

Living a Ready-to-Witness Life

This prayer request was sent out from the International Mission Board not too long ago.

NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES. As a result of instability in the region, many people in northern Africa and the Middle East are fleeing to various places. No one is exactly sure where this will lead, but believers are excited about opportunities to share with people they otherwise might never have met. Please pray for wisdom in how to minister to these people and for opportunities for them to hear Truth. Also pray for the safety of those fleeing.

Maybe one day in the next year or two we will hear a story about how someone became a Christian because of the upheaval taking place in Northern Africa. Someone moved from where they were living to somewhere they hoped would be safer. And in the process they came into contact with a Christian who shared with them the good news, and they chose to receive Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Such stories of how God has used His witnesses have been true of other recent tragedies, such as the Indonesian tsunami, Haiti earthquake, and Katrina event in New Orleans. The request above got me thinking of how God works strategically before such events to put His people in the right places to do the most good for the Kingdom of God.

In truth, God always is working this way. He has each of us at Emmanuel as part of His strategic plan for bringing as many people as He can into His kingdom, and maturing those who are already in. We are His witnesses here... now. There doesn't have to be a tragedy to occur for us to be witnesses. In truth, all the missionaries and other Christians in northern Africa are already there as witnesses. They were serving there before recent events.

Let us be ready for whatever opportunities God brings to us. Let us be seeking to know Christ intimately and fully, living life with Him moment by moment and day by day. Let us abide in Christ now, living out His commands, loving Him, loving each other. Let us be developing the character of Christ. Let us reconcile to each other in our relationships. Let us practice forgiveness. Let us live with confidence because "God is in control".

Be faithfully living with Christ daily, and you will be ready when the opportunities present themselves.

-- pastor Robin