



Footprints of Generosity

PENTECOST

Acts 2

Pentecost Sunday is a time when we remember the power of the Holy Spirit in our world, as we celebrate God's gift of speaking in other languages to the early apostles gathered in Jerusalem (Acts 2: 1-13). Today, Pentecost can be another opportunity to express gratitude for God's extravagant grace and love in our lives.

Those gathered in Jerusalem that day were astonished to hear the Spirit-filled believers speaking of God's amazing deeds of power in words they could understand. As the day unfolded, thousands came to believe the message as they heard it proclaimed (Acts 2:8-11; 2:41). Clearly God, through the Holy Spirit, was at work in the lives of the people.

Pentecost today can be a time when we feel the power of the Holy Spirit in our own lives, sense a renewing of our purpose, and hear the call to serve a hurting world with love and grace. It can be a reminder that God's work continues to be done through ordinary people of God, called and empowered by God's own Spirit to do God's work in our world.

During this season of Pentecost, you are invited to ask yourself these questions:

- In what specific ways can I share God's extravagant love with another?
- How can I reflect God's infinite generosity to me as I serve and minister in Jesus' name?
- As I thank God for the gifts of love and grace, what gifts does God ask me to share?

"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit...."

Acts 2: 1-3 ff

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

Over a century ago, American Baptist missionaries labored to plant the gospel in northeast India. Today, the descendents of those earlier believers are now pace-setters for global mission. In the northeast India state of Manipur lies the town of Ukhrul, the center of the Tangkhul Nagas, one of the dozen or so major Naga tribes. The Tangkhul Baptists send more cross-cultural missionaries than the entire missionary force of American Baptist Churches USA. Add to that the missionaries being sent from other Naga tribes and you quickly realize that there is a huge missionary movement going forth from what used to be one of the major areas of ABC mission efforts.

In December 2009, International Ministries Global Consultant Dan Buttry visited one of those other tribes and preached at a Kuki Baptist Church just out side of Imphal, the capital of Manipur. An ethnic group related to the Chin (many of whom have settled in the U.S.) in Burma, this Kuki church is growing and full of young people as they reach their community with the gospel.

After worship, they showed Dan the rice bins, located near the entrance to the sanctuary. They explained that the church members fast every Sunday for missions. The rice they would have eaten that day is brought to the church, sold, and the money goes to support Kuki missionaries. Dan watched as a woman poured her bag of rice into one of the large bins. He observed, "The Kingdom of God is like a grain of rice—so small, yet it becomes a deluge of rice to bring God's blessing and good news to distant places."

***Nurturing generous disciples
to serve
as the hands and feet of Christ***



A United Mission publication produced by
Mission Resource Development, American Baptist Churches USA
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Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851
www.abc-usa.org