

May 2008 - What Are You Waiting For

Now there is a question that can really make you think - what am I waiting for?

As I survey the missions landscape, I am truly amazed by the truth of the scripture that speaks of the readiness of the harvest and yet the workers are few. Can't you just imagine the anguish of a farmer looking over hundreds of acres of wheat in the bright summer sun with no way of gathering the wheat into the barns. What will happen to this bountiful crop? Imagine how much more bitter the farmer must feel when a neighbour comes along side and asks him, "What are you waiting for?"

This may sound strange, but in the past I was not struck by the urgency of the great commission call. Even in joining a mission agency, the urgency of mission was not something that came to mind. So what has changed? In my new role as part of the communications team, I have been helping to prepare our Witness magazine. This next issue is all about counting the cost of mission. As I read each story (let me know if you would like to get a copy to read as the testimonies are incredibly powerful), the challenge became increasingly apparent.

Reaching the least reached people will come with a cost. It is completely counter-cultural to expect that people will want to join you in something that is going to cost them something - maybe even their life. And yet as I read the life transforming stories and, more importantly scripture, I began to realize that is what we are called to do as Christians. We are called to be as Christ. It has to go beyond what Jesus did for us, and become what we are willing to do as the new creations we have become in Christ.

So it comes back to the question - what are you waiting for. They say anything free is only worth what you pay for it. While salvation seems to cost us nothing, it came with a price paid for by our saviour. Are we willing to pay the price of Jesus to reach the least reached? Are we willing to go outside our comfort zones to share the gospel? What cost are we willing to pay, because there will be a cost.

This letter will not be the source of urgency. Only the Holy Spirit can place a holy discontent in your heart that will call you to rise up and give your life fully for Jesus. And this call is a precious gift that few receive or are willing to receive. A life of meaning is a life willing to be sacrificed - not thrown away - but fully and wholly directed towards whatever God puts before you. This is the narrow path that few find and yet it is a blessed path. And it begins with a prayer asking God to use your life fully as He pleases. It is a dangerous prayer that could change your life forever.

What are you waiting for?

Serving with you for Christ,
J.P. Hayashida