouragement to Sam and Kate as they go. We have ushers who will get mics to you. If you have a word of encouragement to them, a word of blessing, we'll give you that opportunity this time.

Just raise your hand if you have something to share. Okay. Up front here.

One in the back. I didn't deal a whole lot with Sam as he was growing up, but my two older sons did. And they've shared some of the blessing of the early days and of the later days.

Early on we first came to charity 13 years ago. The first day we came for a weekend, my son Matthew had spent some time with Samuel as a little boy, I guess, reading to him. That's some of his early memories.

And then just recently here in LCM they spent a lot of time together. And Shane also has been blessed by Brother Samuel. And I just want to bless you, Samuel, for your dedication to the Lord, for reaching out to those around you.

You've been such a blessing to us. And as you go, may the Lord just be with you. I'm sure He will.

Just a verse comes to mind. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He will direct thy path.

God bless you, Sam, Kate, and your little one. Thank you, Brother. Sam and Kate, I'd just like to bless you as a board member and as a former missionary.

I know at least in part what you'll be getting into. I'd just like to bless you from my heart for heeding the call. It's a work that is difficult at times, and especially I'd like to just remind you of the Scripture.

The Bible says in Proverbs that wisdom is the principal thing. And then in James it says, If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not. It takes so much wisdom and daily decisions here on the field.

It takes wisdom every day, basically, to live there on the field. So may God bless you and pour out His wisdom and His grace abundantly upon you day by day. God bless you for heeding the call.

Amen. Thank you, Bill. Brother Samuel, I want to give you a blessing as far as... I remember back the times we spent in Ghana, traveling those trails together on bicycle, hours on end.

The many times, the sweet times we had just sharing together what the Lord is doing in our lives, and then coming back here and watching you as you didn't lose that vision, that burden. You didn't allow the dreams of America. You didn't allow those other things that are around us to influence the desire you have for the Lord.

And for the nations of the world. And I've watched you. I've been very, very blessed as you threw your life into the children's ministry and watching you minister to the young people at church.

It's been a tremendous inspiration to my life. And now, through the years, just not allowing those things to fade in your heart, and now you have a wife, a beautiful baby, and even that doesn't allow... you don't even allow that to diminish that heart you have for the Lord. It speaks volumes, brother.

It really does. God bless you so much. May God fill you.

May God empower you. May the grace of God be richly upon you. And Kate, God bless you.

Sam, I don't have much to say, but you know my heart. I'm behind you, Sam. Go.

I'm behind you. Amen. Any others? I know that we have read and you have read the stories of some of the missionaries that God has used greatly in times past.

I was just sitting here thinking this morning about some of that. We look up to men like Hudson Taylor and George Mueller and others who have gone, but I think that not one of them was comparing himself with other missionaries. But every one of them lived and served God accordingly as God led them.

And God was able to use them mightily because they trusted in Him. And so as you go, I want you to remember that. Those men of God became mighty men of God not by watching what other missionaries did and how successful they were.

They became mighty men of God because they walked with God. So don't compare yourself with other missionaries. But rather, keep your eyes on Jesus.

Look unto Him and you will grow in His grace and be able to fulfill the call of God on your life. Don't try to fulfill the call of God in someone else's life. This is your life, your call.

You walk with God. He will hear you. He will answer you.

Anyone else? Other words of encouragement here. I see a hand back there. Is there another mic here? Okay, go ahead.

Yes, Sam, I just desire to bless you. You know all the times we did spend together in the children's ministry, all the times you labor you poured into all that work there. And during the main message, I thought, you know, some of these things that are being preached, they are new to some of us, maybe to most of us.

You know, we haven't experienced them in that great of a way, but they are new to you, Sam. I just, I can reflect back to the times that I know you have done most of those things. You have poured out your life.

You have sacrificed all those ways for the children's ministry. And those things were new for you, you know, giving yourself in that way. And I know you will do a great job because I know who you are.

I know how you have led your family. And just the times we have spent together in the children's ministry, it wasn't that much because we had our separate routes to lead and all that. But I just want to bless you as a family as you go.

Just pour out your lives for God. There is a song that growing up we used to sing. We don't sing it here real often.

But the words of the song say, Brother, along the highway of life, strive to be good and true. Take Jesus with you to aid and destroy somebody follows you. And the message of the song is that there is somebody watching our lives.

And this might be slightly humorous, but I think it will illustrate the point well. At least a couple of weeks ago, maybe it's months, time flies quickly. Our little children, we have two boys and a girl, but specifically the oldest boy and girl, they're four and three, were playing house and they were imitating being Sam and Kate.

And I'm excited about that because this is the first couple that they know. And they're watching. They're hearing this morning that Sam and Kate are going to Africa.

And sometimes the message that we preach isn't always about the gospel message being preached in word. It's those little things that people watch. I'm sure it won't be any different for you, Sam and Kate, over in Africa, as other little children watch you.

And maybe it's not a big splash or a big statement, but maybe there'll be more children who want to be Sam and Kate. And I pray that God's message will get that preached. And I'm also considering a blessing for my family to be able to have my children watch things like this growing up.

And I trust one day, indeed, my children can be Sam and Kate in their own way, preaching the gospel where God calls them. Amen. I don't doubt that any young person here today who would set his heart to walk wholly with God would also be used of God in due time.

Oh, what a joy. That's my encouragement, young people. Go for it.

Any one of you, every one of you, has the opportunity to be sold out wholeheartedly for God. Lay aside everything else. It is worth it.

Everything. Just damn done with it. Yes, I also want to take this opportunity to bless you, Sam, Kate, as you go.

As I was sitting here, my mind went back over many years. Our lives have parted ways a bit more in the last few years. My mind went back to when we were six years old, seven, eight years old.

And we didn't have as many friends back then. The church was small. But I know that you had a heart for God back then that has influenced where you are today.

I remember, probably we weren't more than about ten years old, walking around, you were trying to get all your friends excited about missions, walking around and gathering coins on Sunday mornings and sending them over to Rothorek in Ghana. We'd get that letter, SPAC, SPAC, and he'd come around and read those letters to us, what they did with that money. And those little things do build up to big things, don't they? I also want to bounce off of what Jeremy shared, just appreciation for watching your life, again, even though I wasn't working closely with you, but watching your life as you did pour yourself into ministry here at home.

God bless you so much for that, brother. I think you have bridged a gap for us that we all need to take note of. Special word to you that are in the children's ministry.

You know, your brother, he hasn't forsaken you, but he has only extended the same heart that he's poured out where you've seen him every week. And may we all catch that vision. God's heart is for all the peoples of the world.

It is for the people here at home as well as those who seem very far away and different from us. God bless you so much, brother. Amen.

Be thou faithful in little things, it will give thee more. In the back. Yes, I think of Sam and Kate, I think of the words, a faithful man who can find Sam's faithfulness in the little things.

You know, Sam maybe wasn't one to be all loud and up front, but faithful, steady. And I just bless you for that, Sam, and the testimony that you have left us, and as an elder in the congregation, it's been a real joy and blessing to see you prosper and grow in the Lord, and you go with our blessing. And I know that that same faithfulness, God will use in Africa.

God bless you, Sam and Kate. God bless you, Kate, as you go. I just want to encourage you to delight in your husband and delight in obeying him.

As we've heard about the language, and you might be struggling at times, you can just stop and say, am I obeying my husband? He has said, let's learn this together from obeying him. And that can just be such a delight for you, and will protect you. I was reminded this week, as the Lord convicted me in the midst of doing different ministry and things that I had become like Martha, and distracted, and started worrying about things that were not for me to worry about.

I had to go to my family at breakfast and repent to them and reconcile that I hadn't been delighting in my husband and obeying him, and really focusing on that. And I went to the Lord and said, why am I not experiencing so much of your love and grace? And he showed me that was why. And so, of course, we can't delight in our husbands unless we're delighting in the Lord.

So I'm going to pray for you, as we do for all the missionaries, that the Lord will protect your quiet times, those quiet times in the morning, in that secret place where you can rest in his presence and be a channel poured forth for your husband and whatever his goal is. Your goal is to help him meet his goal. And God bless you as you do that.

Okay, thank you each one for your input there. This time we're going to call them forward and send them forth with our blessing, commissioning them. Let the ministering brothers come.

Yes, well, Samuel, as we shared already in the message, we are commissioning you to go to Ghana to join the other laborers that are there, to join your brother, helping with the concomitants, to join Brother Ross. We're commissioning you to go, take up the task of learning a language, understanding a culture, and establishing churches there. So we're giving you that commission this morning.

You're willing to do that? All right. Amen, Lord. This is our God and our Father.

Lord, we lay our hands upon your servant because we believe that you've laid your hand upon him. And we are sending him forth because we have heard your voice sending him. Lord, to the Concomitant people, to the villages in that area, God.

To the people over there in Ghana, Lord, we pray thy blessing upon Samuel today. Lord, we pray that you would grace him with the things which he needs, Lord. I pray that you'll fill him with a Holy Ghost.

I pray that you'll give him wisdom, Lord. Wisdom that he does not have, Father. I pray that you'll pour it into him, Father.

I pray that you'll give him gifts. Gifts, Lord, that are not in him now, but gifts that come from thee. I pray that you'll pour those gifts into this young man, God.

We pray blessings upon him as he goes, as he walks among those people, we pray. And God, I know you will make him this, but I pray make him a humble missionary in the midst of those Concomitant people. May they see him as a learner before they hear him as a teacher.

God, we trust him into your care for these things. We pray that you'll put a wall of fire around him and his family, even as you promised, God, that you would protect those who go forth. Lord, go with him.

Be with him always. Be with his wife and with his little boy, Seth. God, I pray that you'll establish his home over there even as you have established it here, God.

We trust him into your care, Lord. We thank you for him, for his life and his testimony. We commend him unto thee, Lord, who are able to keep him, Lord, in all his ways, God.

We trust him into your care. In Jesus' name. Yes, our Father in Heaven, again, we just commend this couple and their little one into your hands, that they may go and follow Jesus wherever He leads them.

That you may be able to manifest your glory in and through them. We pray that you will give them the grace. Give Samuel the grace to preach the Gospel, to teach all nations, to teach the Cucumbers and any other tribes that are there in their neighborhood.

We pray that you will give him the grace to teach and preach the Word, Father. Yes, even baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost. And to teach them to observe all things that you have commanded.

And, lo, you said you will go with them always, even unto the end of the world. Father, so we commend them into your hands. You are God.

You are the Great Omnipotent God. So here we are, Father, sending them forth in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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