

Divinely Blessed & Restored

SUMMONED[©] TO LABOR

SUBMITTED BY:
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And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. Mark 16:15 KJV

Hut, Two, Three, Four, Hut, Two, Three, Four; Hut, Two, Three, Four.... This is a familiar beat in the minds of men and women who are serving our Country. This is the rhythm of a military march. Just as men and women in our armed services are given their “marching orders” which is defined in the Military Dictionary as “instructions from a superior officer for troops to depart”, Christians receive marching orders from our commanding officer – Jesus. The marching orders for Christians are found in Matthew 28:18-20; *“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying. All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*

As we accept our marching orders and go out and began to witness to others about our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; we want to be sure we are prepared to witness, understand our mission (to be disciples), know the challenges we will encounter, and how to respond to the challenges so we will remain steadfast and on the battlefield.

First, we must prepare. The basis of your preparation is prayer. All ministry work should begin with prayer because it expresses our dependence on God. We want to make sure we lay the right foundation as we receive our marching orders. We want to pray for successful labor, that our work will be fruitful; that our witnessing will lead others to Christ. Jesus is no longer here on earth to go around and talk to people, we are his mouthpiece and we are his feet and it is our mission to increase the number of disciples witnessing for Jesus.

Once prepared, we must understand the mission. We want to be sure we understand the mission, what our goals and objectives are. Once we know that, we can strategize on how we will accomplish this mission. What are effective ways to witness to others?

- Share your testimony. Take the time to write out your testimony so you are prepared when the opportunity arise.
- Share about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. When you met those who do not have a personal relationship with Christ, witness to them, sharing the testimony you’ve taken time to prepare.

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Once we are prepared and understand the mission, we are to Go! The army would never win a war if they trained and prepared all of the soldiers but never deployed them. In Luke 10:2-11 Jesus uses the metaphor of harvesting, out in the field (laboring) to represent us witnessing, we are to go out into the field and work (telling everyone about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ) and seek souls that need to be saved.

Witnessing is not without its challenges. A fear or reluctance to witness is the greatest obstacle individuals face. One of the best ways to prevent being hesitant to witness is to identify the possible challenges you will encounter, then you can prepare a strategy to deal with these challenges. The most common challenge is acceptance by those you are trying to witness to. As Jesus sent the disciples out (Luke 10: 5-9) he encouraged them to be gracious and accept the hospitality extended to them and bless those they witnessed too. You want to set the atmosphere for people to receive what you have to say. Don't alienate them. Thus, when you begin to talk about God they will be receptive to what you have to say. Respond appropriately to the challenge: Whatever you do, don't let the challenge stop you from fulfilling your mission.

There are always fields (people) that need harvesting (witnessing).

There will be times when attempting to witness, you will face rejection – Jesus did. We must expect rejection know when to move on. Jesus warns us that we will sometimes meet resistance, individuals that will not want to hear about God. However, we can't allow that to become our excuse not to witness. Our responsibility is to tell the people the truth and the downfall of not accepting Jesus Christ. Once we've done that, we are to move on. John 4:36 tell us: “....I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. NIV There are always fields (people) that need harvesting (witnessing).

Uncle Sam promises all types of things to His soldiers- tuition, and signing bonuses. These are wonderful, but all are temporal. We also receive benefits when we enlist in the Lord's army. One of our greatest rewards is something that money can't buy, something that no one else has the authority or the ability to provide and isn't temporal. Your reward is everlasting, fullness of joy (soul happiness, inner fulfillment) and your works recorded in the book of life.

With benefits like that, I don't know about you, but I don't want anything to keep me from serving in the position God has given me in His army. Do you? So, what are some of the barriers we encounter that can affect our service?

- Fear – It is easy to be afraid of doing something you are not familiar with. Witnessing to others about Jesus and sharing your testimony may be uncomfortable at first, but the more you do it, the easier it will become. Ask a fellow sister or brother to role play with you, read a book on evangelism or take a class on evangelism to overcome this fear.
- Sin – It is difficult to witness to others about Christ and accepting Christ as your personal Savior and the changes a Christian should make in their character and behavior if you are not walking the Christian walk. We all have sinned and will struggle with sin until the day we go to glory. However, if we are living a life of sin without sincerely trying to change, we will be unsuccessful in promoting a life of righteousness if we are not living righteous.

There may be someone that is not a part of God's army. You see, you can't be a part of God's army if you haven't enlisted. There's only one way to enlist in God's army, which is to accept Him as your personal Savior. If you haven't, decide today to open your heart and receive Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. There is no greater gift anyone can ever extend to you, the gift of eternal life.

You want to set the atmosphere for people to receive what you have to say. Don't alienate them.

Commit today to answer the call for co-laborers with Jesus in the kingdom of God. Examine yourself, have you answered the summons? Are you engaged and fulfilling the Great Commission - ***"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation?"***

HAVE YOU STARTED YOUR JOURNEY WITH CHRIST?

Our purpose in this article and daily scriptures is to encourage a heart-to-heart relationship with God. If you do not know God in a personal way, we invite you to make the first step today to receive God's love and the salvation that only Jesus Christ can give. Here are five steps you can take to receive salvation:

1. Recognize you are a sinner and need salvation. The Bible tells us "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).
2. Repent of your sins. Sin separates us from God. By confessing your sins and turning from them you are forgiven. The Bible says: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).
3. Believe in Jesus. God sent His Son to die so that He could pay for all our sins. The Bible says: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life: (John 3:16).
4. Receive His Salvation. Jesus Christ is a gift you must receive and welcome to live in your heart. He promises: "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God: (John 1:12).
5. Confess your belief verbally. The Bible assures "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved: (Rom. 10:9).

You now have been born again! Tell some else your good news and connect yourself with a church home as soon as possible. God Bless and Keep You!

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CALENDAR
of Events

April

Rev. Doris B. Ryans' Preaching Engagements

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Ecorse, Michigan

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

7:00 p.m.

Centenary United Methodist Church, Memphis, Tennessee
Woman's Day Service

Sunday April 13, 2008

10:30 a.m.

The Solanus Casey Center 1780 Mt. Elliott, Detroit, MI
Visionary Women Conference

Saturday April 26, 2008

10:00 a.m.

May

COFFEE, TEA & THEE ® CHRISTAN BOOK CLUB

Meet and Discuss. It's not about you It's about God!

by: **Rebecca Florence Osaigbovo**

May 1 – June 19, 2008

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. @ Panera Breads

October

Save the Date – 3rd Women's Retreat

The Retreat Center at St. John's, Plymouth, Michigan

October 10 – 12, 2008

**Make sure that you check our website for updates and
upcoming events!!**