

**SGAC Acts 16:6-15; Rev 12:7-12 “A Hard Road to Victory” April 10-11/2010 p. 1  
General Assembly Celebration...**

We are in a war against evil. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. And we, as people in the CMA are in the middle of that war to end all wars.

***And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon...And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him... Rev 12:7, 9 NASB***

The dragon was thrown out. Your kingdom come is a prayer to cast out of all evil from planet earth. This is the war of the Lamb. To win we need 3 weapons:

***And they overcame him because of 1) the blood of the lamb, because of 2) the word of their testimony and 3) they did not love their life even to death...Rev. 12:11 NASB***

When war is declared, each side must arm itself. The devil has prepared... We need to use our 3 weapons as we need them. We need to know them, to understand how they work and to put them to work in the midst of battle when the enemy of our souls attacks.

The first weapon is the blood of our Lord. We deserved to die, because our sins enraged God. Jesus knew no sin. He took the punishment for our sins, and we were given a freedom that we did not earn. We need to embrace it as our own.

When the accuser says, “You are no good...” then it is time to say, “You are right, and another has taken the punishment—the blood of Jesus is my substitute.”

The second weapon is more powerful; it includes the first, and goes beyond it. The word of our testimony is when a believer speaks of what God has done; it disarms those who oppose the gospel. It is most powerful with those who simply do not believe.

The third weapon is the strongest; it is based on the other two, and adds to them. Here it is clear that we believe the gospel to be so true we put our lives on the line; we will serve Christ to the uttermost... The example of Sami Dagher...

**The Long Road:**

The church sent Paul and Silas to preach. They added Timothy and went. They walked a long, long way, through Phrygia. Paul tries to preach—and God stops him:

***“The Holy Spirit forbid them from preaching...!”***

Sometimes God says “no” to godly initiatives. 5X!!!

What do Paul and team do? They go to the next region. They come to a city called Troas (Troy—the place fooled by the Trojan horse).

***Sometimes we need to reach the end of our resources/options before God can speak His plan to us.***

God speaks a “yes” after 5 experiences of being forbidden.” They arrive in Philippi:

***They were staying in this city for many days...Acts 16:12b NASB***

Sometimes, even when guidance is given, it takes time to come to success.

Lydia is the first convert to Christ in a journey of over 1000 miles, mostly by foot and some by boat. That is a long trip to preach a gospel message.

*The CMA is just like that. We send workers into closed regions, ask the Lord to give our workers opportunity to share the Lord. Sometimes they are told to say nothing! Yet they ask God for opportunity. In time, “after many days”, a home is opened, and this becomes the foothold into a community, and then a congregation is born. And we are a part of that process, all around the world. When we give to Global advance we are taking the gospel to regions that simply have not known their need of the Lord of glory.*