

December 2020

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Dr. Mac's Minute

Passage: Ephesians 2:11-22

Why Lottie?

As Titanic sank, lifeboats

were only half full. The wealthy would not share their "salvation" with the poor. As cries rang out from the North Atlantic's icy waters, the selfish shut their hearts and ears . . . with salvation for so many so close!

On September 1, 1873, a new missionary left Virginia for

China. For 39 years, Charlotte Diggs Moon—Lottie to her friends—served Jesus in Tengchow and P'ingtu. At first she lived in the safety and comfort of the mission compound. Then a question burned deep into her heart: *"How many more souls are to pass into eternity without having heard the name of Jesus."* She left the compound and lived amongst those she wanted to reach. Her devotion is remembered through our annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Through it we have more than 3000 missionaries fulfilling the Great Commission around the world.

A woman asked her pastor, *"When will we pay off this 'Lottie' thing?"* Not until Jesus takes us home! It does, however, lead to some better questions: Why keep supporting missionaries? Why keep praying for missionaries? And, why do some of us need to leave the comfort of our own "compound" and go to the mission field? Paul gives us the answer in Ephesians 2:11-22.

Paul provides five descriptions of the terrible condition of the lost in v. 12. They are separated from God's love, excluded from God's family, strangers to God's promises, without God's hope, and void of God's presence.

The numbers are staggering. Nearly 5 billion of the world's 7.8 billion are separated, excluded, strangers, hopeless, and void of the Master's presence. Of these, 1.7 billion have little or no access to the gospel. More than half of the world's 6000 unreached people groups have never been engaged with the gospel message.

Bring it closer to home. The Dakotas have over 1.7 million people, with an estimated 1.5 million lost without Christ.

Today nearly 140,000 around the world will die without Jesus. 140,000 will die and go to an eternal hell. Do you believe that? Do you believe people you know and love will be separated for eternity without Jesus? If so, you have a debt. Why? Because, you were once like them. Paul reminds the Ephesians, *"At that time you were without the Messiah"* (v. 12). But, because of Jesus: you are no longer strangers; you are now, *"citizens with the saints"* (19a). You are no longer excluded; you are, *"members of God's household"* (19b-21). You are no longer hopeless; you are, *"being built together for God's dwelling in the Spirit"* (22). But for the grace of God you would still be like the world is now.

The opening phrase in v. 11, *"so then,"* refers back to a familiar passage: *"For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift—not from works, so that no one can boast. For we are His*



creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time so that we should walk in them (vv. 8-10) . . . SO THEN" (or "therefore"), remember where you came from!!! Those on whom God showers His blessing of redemption have a great responsibility to share that blessing.

The lost are separated from God's love . . . yet it is so close! While we sit in the boat, enjoying the life of God's family, masses, crying out from the icy waters of sin, are still excluded, strangers, hopeless, and void of God's presence. You are sitting in the boat while lost voices ring out around you . . . their condition DEMANDS our action!

Paul goes on in vv. 13-18 to describe the compassion of our Lord. Sin separated us from God, but the blood of Christ brought us near. His grace released us from the burdens described in v. 12. His compassion paved the way to peace and provides access to the Father. In fact, Paul does not say that Jesus simply provides peace; He IS our peace! He tore down the walls that separated us from God. You can enter His presence right now. You need no other intermediary than Jesus.

That compassion also answers the question, "Why?" It calls to us to share with others. Lottie Moon's words still echo: *"How many million more souls are to pass into eternity without having heard the name of Jesus?"* What are we to do in response to the condition of the lost? In light of the compassion of our Lord? How will you respond to the condition of the lost and Christ's compassion and call?

Dr. MacDonald's Tentative December & January Schedule:

December 2020	6	OPEN
	13	OPEN
	20	Yankton: Restore Church
	27	Piedmont: Foothills Church
January 2021	3	OPEN
	10	OPEN
	17	OPEN
	24	OPEN
	31	OPEN

DBC Pastors named to serve as first Church Relations Missionaries

Three Dakotas pastors have been tapped to serve as the first part-time church relations missionaries (CRMs) throughout the Dakota Baptist Convention. This role was created by the Executive Board last August as part of a restructuring of the state staff.

The three pastors are Jeff Musgrave, the replant pastor for Waypoint Church in Minot, ND; Sean Donnelly, the pastor at Black Hills Church in Whitewood, SD;

and Everett Hornbostel, the pastor at Cornerstone Church in Mobridge, SD. Each man will strive to encourage and strengthen a cluster of pastors, churches, and associations within the Dakotas.

Jeff will relate to those in the Prairie Partners, South Valley, and former Northland areas of North Dakota. Sean will relate to those in the Black Hills and Badlands areas. Everett will relate to those in the Heartland and Siouxland areas. They will also relate to DBC churches and pastors in their areas that are not connected with an association.

An orientation and training for the new CRMs will be held in mid-January, after which the men will begin their new responsibilities.

The new staff structure was adopted by the Board in response to the report of the State Staff Study Task Force. The three-step strategy called first for three CRMs to begin serving in 2021 in designated regions of the state. Second, a fourth CRM will be brought on in 2022 to relate specifically to Native American churches. The final step, envisioned for implementation sometime between 2023 and 2025, as the DBC budget allows, will be to hire a full-time Assistant Executive Director.

Please pray for these men as they begin to serve across the Dakotas.



Sean Donnelly



Everett Hornbostel



Jeff Musgrave



DBC Open House Rescheduled

The DBC office was relocated in November to the facilities of the Hills of Grace Church in Rapid City. An open house had originally been scheduled for December 1-2, but it had to be postponed due to Covid. It has been rescheduled for December 15-16. Everyone is welcome to stop by

and see the new office at 330 E. Anamosa in Rapid City. Refreshments will be served.



Valley Community Church provides free Thanksgiving meals

A long line of cars waited for the free Thanksgiving meals being handed out at Valley Community Baptist Church in Rapid City on November 21st. With such an overwhelming response, the church ran out of meals in just a few minutes. What a great outreach effort to their community!

Community Prayer Event for the Will Graham Celebration

Community Prayer Rally: January 7, 6:380-8:00 pm
Open Bible Church - 2225 E. Saint Patrick St, Rapid City

All are welcome to join this evening event as we gather together worshipping with live music and praying for the Black Hills Community and surrounding areas, local churches, and specific needs for the upcoming Black Hills Paha Sapa Celebration. The time will end with a short inspiring message of encouragement from a local pastor or community leader.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching". Hebrews 10:24-25 NKJV

Dawn Reber

Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

Celebrations Director | Crusade Ministries

Advent Devotionals from IMB

2020 has been a difficult year, but with the Christmas season, comes a time of renewed hope.

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you," says the Lord, "thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV)

The Convention and Network Relations Team at the International Missions Board has developed these **Advent Devotionals** for you as a gift. We hope

and pray they will be a blessing to you as you read them and rejoice at the goodness of God in this season of hope, peace, joy and love.

Here at the IMB, we are so very grateful for our partnership and all you do to share the Good News of Jesus—locally and globally!

Merry Christmas!

Terry Sharp
INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD
CONVENTION AND NETWORK RELATIONS LEADER
CO-LEADER DIASPORA COALITION

[Open Advent Devotions](#)

Southern Baptists celebrate sending 79 new missionaries

By Caroline Anderson

On November 18, the International Mission Board celebrated the appointment of 79 new missionaries in a virtual Sending Celebration streamed on Facebook and through the IMB: Advance the Kingdom app. The missionaries were previously approved by IMB trustees. The missionaries come from 21 states and will serve in eight of IMB's nine affinities.

The Sending Celebration was scheduled to be held in Alabama at the annual Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions meeting. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the celebration was held virtually.

The Alabama Singing Men and Women and the choir from Shades Mountain Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, provided the pre-service music through a pre-recorded conference call. The Alabama Singing Men and Women performed "No More Night," and Shades Mountain Baptist Church performed "Total Praise."

Dr. Paul Chitwood expressed his thankfulness for Southern Baptists' support for the IMB.

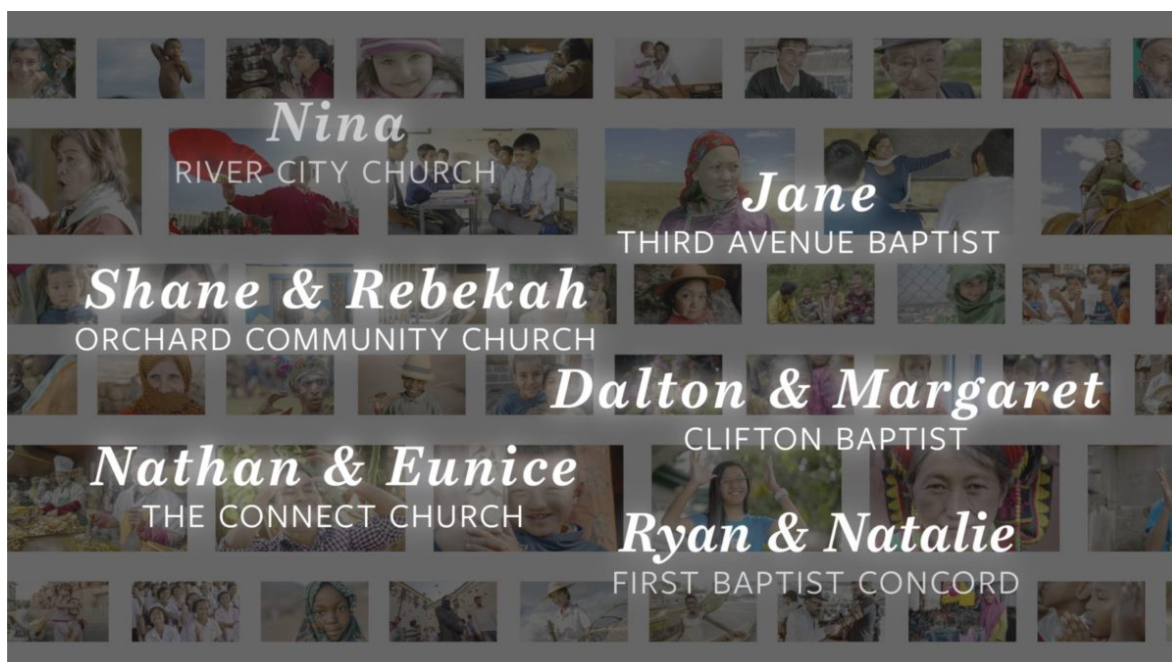
"We are excited that 79 new missionaries are being sent tonight," Chitwood said. "Thanks to your generosity through praying and giving, we are able to send and sustain these missionaries."

Dr. Rick Lance, the Executive Director for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, prayed for the missionaries.

"The Great Commission is not on pause and is certainly not in quarantine,"

Lance said.

"Our prayer is they will be encouraged by Your Holy Spirit's presence and empowering them in their lives," he prayed.



Due to time constraints, 30 missionary testimonies were included in the Sending Celebration. Videos of all 79 missionaries, grouped by affinity of service, are available for viewing at imb.org/send.

As the missionaries move to their respective countries, they will join teams working to provide people the opportunity to hear the good news. Every day, 154,937 people die without knowing Christ.

This staggering reality helped lead Robert and Elizabeth Bourne* to respond to the call to serve overseas. Robert traveled on a short-term trip where he met people who had never heard the name of Jesus.

"You hear that preached all the time, 'people have never heard the name of Jesus,' but to have my husband tell me that he is walking with people, talking with people, who have never heard the name of Jesus, it really shook us," Elizabeth said.

The Bournes will serve in Thailand on a team focused on medical missions. Robert, a pharmacist, will use his profession to offer physical healing and share the name of Jesus. The Bournes are being sent by Bethel Baptist Church in Norman, Oklahoma, to serve in Thailand.

Josh and Rebekah Storey will also be using healthcare to reach the nations. The Storeys are moving to Sub-Saharan Africa with their children to serve on a team that utilizes healthcare strategies.

"Moving to Africa with five boys—you have to be crazy or called," Josh said.

"Or both," Rebekah said, smiling. "We can't wait to get started."

"For our whole lives, He has been preparing us to respond to His calling. We are called by the Father, compelled by the gospel, commissioned by the Son and empowered by the Spirit," Josh said.

The Storeys are being sent by Emmaus Bible Church in Omaha, Nebraska, to serve in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Jessica Baniewicz knew she was called to serve but struggled with contentment and wanted to be married.

"God has shown me the community of the church and that He is enough. God's call in my life is more important than being married or having a family," Baniewicz said. "I thought that going to the mission field would look a certain way; that I would be married or have some grand instance that would tell me to go. I know I am supposed to go, but I was just waiting for it on my terms."

Baniewicz first served as a journeyman with the IMB in London. When she went through the interview process for career service with the IMB, she wasn't sure where the Lord was leading her to serve next.

She prayed, "God, I don't know where You want me to go but I am open." After talking with an IMB team serving in Barcelona, Spain, she was blown away by how the Lord responded, how God confirmed where He wanted her to serve and how He gave her a team that affirmed her calling to serve as a single.

"I had prayed for specific things in a team and job, and they touched on every single one of them," Baniewicz said. "I prayed for a team I could work with that would go out and share the gospel with me, that would encourage me and help me, for a team that would be looking for a single female, a team that had the same theology as me when it comes to church planting, and builds relationships with the locals around them."

Barcelona's evangelical population is less than 2%, and Baniewicz said the number of committed Christians is even lower.

"After praying, I knew God was calling me to this place where they may have the gospel in their language, but no one has made it real in their life," Baniewicz said.

Baniewicz is being sent by Clifton Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky, to serve in Barcelona.

In addition to the missionary testimonies, the Sending Celebration highlighted available job positions in each affinity. The positions include a role as a media specialist in the Americas affinity, a sports and business evangelism role in Central Asia, and a women's ministry strategist in South Asia.

Chitwood encouraged those watching to visit imb.org/send to learn more about opportunities to serve overseas. Chitwood invited those watching to support the missionaries' ministry financially.

"One hundred percent of your gifts transforms lives with the gospel," Chitwood said.

The Sending Celebration concluded with video messages from friends, pastors, small groups and churches telling IMB missionaries they are praying for them.

As a celebration of the IMB's 175-year history this year, the 2020 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering[®] (LMCO) goal is \$175 million. Would you and your church consider joining us in reaching our LMCO goal? [Learn more.](#)



DBC Office Closed for Christmas and New Years

The DBC office will be closed from December 23 through January 1 for the holidays.