

Risking Everything for Jesus

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Stories are told of early Christian missionaries heading for the mission field, packing their belongings in coffins, because they never expected to return. Imagine the mindset of sacrifice—boarding a ship that could take months to reach a destination where you know no one, and do not know the language, fully expecting that your love for the people could be misinterpreted and you could succumb to martyrdom or disease.

Today, western missionaries in foreign lands are usually safer, thanks to precautions taken by missions organizations and improvements in disease control. But Christians in third world countries intent on sharing the gospel with their fellow citizens are often in dreadful peril. Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus describes well "the wiles of the devil" at work both in the first century as well as today: "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12).

In some countries it is illegal to own a Bible. In North Africa, a local pastor leads six secret house churches of six people each. None of these groups know each other—it's too dangerous. In another country a Bible translation team member met a local Christian at an outdoor café. The Christian was fidgety; the setting was too risky. The next day they met and drove far outside the city to a remote hilltop. It was late at night and bitterly cold. They stood with their backs to the wind and mapped out Bible translation for the Christian's language group. Afterward, he was dropped off outside of town. He couldn't risk being seen with the foreigner again. Yet, despite the risk of arrest, torture and death, Christians press on, looking forward to the day when "a great multitude . . . of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb . . . And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb" (Revelation 7:9–10).

K.E. Horsley

*As my Father hath sent me,
even so send I you.*

John 20:21

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Covenant Church

3115 N.W. 16th Avenue Gainesville FL 32605

November 7, 2021

Call to Worship

Invocation

Pastor Don Mauldin

Sing Unto the Lord

Hymn #730 Stand Up, Stand up for Jesus

Welcome and Announcements

Recognition of Guests

Mission Moment

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Worship in Song

Hymn #139 Great is Thy Faithfulness

Offertory Prayer

Joe Morgan

Offertory

Rose Morgan

Special Music

Sermon: "Conviction of Convenience"

Pastor Don Mauldin

Scripture: Joshua 14:7-12

Hymn of Benediction

Hymn #598 Wherever He Leads I'll Go

Don't forget to Shine, Shine, Shine!

Covenant News

Our ministry for November is The Bread of the Mighty Food Bank. Bring your Thanksgiving Day canned and dry goods to share with those who are hungry. **Bread of the Mighty Food Bank**, celebrating 35 years of serving the community, is a private non-profit organization.

We collect, sort, store and distribute donated food and basic essentials to 170+ non-profit agency partners such as food pantries, churches, homeless shelters and other organizations who then distribute food in their communities to directly feed the hungry.



Covenant Thanksgiving

Covenant will celebrate Thanksgiving together,
Sunday, November 21st at 6:00 pm.
The church will provide the turkey and dressing,
you bring the rest.

Thank you to all of you who provided toiletries for Newberry High School and Pine Grove. Missy and Craig had trunks full to deliver.