

Faith

God requires every part of us

In the past two weeks, we've had several new people join us out here in West Africa.

There have been so many changes, learning opportunities, and moments of joy and frustration that have surfaced for them.

As I've observed them, I've been reminded that God requires every part of us.

When he asks that we pick up and carry our cross and follow Him, it doesn't mean that you get to take "this" part of your life, sacrifice it, and keep "that" safe and sound, tucked away from God.

These new people have come in order to be trained in how a person shares Christ with the lost (in this context of the world).

This requires them to learn the language of the local people in order to communicate Christ.

In case you've never done this, learning a language is no easy task - especially a language that you've never been exposed to or even heard of.

Our new people here on the ground have to go through this process to learn this language so that the lost people of this area can truly hear the good news.

If they don't learn this language of the people here in this country,



Missionary Natali Williams

the lost here will never understand who Christ is, or what He did for them, or how He is inviting them to come and rest.

Language isn't the only thing that these people have to do in order to communicate Christ well, however.

They also must live in a way that communicates Christ and his love, his precepts.

The very life that has been changed by God will have fruit in it - God says so in Luke chapter six.

People will see that fruit, whether it's good or bad, and know where that person's heart lies. So, you may read this and think, okay, I get that.

Someone has to know the language of a people, and live in a way that people will see Christ in them.

But, what does this

have to do with me here in North Carolina? It has everything to do with anyone that calls themselves a follower of Christ.

Think with me for a minute.

The people around you in your neighborhood, in your work place, in your classroom at school, etc.

Are they hearing your communication of Christ clearly?

The words you're using, can they understand them?

Here in a different context, the common words used in church circles have to be changed to fit the understanding of the people we're reaching out to - otherwise, they don't understand what we're saying.

So, now back to you: can those with whom you're sharing life understand the meaning of your words?

For me, growing up in the church, I knew what my Pastor meant when he said that people must "repent," "give their tithe," "resist temptation," etc.

As I grew older, I became aware that many people around me (who didn't grow up in the church) had no idea what those phrases even meant in the slightest way.

I'm not saying that those phrases are

wrong, or that we should change them necessarily, but what

I am saying is that maybe when talking to your co-worker who has no understanding of how much Jesus is to her yet, let alone what this term and that term mean, you should try and present Christ in a way that helps her understand.

Instead of using a phrase you've maybe heard all of your life that is hard for the un-churched to fathom, explain that concept in a tangible way that speaks to that individual (i.e., Being broken before God because of all the things that you have done + changing what you do now - instead of "repenting").

So, maybe this prompts you to think of the language that you're using when trying to communicate Christ to others.

Don't let the words you say be a hindrance in the message, but ask Christ to help you be clear so that people can hear and know the One who has come for us all.

Natali Williams is a missionary to West Africa through the Assemblies of God. She can be reached via email at bertienews@ncweeklies.com.

Churches offer special events

Please note: Church announcements are published in the Friday edition. The deadline to submit news items for this listing is noon Wednesday. Submissions may be emailed to twhite@ncweeklies.com.

Feb. 21

Pastoral Anniversary

WINDSOR - The 13th Pastoral Anniversary of Percell L. Whitaker Sr. will be observed Sunday, Feb. 21 at Peterson Chapel Missionary Baptist Church.

The theme is "Through It All, I'm Still Standing." The morning service is planned for 11 a.m., and will feature the Rev. James Clemons, Pastor of Lily of the Valley Baptist Church in Everetts.

Following the service, lunch will be served at John P. Law School. At 4 p.m., the anniversary service will feature the Rev. Dr. Peter Wherry, Pastor of The Mayfield Memorial Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte.

Bishop Avery Barnes and The Temple of Christ Choir will offer spiritual selections at the service.

For more information, contact Trustee Andrew Watson at 252-435-7250. The congregation invites the public to attend.

The Lord's Supper

WINDSOR - The ordinance of the Lord's Supper will be observed at 11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 21 at Ross Baptist Church.

The church also offers adult Bible study, youth group and Children In Action meetings at 7 p.m. each Wednesday. The church is located at 1020 Bull Hill Rd. in Windsor. For more information, contact the church office at 794-4339 or visit the website at www.rossbaptistchurch.com.

The Pastor, Dr. Jeffrey Russell, and congregation invite the public to attend.

Anniversary

WINDSOR - Deacons, Deaconesses and Trustees will celebrate their anniversary at 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21 at St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church.

The guest speaker will be the Rev. David E. Moore, Pastor of Indian Woods Missionary Baptist Church. The Pastor, Kennedy L. Barber, and congregation invite the public to attend.

Pastor's Aid Anniversary

LEWISTON WOODVILLE - The Pastor's Aid Ministry will observe its 40 anniversary at 11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 21 at Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church. The Rev. Alma O. Lucas, Interim Pastor, will deliver the morning message. The Rev. W. Rob Lewis II, Pastor of Conoconary Missionary Baptist Church, will give the tribute.

Music will be rendered by the United Voices of Praise under the direction of Minister Connie Brothers. The congregation invites the public to attend.

Gospel Train Deliverance ministries to sponsor prayer breakfast

EDENTON - A Prayer Breakfast will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 27 at the Fannie A. Parker Building here.

The event will be

sponsored by Gospel Train Deliverance ministries, and will feature Pastor Carolyn Bailey of Angelic Deliverance Ministries in Winter

ville.

The event is free, and will feature the theme of "Love Worth Celebrating."

The Fannie A. Parker

Building is located at 116 W. Albemarle St. in Edenton.

The congregation invites the public to attend.

African mission services to be held

WILLIAMSTON - African Mission Services will be held Feb. 24-26 at Back Swamp Church of Christ (DOC).

The guest speaker will be the Rev. Dr.

Ebenezer Sefah of Refreshing Hour International Church in Ghana, West Africa.

The services will be held at 7:30 p.m. nightly and at 11 a.m. Sunday.

Music will be provided by various choirs.

The congregation in-

vites the public to attend.

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