Mission Sunday Nov 8th, 2020

Ronnie Interview with Grant

**Message Theme:**

Even in the midst of the worldwide pandemic, extreme poverty, place with lack of resources & infrastructure… God continues to move mightily! The work of the Lord never ceases. The world may have stopped… but the spread of the gospel CAN NOT be Stop! Just like we talked about last week, when Gods people ACT in Great Courage, extraordinary things can happen for Gods kingdom. And that is exactly what we have seen happen this year.

Ronnie: Opening Remarks (2 minutes)

* Mission Sunday
* 5 Mission Points where we focus our efforts: Haiti, Honduras, Colombia, Uganda & Nepal
* Today I will be interviewing Grant Wright our Outreach Minister
* Word of encouragement or centering Mission Scripture…

1. What has God been doing this year in Missions (3 minutes)
   1. Ronnie: **Grant, as you observed all these mission works this year, give us a 30,000 foot level overview of what you saw?**
   2. Grant:
      1. Transitioned our Missions efforts from more **project centered to relationship centered.** Could not do projects so we invested in each other. Spent a lot of time-sharing needs and praying for each other
      2. Equaled the playing field. We were finally in need. They could help us with **prayer, encouraging words and scriptures** & Building us up in our faith!
      3. **We had a moment of weakness where we needed God just as much as they did. And that has been very uniting this year.**
      4. Many missions are in **survival mode** and just trying to keep churches strong, help people with basic needs as many have lost jobs and income. Our missions, even **despite these same obstacle**, have been seeing growth and are moving forward with strength. This is bc of the FCCC support: 1) resources we provided them this year 2) spiritual preparation we provided before the Lockdowns occurred. We set our people up for success and they stepped up to the obstacles that were thrown at them and overcome them!
2. Uganda: (6 minutes, including video)
   1. Ronnie: (1 minute)
      1. Mission point for 23 years now.
      2. Martin Family (Andrew & Amy Jo) Transitioned back to USA in January
      3. 100% Ugandan lead Mission now
         1. 1 Town church & 16 village churches
         2. 3 Christian schools the Uganda Church leads have started
      4. **Tell us how this year was for their ministry and how Covid and the lock down affected them?**
   2. Grant (4 minutes)
      1. Great leaders who led with strengths & wisdom this year
      2. Build new website & Went online with podcasts **(innovation)**
      3. Went to house church model in village
      4. FCCC gave Bibles
      5. Struggling with Food shortages
   3. **Play VIDEO (90 seconds)**
3. Colombia: (4 minutes)
   1. Ronnie: (1 minute)
      1. In our Colombia work we have a church plant that is now 4 years old…
      2. luckily many people have internet in Cucuta and they were able to transition to online church and small groups very similar to how FCCC did.
      3. Just from looking at the church growth this year it seems like the Spirit was active and moving in this city. In this church of 150 members they added 35 more adults and 25 children during the pandemic! That is 40% church grown in a year were most missions and church are just trying to keep their churches members meeting and this church is seeing explosive growing.
      4. **What was the Spirit doing in Cucuta this year?**
   2. Grant – **2 Great Outreaches producing Fruit** (3 minutes)
      1. Beginning of year started new outreach through their 7 small groups
         1. Once per month one group would host a **Mini Medial Clinic**
         2. A church member who is a DR.(Argenis) Gave FREE Medial Visit
         3. Another church member gave FREE Haircuts
         4. Other members of the group would provide whatever service they could to their neighbors
         5. They were able to do 3 of these before the lockdown and gained a lot of new contacts
         6. Our leaders took these contacts and **provided consistent spiritual care for these neighbors.**
         7. WhatsApp, Zoom, Phone calls, some personal visit when possible.
         8. As one of the ministers described it he said, **“It was like the Spirit was flowing through us and into new hearts!”**
            1. For the first 12 weeks of the lockdown they had baptism every week! Facebook
      2. **Carlos & Nester who lead Soccer Ministry**
         1. Godly men who are Great with people.
         2. Through Whats App, Carlos and Nestor staying connected with these kids and their families. Eventually they were able to start bible study groups
         3. Through consistent, positive, encouraging Christ centered messages from Carlos & Nestor have been bringing families to trust in Jesus!
         4. Many of the 30 baptism this year were a direct result of Carlos & Nester reaching new people through soccer ministry
         5. These men have grown to be some of the great leaders in the church today and are doing a phenomenal job
      3. These folks were also in need of the most basic necessity… Food. FC help 45 families in Cucuta and were a part of the Venezuelan Aid serving 90 CofC in Venezuela!
4. Honduras: (5 minutes, including video)
   1. Ronnie - Santos New Home (1 minute)
      1. Last year we were blessed to have, Santos & and his wife Jessica come join us from Honduras on Mission Sunday. Even though he is from Honduras and has lived there his whole life he and his wife had never owned their own home. They have been looking to plant roots in San Marcos where we support him, and he leads the San Marcos Church of Christ. Well, last year we were able to bless them with the funds to building their own home…
      2. We even had members go on a Spring Break STM Trip to help build their home. (Trip lead by Keith Rabb)
      3. This morning I want you to hear directly from Santos & Jessica about this tremendous gift you gave them. Let’s turn our attention to the screens…
         1. **Play VIDEO** (1 Minute)
   2. Grant - Santos visits 8000 homes with food (3 minutes)
      1. Honduran people were hit hard this year with the Lockdown
      2. An amazing thing happened for the people in San Marcos
      3. The Honduran Government called ML and said, **we would like to give you $100,000 for emergency food provisions for the urban poor trapped** in this lockdown.
      4. Government had no way to distribute food so they asked ML to help
      5. Santos is in a truck every day that is loaded down with food. Delivering food & Hope to 8000 families!
      6. **Jarrod Brown (President of ML) said, “This has been the Biggest opportunity to witness to the community ML has ever had.”**
      7. As Santos described the situation to me, he said, **you can see the Fear on peoples faces caused by the spread of this disease and you can see the hunger on their faces as they don’t have any food in their homes. Many children have been sick with malnutrition.**
      8. Quoting Santos, “This was an open door to express the Love of God. It was not easy but God has keep our minds and bodies strong. Many people have no jobs right now and there is a lot of pain but God is using the Church right now to bring healing.”
      9. Church services stopped but people are still receiving Christ and being baptized. 10 people can for baptism the week things opened up for small groups able to gather again. 113 Baptism total this year!
   3. Ronnie: When our weaknesses are reveled in this life whether it be a sickness or food shortages, it is good to be able to call on a strong and might God who can rescue & Save.
5. Ronnie: **We don’t have much time left & I know there have been many great things happing in our Haiti and Nepal mission works, can you take just a minute and tell us one highlight from each place?** (3 minutes)
   1. Haiti:
      1. Roolite led Camp Hope for 177 teens
         1. 72 baptized!
         2. 100% Haitian run camp
   2. Nepal:
      1. Partnership with Our Daughters International
      2. 121 girls rescued
      3. Anita
         1. Like Manisha, Anita Rescued from Biratnagar Boarder Station, Taken to Safe house and became a Christian.
         2. Vocational Training Center learned sewing and handicraft
         3. returned to her village and launched **her home-based tailoring business.**
         4. Started sharing her faith, gospel and inviting people to study the Bible and she as started a Church Fellowship in her home & teaching people about Jesus.

Grant Conclusion:

1. What gets me excited as I tell all these stories is even in the midst of the worldwide pandemic, extreme poverty, place with lack of resources & infrastructure. God continues to move mightily!
   1. The work of the Lord never ceases. The world may have stopped… but the spread of the gospel CAN NOT be Stop!
2. Just like we talked about last week, when Gods people ACT in Great Courage, extraordinary things can happen for Gods kingdom. And that is exactly what we have see happen this year.
3. Ronnie Conclusion:
   1. Ronnie: (1-2 minutes)
      1. Look at all the great things God has been able to do through **YOUR** mission support of our mission partners!
      2. FCCC Missions have started **25** Churches in **35** years!
      3. Stories From the Field push.
         1. This is a great Mission video series that Grant as put together for us to get to know our mission partners in a more personal way and hear more amazing stories of what the Lord is doing.
         2. Watch these with your family or with your Connection Group
      4. Invite Chad Baker up
         1. Elder & is on the Mission Leadership Team who helps oversee these mission works throughout the year. Chad is going to lead us in our Mission Offering Prayer.

**OOW Insert**

First Colony Missions have started **25** Churches in **35** years!

This 3 past year alone we have been able to see

* 45,000 Gospel Presentations
* 2033 Baptized Disciples of Jesus
* 1500 Indigenous Leaders Trained
* 121 Girls Rescued out of Sex Trafficking
* 86 NEW Small Groups Started
* 50 Churches Strengthened and Grown
* 31 Indigenous Leaders Supported
* 3 NEW Church Planted

**Haiti 2020 Highlights:**

* 72 teens baptized at Camp Hope
* 28 baptisms (3 orphans) in Thomazeau church
* 20 new people from community now attending church regularly
* Build 8th Grade Classroom
* Fed 425 Thomazeau school students 1 hot meal 5 days a week
* 30 teens attend Roolite’s weekly sports and games
* Roolite mentoring 2 leaders to plant a church in mountain area
* 200 Christmas Joy Boxes donated (Thomazeau School Students)

**Nepal 2020 Highlights:**  
  
**Church Planting Work**

* 24,500 gospel exposures (verbal & Jesus film)
* 740 disciples trained
* 670 new baptized disciples
* 20 new fellowships started
* 10 students graduated from their 2nd year in the Bible Training School
* 1,400 girls were counseled at the Biratnagar Border Station
* 32 victims were rescued and are now survivors
* 2 business started lead by 4 rescued daughters
* 2nd  Border Station established at New Train Station facility

**Colombia 2020 Highlights**  
  
**Cucuta Church of Christ (4yr old church plant)**

* Church Grew by 35 adults & 25 kids
* Started 2 new small groups & have 5 more around the city
* Soccer Ministry has 40 youth
* 45 families blessed with 500 large bags of food & personal products
* 90 Church of Christ in Venezuela were provided food, hygiene goods & medicine for relief

**Hope & Help Center (Christ-centered after-school program)**

* Serves 80 kids
* Started Soccer program, serves 25 kids
* 21 kids in music lessons, learning to lead worship
* 60% of kids improved their academic scores

Shane Service Intro Nov 8th:

**Welcome:**

Good Morning and welcome to FC. I want to thank you for joining us on this great day the Lord has made. Today is a special day at FC as today is our annual Missions Sunday. This is a day we highlight the work we were able to accomplish this past year and take up a special offering that goes 100% towards our mission efforts in 2020. So today we will take two offering the first will be our normal offering time and we will do a second toward the end of service that will be specifically for Missions.

Again we are so glad you are here with us to worship today and now let’s enter into our time of worship.

Chad Baker is making the 2020 Ask

**Mission Ask & Prayer:**

Again church this is a special offering that goes to 100% to Missions. You can give today with cash or check by putting them in the giving boxes (at the back of the worship center). If you are giving a check just write “Missions” in the MEMO line.

Of course you **can online anytime. All you have to do is select the “Mission’s Sunday” category in the drop-down menu.**

This past year we were able to accomplish so much for Gods Kingdom and take care of so many of our Christian brothers & sisters that were hurting around the world.

God has given us a **powerful 2021 mission vision** and we need your help fulfilling it. Here is **what I ask from us today church.. lets play our part**… lets play our part as individuals and families so that our church can continue to play its part in Gods Mission next year. Today is our day to

Help something extraordinary happen for Gods Kingdom!

**Lets pray for our Missions offering:**

Lord, we know your heart for us and how much you love us. We also know your heart for the nations, and you desire to have them with you for eternity in heaven. So Lord today we join you in your mission to fulfill the picture painted for us in Revelation 7:9 where every nation tribe, people, and language, standing before the thrown and the Lamb. Worshiping you in Unity. Multiply and bless this offering for the benefit of your Kingdom. It is in the powerful name of Jesus we pray, and all the church said AMEN!

Santos Honduras cut from Story:

1. As Santos said… “Opportunity to build new relationships with leaders in new villages and share the Love of Christ”
2. Sent out in Team of 3 with a Doctor, nurse & Pastor
3. Already more venerable and can die from less harmful diseases.
4. Medical care & treatment coupled with the spiritual care of the people was powerful this year! These people diagnosed with Covid though they were going to die! So Santos personal presence to be there and minister to them was profound!
   * 1. **Carlos & Nester who lead Soccer Ministry**
        1. Godly men who are Great with people.
        2. Nester is the Spiritual Mentor for the soccer team. He is a natural evangelist, visited families regularly and is always looking for ways to help (as these are impoverished inner city families)
        3. Carlos is the soccer coach and when they had to stop playing (due to lockdown) he discovered he was really good at reaching people with the gospel. It fun when you discover new gifts later in life and that is what happened for Carlos this year.
        4. Through Whats App, Carlos and Nestor consistently stayed in contact with these kids and their families. Eventually they were able to start bible study groups
        5. Through constant, positive, encouraging Christ centered messages from Carlos & Nestor have been bringing families to trust in Jesus!
        6. Many of the 30 baptism this year were a direct result of Carlos & Nester reaching new people through soccer ministry
        7. In fact, Many of the kids in the program want to grow up to be like Nestor and be spiritual leaders/pastor in the community. So they are doing Bible studies with him regularly to they can learn to be like Nestor.
        8. These men have grown to be some of the great leaders in the church today and are doing a phenomenal job