



Week 1 // 13.2.2013 – 16.2.2013

Sending out the workers

Genesis 12:3, Jeremiah 1:7, Isaiah 6:8, Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:8

“Mission” means “being sent”. A mission organization is therefore an organization that sends people and a mission-minded church is a church that sends people. So if we have a mission to accomplish, we need to do some sending. But what is that? And who sends us?

In John 20:21 Jesus gives his disciples the answer: “As the father sent me, so I am sending you.” **We** are missionaries – **we** are the ones being sent. And Jesus sends us as one who has himself been sent by God personally. The way he lived shows us what he meant: eating with outsiders, telling friends, neighbours and acquaintances about God, healing the sick, blessing children, forgiving sinners and acquitting those who have been condemned to death. Every single one of his actions was characterized by the love of his father and by the desire to help people get to know him. That was why Jesus was sent. And that is why he sends you too. He wants to use you today.

Ask him, what you can do practically, to fulfil his mission.

“Ask the Lord of the harvest...”

Wednesday 13.02.13..

We pray for Christians involved in politics, who often have qualms about the political compromises that have to be made.

Thursday 14.02.13

We pray that God would bless all those people involved in the ProChrist prayer campaign. We pray that God would touch the people who ask for prayer.

Friday 15.02.13

We pray for the Christians who God sends to work in slums, drug areas, with street kids and prostitutes and who are there to tell others about Jesus.

Saturday 16.02.13

We pray that churches open their doors, not just for Bible studies and services, but also for sport, games and fun, so that it is easier for “outsiders” to make contact.

Week 2 // 17.2.2013 – 23.2.2013

Preparing the ground

Matthew 13:3-9

Every farmer knows that the most important factor in growing healthy plants is good soil. Prickly thorns are not helpful in this respect; neither is rocky soil, which renders all roots superficial and easily prey to outward influences. The field needs to be freed from stones and thistles as well as being aerated. That is the way to prepare the ground for seed.

And what do people need to be prepared for God's good news?

We all need sympathy and understanding and sometimes active support in difficult situations. A person who feels lovingly supported and taken seriously in is more likely to be open than someone whose opinion and values are not respected or even trampled on.

Preparing the field of the human heart can demand much strength and patience. But isn't it worth it, when we see faith take root in a person's life?

Sunday 17.02.13

Pray that we Christians don't become a hindrance or a stumbling block to others with our behavior. Pray that our lives are so inviting and attractive that people become curious about our faith.

Monday 18.02.13

Pray that Christians have the capability to lovingly and sensitively counter materialistic values in the economic and financial world with the values of faith.

Tuesday 19.02.13

Pray that married couples develop a loving understanding for the differences in their partners and accept them as a gift and an enrichment from God.

Wednesday 20.02.13

Pray that responsible behaviour can stem from political programmes. Pray that the role of volunteering can be strengthened and that many can be encouraged to spend their time on behalf of people in need in their communities.

Thursday 21.02.13

Pray that journalists avoid the desire for sensation but that they can report objectively, truthfully and positively.

Friday 22.02.13

Pray that the mentally and psychologically unstable can recognize the love of God in us. Pray that this will strengthen and encourage them and help them to find new hope for their lives.

Saturday 23.02.13

Pray that Christians get involved in sport clubs and cultural initiatives and be salt and light in those places.

Week 3 // 24.02.13 – 02.03.13

Sowing the seed.

Isaiah 55:10-13, Matthew 10:14, Galatians 6:7

When I sow seed, first of all I think about good seed and consider which field I am going to sow. Burning heat and the need to walk stooped over cannot stop me sowing the seed generously. The consequence: my back hurts and gets sunburnt. But it's worth it – after all, I want to see fruit sometime.

It is similar in my life as a Christian. I have good seed – God's word. I share it in all kinds of ways and sow it into my environment: in my family, my friends and my colleagues. Some of the seed is taken up well by the ground. But I also notice that the outward circumstances aren't always the best. Some don't want to hear about God at all, others even laugh at me. But isn't it worth it anyway? The promise of Psalm 126:5 is mine: "Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy."

So let's get on with it! Where can you start sowing this week?

Sunday 24.02.13

We pray that God will open his word to those in ministry and enable them to pass the good seed on to their churches.

Monday 25.02.13

We pray for Christians in their work lives: we pray that they can impact their work with biblical values (e.g. mutual appreciation, honesty).

Tuesday 26.02.13

We pray for the many children in Christian nurseries or after-school clubs. We pray that the seed that is sown in them will bring fruit over time.

Wednesday 27.02.13

We pray that politicians at all levels may be reminded of God's word, incorporate it in their decisions and law-making, so that it finds specific use.

Thursday 28.02.13

We pray that God will give Christians new ideas in how to use modern media to sow his seed.

Friday 01.03.13

We pray that God's word reaches those who are ignored or excluded from society (e.g. the homeless and the handicapped) – for "God's word will not return to him empty." (Isaiah 55:11)

Saturday 02.03.13

We pray for new ideas as to how Christians can awaken interest in faith, for example, using local adult education courses or cultural events.

Week 4 // 03.03.13 – 09.03.13

Watering the fields

Revelation 21:6, Revelation 22:17, John 4: 13-14

Humans can live for 14 days without food but for only 36 hours without water. They must consume up to 3 litres of water a day in order not to die of thirst. Water gives life. It cleanses and renews.

Where there is no water, fertile soil will become desert.

Desert situations can arise in our lives through times of sickness and death, economic insecurity, conflict and resentment, or through pain in our souls: the pain of not accepting myself and others, of holding on to patterns of behaviour which are detrimental to my life, which hold burdens from the past or which give me insecurity for the future.

Jesus is the living water, a source of love and strength that never dries up. Jesus cleanses us at the cross from all that separates us from God. He makes change possible, so that the past can be overcome and new things can grow. I may drink from this source every day – and I can tell other travelers in the desert about it, so that they may come to know Jesus and so that his love can blossom and grow in them.

Sunday 03.03.13

We pray that God's word may be preached everywhere so that it is understood by people who do not yet know Jesus and that he may change their lives.

Monday 04.03.13

We pray for organizations such as the SMD (Student Mission Germany), CIB (Christians in Industry), CiW (Christians in the financial sector) as well as school Christian Unions and prayer groups; we pray that they will be used to share the gospel in the world of work and school.

Tuesday 05.03.13

We pray for parents, teachers and nursery teachers. We pray that they will look after the children entrusted to their care and that they will show them individual love and support.

Wednesday 06.03.13

We pray for governments worldwide to ensure the just distribution of vital goods. We pray that they will support and encourage Christian organizations working in emergency situations.

Thursday 07.03.13

We pray that Christians will not simply accept what the media want us to see, but that they would get involved courageously and take a stand e.g. by writing letters.

Friday 08.03.13

We pray that God will strengthen, bless and help those who have taken in people in trouble (e.g. foster parents and Christian communities).

Saturday 09.03.13

We pray for all those events that are specifically initiated and offered by Christians e.g. family camps, marriage enrichment seminars, Royal Rangers.

Week 5 // 10.03.13 – 16.03.13

Caring for the plants

Deuteronomy 30:6, Psalm 145:14, Psalm 91:4, Isaiah 42:3, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Beans need to be tied to stakes so that they don't snap. Tomatoes need a protective roof so that they don't rot. Trees are pruned in Spring so that all the energy goes to the branches that will bear fruit in the Autumn.

Staking, covering, pruning – that's how a gardener looks after her plants so that they can grow and bring fruit. And God does that in the same way: he binds us to his son Jesus and he prunes our hearts so that evil cannot find a place to stay. For many people this feels like sacrifice and the loss of freedom – at least at first.

But God protects and leads me too, so that I can boldly go on my way.

The cross of Jesus covers my sin, so that I can live in freedom. Patiently God shows me my weaknesses and deals with them so that change becomes possible and I can grow into the likeness of Jesus.

A person who has been "cared for" in this way should bear rich fruit, shouldn't they?

Sunday 10.03.13

We pray that churches can be places in which people burdened with problems can find not only a safe space and a place to belong, but also practical help and support for change.

Monday 11.03.13

We pray that decision-makers in the economy will recognize weaknesses in the system (e.g. child poverty, financial inequality, social and economic corruption) and courageously make the necessary changes.

Tuesday 12.03.13

We pray that parents will be able to lovingly accompany their adolescents and find the right balance between boundaries and freedom.

Wednesday 13.03.13

We pray that politicians will not have the goal of strengthening their power but that they will be concerned for the good of the population.

Thursday 14.03.13

We pray that our speech will be determined by non-violent communication, which has the goal of understanding, balance and clarity.

Friday 15.03.13

We pray for strength for staff in care homes, retirement homes and hospices. We pray that they will value the background, history and uniqueness of each individual and have the patience to accompany them.

Saturday 16.03.13

We pray for those in leadership in sport and culture will recognize gifts in young people and encourage upcoming talent, so that more and more people can develop their God-given potential.

Week 6 // 17.03.13 – 23.03.13

Awaiting the fruit

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15, Luke 8:15, Romans 8:25

When I was a child I had the job of sowing cress. Every day I looked for the tiny green shoots. It didn't take long to see the first signs. Other plants need slightly longer! Trees need years until an apple grows on a branch. And potatoes grow and mature under the earth and it is only at the harvest that you see whether it was worth the wait.

It is similar with my attempts to tell people about Jesus. I talk about Jesus and I don't make a secret of my faith. I get to know "cress people". They don't need long until they start a new life with Christ. I almost give up on my "tree people" and then, all of a sudden, they turn to Jesus. And the "potato people"? I guess I will only find out in heaven whether something developed under the surface.

One thing remains: I can expectantly wait for fruit and not give up hope, because "there is a time for everything!"

Sunday 17.03.13

We pray that God will give strength and endurance to those in spiritual ministry, so that they can accompany seekers with patience and hope and show them the way to Jesus.

Monday 18.03.13

We pray that we Christians shine out into society what sustains us: a hope which stands the test of inflation, low birthrates and economic crises.

Tuesday 19.03.13

We pray that parents and teachers learn more and more to appreciate the developmental differences in children and find ways to nurture each child individually.

Wednesday 20.03.13

We pray for wisdom for governments to make just laws. We pray that they will not curtail the rights of the individual with attention to a false sense of equality and a desire to promote that equality, come what may.

Thursday 21.03.13

We pray that Christians use social media (Facebook, Twitter etc) to promote God's word. His word will not return empty – so we may expect fruit here too. (Isaiah 55:11)

Friday 22.03.13

We pray for strength, patience and love for all social workers who speak God's word to those who have given up hope e.g. the homeless, drug addicts etc.

Saturday 23.03.13

We pray for God to use degenerate seeds (like for example superstition, esoteric interests, astrology) to draw people to himself in order to discover his truth.

Week 7 // 24.03.13 – 30.03.13

God gives growth

John 15:1-7, 1 Corinthians 3:6, James 1:17

If I look after my plants I can create the best conditions for them to grow and develop.

But whatever I do I am never going to be able to get them to grow and blossom. I simply do not have that ability. If I push away the earth so that the sprout peeks out of the earth quicker or if I pull the stem or open the bud, I will kill the plant.

The mystery of growth is between God and the plant – and between God and the individual. **He** grants growth. He lets seeds thrive. He brings fruit. And what do we do?

We can rejoice over the beautiful blossoms he creates in his endless creativity. My job is to look after my plant, to care for my friends. I can entrust my friends to God by praying for them. But only God can change their hearts, not me.

Who are you holding on to, trying to make them grow? Don't forget, it is God who gives growth! You can let go.

Sunday 24.03.13

We pray that God keeps us and preachers from pressurizing and manipulating people. We pray for clarity that it is God who gives growth, when they proclaim his word.

Monday 25.03.13

We pray that God gives success to our work and that we work in the knowledge that "whatever we do we do for the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31)

Tuesday 26.03.13

We pray that God looks after all the children in Germany who live in dysfunctional or incomplete families and that they might find at least one person to learn to trust.

Wednesday 27.03.13

We pray that God uses the decisions of politicians to advance his work and to build his kingdom in Germany.

Thursday 28.03.13

We pray that God would use the many Christian programmes on TV and radio (e.g. Bibel TV, ERF, Anixe) to stir the hearts of the viewers and help their faith grow and thrive.

Friday 29.03.13

We pray for the many old people in hospitals, care homes and being cared for at home. Often these people are faithful intercessors who are concerned for the wellbeing of their families and friends. Ask God to bless this generation.

Saturday 30.03.13

We pray that God will bless the efforts of Christians in sports clubs and cultural initiatives and that many club members will come to faith.