

There is a command found in the Bible that is extravagant beyond human imagination:

I will proclaim the decree of the Lord:

He said to me, "You are my Son. Today I have become your Father.

Ask of Me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth Your possession. You will rule them with a rod of iron..."

Psalm 2:7-9a NIV

Here it is plain that God is speaking to the future Messiah, to one born of the line of David--to one who would rule the earth, when all despair, pain, grief and sin are banished from the this world. In fact, most interpreters (Jewish and Christian alike) make the case that it is a prophecy of the Messiah to come. The Christian interpreters point out that only someone like this could dare to call God "Father". They also indicate that the eternal destiny of the future ruler of the earth is to receive the glory of the nations. They will be His as a heritage.

So what are we doing praying this way?

God has commanded us to pray this way.

And it is not to rule those nations. It is to win them... Jesus will rule them, and we will deliver them to Him to begin his Kingly rule.

When the Alliance was born it was the burden of our founder, AB Simpson, that every nation on earth hear and understand the gospel:

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come... Matthew 24:14 NIV

So Simpson would hold the globe of the world and he would pray, with tears running down his cheeks as he sought the Lord for Turkey, for South Ossetia, for Kazakhstan and the Republic of Congo--and Simpson would not stop praying until the Lord would give him a strategy to win the nation he was praying for. ... So he founded the Alliance in 1887 with a single purpose in mind--that we not exist for the already saved--but that we disciple people who would disciple nations. He would organize to send them to the least reached people groups all across the face of planet earth.

We are living in that vision--this is the reason that the C&MA exists at all.

We exist to reach the lost in every nation on the face of planet earth. We exist to reach them here in Spruce Grove, Stony Plain, West Ed, and all the outlying regions surrounding this building. But we exist to win the nations to him. There is no other reason for the CMA to exist.

We have received two things from the Lord Jesus Christ:

- 1) We have received the gift of His Holy Spirit within. That means that we get the inner heart, the longings, the praying, the communication that Jesus had with the Father--that is given to us, and it includes his burden to pray for all the nations on earth to be won to the love of God. And
- 2) We receive Jesus' mission, his outer life--the mission that the kingdom of God be proclaimed all over the face of planet earth, that evil be destroyed, that goodness prevail and life and hope and healing and grace be given to everyone. In the end we receive his mission to eradicate death itself. God has called us to be ambassadors of God's goodness forever.

And so God commands us to ask--to ask for the nations that we be sent, that we plan and think and pray and supply what is needed to get the job done. Or Jesus Christ will not return.

Turn to cmaacan.org, click on "Prayer", and then on "50 Days of Prayer".

Our General Assembly is going to Turkey so that our workers can recapture the original vision.