

SERMON TRANSCRIPT

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SPEAKER

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SERIES

Let The Nations Be Glad

PART

1

TITLE

Our Unshakeable Ballast

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 67



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Providence family, it's good to see each of you. If you're a guest with us we are really glad that you were here. If you have in your hand a Bible, if you want to turn with me to Psalm 67, if you don't have one, there's lots of Bibles in the cheers near you. And if you don't have one at home, take that as a gift. For those of you who prayed for me as I asked two weeks ago, I just want to say thank you. We had an amazing time, for those of you don't know, I took my son out to a base. He serves and he is now living in San Diego. And so we had quite an adventure together over the last couple weeks, and I just wanna say, thank you for your prayers.

There's a man named Peter Cameron Scott, he was born in 1867. He heard the gospel, totally changed his heart. He was born again. He was absolutely convinced and enthralled with the forgiveness that was given to him in Jesus Christ. And in his early '20s, he, he felt like the Lord was calling him to go to Africa because of the vast lostness, the number of people in Africa who had never heard the name of Jesus or the good news that he died in order to forgive us of our sin. And so he and his brother, John, traveled to Africa. And soon after the arrived, John died of the fever and Peter, he contracted sickness malaria, and he had to return home to England.

And when he returned home to England, he went through a season where he was absolutely riddled with doubt, with grief, with pain. He was wrestling in a soul as to why would God allow some of his servants who would go and do something very, very difficult to a place that at the time was very, very difficult and for them to experience, for him to experience such difficulty, and he even had to bury his own brother, he dug the hole himself.

So one day he's in England and he chooses to go to the abbey, Westminster abbey and to pray. And when he gets there, he is walking around and he sees the tombstone for David Livingston, who was a missionary in Africa before he was born. And he's reading the tombstone and off to the side he reads these words, "Other sheep I have which are not of this fold them also I must bring and they shall hear my voice." These are the verses, if you were here Friday night that I showed you were from Jesus himself, from John chapter 10. And in looking at these verses inscribed upon this man's tombstone and seeing the vision of Jesus having sheep in places without the gospel and being determined to bring them into his fold through the witness of other Christians, well led Peter to return to form the African Inland Mission. In the first year he was in Kenya, he walked 2,600 miles and planted four churches from the coast inward. And then he went to heaven 18 months later, dying from malaria.

In the next 150 years to today, there has been counted back over 2 million African men and women who have come to faith in Christ that can be directly pointed back in a chain, a link from one witness to the next, to Peter Cameron Scott. When we have, and as we have been thinking about reaching people in our circle of influence, so look at the people that God has us living near, working with, and wondering if they know Christ, if they've ever heard the gospel, and seeing it as our privilege to help reach them, to share the gospel with them, to have a meal with them, to serve them. One of the things we have to be very careful of, is to not forget that God is not only called us simultaneously to reach people who are close that we can see with our

eyes, but also those, those 3 billion people who are unreached on the other side of the earth, that if you don't go and see them, you'll never see them.

If we don't see them, we won't pray for them, we won't share the gospel with them. And so for the next two weeks, what we want to do is we want to do a real brief series before Christmas. We want to look at Christ's desire to reach the nations, and in doing so to make them glad by sending us with the gospel. I realize the artwork, it features a boat. If you sign up for a mission trip today, we're not going to put you on a boat and sail you over to certain places of the world, however, the boat offers a great illustration that I want to lean upon for the next two weeks. What I want to do this morning is to show you from Psalms 67, that if our missionary zeal as a church and as its individual believers is to endure, it's like a boat that needs a ballast.

A ballast is a weight. It's a weight that sits deep down within the boat, sometimes even in the keel. And what it does is it causes the boat to sit heavier in the water, and in doing so, we reduce our agility. We can't just do what we want to do. This ballast is confining, and yet it's also stabilizing. And it's the ballast that keeps the boat of missionary zeal afloat during the storms of cancer, and depression, and anxiety, and death, and bereavement, and job loss, and discouragement, and loneliness, and everything else that we face as individuals who live on the earth. So today I want to fill our boat with a ballast that reduces that agility, but it keeps us the float. And then next week I wanna look at personally ambition, desire, and calling. And we want to build a mast and a cross beam that could hold a sail that has the capability of capturing and holding on to the wind of the holy spirit that would blow us along to people who are in need of the gospel.

Today, we look at Psalm 67, and before we read it, I want to pray. Father in heaven, we ask for your grace that you, by your spirit, would open up our eyes. We ask you holy spirit, open our heart to your word. Would you demonstrate your power, would you take the very words that are written in Psalms 67, and would you etch them into our heart. Even if I am incapable of explaining them adequately, would you create within each one of us, a fire within us, a burden to pray for people who have never heard that they can be forgiven of their sin through Jesus Christ. We ask for help and I pray even now, that as the end of our time when we put forth opportunities, ways to commit to engage individually, I pray that you would warm our hearts now. In these moments, we pray in Jesus name, amen.

Psalm 67 says, "May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us. That your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the people's praise you oh God, let all the people's praise you. Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the people's with equity and guide nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise you oh God let all the peoples praise you. The earth has yielded its increase and God, our God shall bless us. God shall bless us. Let all the ends of the earth fear him." If the mission needs a ballast that will not rust, that will not shake, that will not break, then surely that ballast cannot be anything that originates or springs from ourselves. For if it's simply our energy, that's our ballast we get tired. If it's built upon our wisdom, well, there's things we don't know.

Sometimes we act foolishly. If it's mercy and compassion, where we see somebody and suddenly our gut, our heart goes out to them, we say, we must take the gospel to them, what's problematic about that being the ballast, that mercy and compassion being the ballast and our heart is sometimes our heart feels cold. Sometimes we get selfish. Sometimes we get self-protective and we don't think about other people. Sometimes we see need right in front of us and yet our eyes don't see the need that's right in front of us. Now, the only ballast that will last, the only ballast that can be put into our heart and into our church that would keep us fervent and missionary zeal, and taking the gospel to people who have never heard about Jesus Christ must spring from God who is unshakable, who does not rust and who does not cower in the face of storms.

The only ballast that will last is God's unwavering desire for people to know, love, and worship his worthy son. Jesus Christ is worthy of the worship from the whole world and yet the whole world is not worshipping him. It is the worth of Christ and it is the desire of Christ to get the gospel to people that is the only ballast that will take you through the storms that you are going to face this coming year. That will keep you sensitive, that will keep you burdened, that will keep you praying for people who are no worse than you morally and yet they are not as blessed as you in the sense that they have never heard that their sins can be forgiven because Jesus died and rose again. They don't know God's desires found within his Bible, the Psalmist Bible, the Old Testament, created within the Psalmist this ballast that he felt like he had to write a song that would be given to the congregation, to the nation of Israel so that they could sing it. And his hope was that it would move them to return to their original purpose of being a kingdom of priest unto the earth.

And so I want to show you this morning, before I specifically ask you to commit to do something, I want to show you three desires that are in the heart of Christ that matter, that should matter to us, people who care about Christ. The first is this, is Christ desires to be loved and worshiped among all nations. He desires to be loved and worshiped among all nations. We find this in Psalm 67. Now, just imagine for a moment, there was a group of people and they had a Bible and they heard the great commandment and the great commission. The great commandment, love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love neighbor as yourself. And the great commission, go therefore make disciples of all nations, baptize them in the name of the father and the son and the holy spirit, and teaching them to obey all things just as I've commanded you. And surely I am with you to the end of the age.

And this small group of families, they get together and they say, "This is the core values of life. This is the revelation of God." The Bible rest upon these two things, loving God, loving one another, and loving people who don't know God. Let's build the town and make this the core values of our town. And just imagine they do so. And because it's the core values, they put it on the town sign and the town sign goes up. So anytime you leave town or come into town, you see, this is what the town is all about. Decades pass and during those decades, because it's a town that's marked with such love, a lot of people want to move in. So all these people who perhaps didn't know why the town was founded, they just look at the fruit and they go, "This is a really good thing. I think I want to be a part." And suddenly there's all these kids that are born and suddenly, because enough time has happened, the founders of the town, they all die. And then the sign blows over and

nobody notices.

Or years later, there's a man, he is out for a walk and he sees something in the weeds and he goes over and he picks up and he sees the sign. And suddenly he recognizes that this was the core values, this is the marching orders, this was our created purpose of living in this place. And so he runs back into town and he says, "I want you all to know, this is why we're here." What I just described is what Psalm 67 is all about. The Psalmist is looking at the sign, it's not a road sign, it's this sign, it's the Bible. He's looking at God's word and he is recognizing and seeing that God has spoken specific things to them as a people. One of them is Numbers. Numbers chapter six, it says, "The Lord bless you and keep you, and the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you." If you still have your Bible open, you can see that looks very similar to verse one.

And then he recognizes, he recognizes as a Psalmist, he's looking back and he goes, "Oh, this is true, but why would he bless us?" And so he opens up Exodus. And in Exodus 19:6, God says, "You shall be to me, a kingdom of priest in a holy nation." And so he recognizes, "Oh, this is why God wants to bless us. This is why he sets his face upon us, is he us to become a holy nation." Holy, simply means set apart. It means different, that the people would look at our lives and they would see something is different, they would see love and a quality of relationship and a winsomeness of life and responsibility that people would go, "Wow. I think I want to live in that town. I want to be around these people." And in a doing so would be given the privilege, being a kingdom of a priest. In the Old Testament, there was prophets who brought God to the people, thus say it the Lord. And then there was priests and priests brought people to God.

You'd come to a priest and you'd go, "I don't know what to do," and he'd say, "Hold on a second, come with me. Let me show you what the Lord has said." And this was his intent, is to bless a people so that they would be different. Then it being different, they would bring people who see the difference and they would say, "Let me introduce you to God." This was their created purpose. The Psalmist reads these things and he's reminded, and therefore he runs back into town and he writes this Psalm in order to teach the people their intended created purpose. And so notice what he says and verses one through seven, he says, "May God be gracious to us, bless us, make his face to shine upon us." And then he says, "And this is why he wants to do that, so that he'll be known, so that he'll be praised, so that he will be enjoyed, glad and sing for joy, enjoyed and he will be feared."

This is the desire of God and who would do the knowing, and the enjoying, and the fearing, who would this be? And he says, if you just highlight different words in the text, it's all nations, all peoples, all peoples in all the ends of the earth. God's desire is for all nations and all peoples to worship his son, to enjoy him, praise him, know him, and fear him. This is why God created people that we would know him, praise him, enjoy him, and fear him. This is why he created Israel to know praise, enjoy, and fear him. This is why Christ came to the earth, revealed God himself to us, it's that we would know him, that we would praise him, we would enjoy, and we would fear him. This is why the church it exist. This is why Providence exist. And this is why missions matters. Missions matters because the knowledge, praise, enjoyment, and fear of Christ does not

exist in the world.

There is nothing truer that can be said than Jesus is worthy of your worship. And not just your worship, but the worship of all the nations. And there is therefore nothing sadder that can be said that the nations and the peoples are not worshipping him. It's the greatest injustice in all the world is that Jesus Christ the worthy one is not being worshiped. Psalm 1:13, says it this way, "From the rising of the sun to its setting," it comes up over here it touches all these people. It sets on this side in all of those people, what are they supposed to be doing? The name of the Lord in that space is supposed to be praised. He is worthy, and yet he is not worshiped. It is this desire that is found in God that becomes unbreakable ballast within the heart of a Christian that says no matter what the storm is in life, I'm still going to pay attention to people in my circle of influence and outside of my circle of influence who do not know Christ.

If there is any other ballast you or we will tip over. And it won't take very long, because life is hard. And you have to ask the question, is this self-seeking? I mean, this is God saying, worship me, praise me. You'd be offended if I stood up here, my sermon was, this is really what we want to do. Let's forget, Jesus. I want you to worship me and praise me. You'd be offended, right? I hope you'd be offended. I would be offended. So why is it right? I mean, the Bible says that God is love. And first Corinthians 13 says that love is not self-seeking. And so think about it this way, if my goal was to get you to worship me and glorify me, that would be the height of unlove. It would be burying something common in my yard and telling you to dig for treasure. You could only be disappointed.

I want you to know that if you look at any human being, myself or the person next to you, anyone else, and you think getting to know this person to be with this person is the ultimate treasure of my soul, I want you to know something, you are going to be repeatedly disappointed. But Christ is the ultimate treasure. And so therefore, it is perfect love in him that leads him to tell people in all the world to worship him, for in worshipping him all the peoples are made eternally glad. You see if you made it your point to glorify me or someone else, you would be perpetually disappointed, but if you make it your point to draw near to Christ and worship him, you will be perpetually and increasingly pleased. It's better today than it was yesterday to walk with the Lord. And so his desire is to be loved and worshiped among all nations. Second, is Christ desires to rescue people among all nations. Oh, I hope you know this Providence, let it burn deep within you, people matter to God. It matters to him today that three billion people have no access to the gospel. They are far from him. They are without Christ, without forgiveness, without assurance. He cares about the lost unreached and unengaged.

So let me describe those three. We use those terms and sometimes our mind puts them all together. Some of you think I have people who aren't Christians on my street, therefore they're unreached. No, they are reached, they're just lost. So let me describe a loss. Loss is someone who is yet to trust Christ and therefore they don't have a reference point for life. So their loss, that's how the Bible describes them. Anyone outside of Christ fits into the category of lost. However, the people on your street are reached, even the ones that are

lost they're reached. And the reason is because you live there. God has seen fit to put somebody within reach of those people to tell them the good news that they can be forgiven of their sin. They're reached.

There are three billion people though, in the world today who are unreached, not only are they lost, they are without anyone close enough to tell them about Christ. Now, I want you to think about this, okay? Then you would say, "Well, what's unengaged?" If you take that three billion people, 60% of those three billion people, there is somebody, some church, some mission sending seminary, something that's looks at them on the map and says, "Let's pray for them. Let's go there." They're unreached, but they're being engaged. But there are 40% of those three billion people, not only are they lost without Christ, not only are they unreached, but there is no known strategy among all the churches, all the seminaries, all the agencies, and all of the world who saying, let's go tell them.

And Christ cares about all of them. He knows man's guilt and he knows his standard come judgment day. He tells us plainly in Matthew chapter five, what does he say? "You must be perfect as your heavenly father is perfect." Do you know who goes to heaven? Morally perfect people. That's it. He's holy, only people who are morally holy can go to heaven. That's his standard, that's not mine, is what he says. But notice what he says in verse four, you'll say, "Well, this is really bad news." Notice what he says in verse four, though, the nations, "Let the nations be glad and sing for joy." For, this is the word because, "because you judge the peoples with equity." And you might say, "What? Wait a minute, hold it second. You're telling me that there is going to be a people that actually get to the place that are glad and sing for joy because of the thought that one day they are going to stand before a holy God who is going to judge them with equity?"

How in the world could anyone sing about that day if we know that all of us are, we've all fallen short of his glory. And the answer is the gospel. Jesus Christ came to the earth, he lived without sin, he died for our sin, and then he rose from the dead and all who trust in him, the Bible calls justified. It involves a number of different things. And I want to show you in the form of buckets. For those of you who've been here a while, you've seen these buckets before, but you'll never forget them once you see them, and you think about them this way. The Bible says that all of us have sinned. And so this first bucket is dirty water. We're going to stand before God, and every single person is going to stand before a holy God who demands perfection, moral perfection, and we are all have filth within our heart.

And so the first thing that happens when we trust Christ is the second bucket, we're forgiven. Forgiveness means send away, it's to take our sin and send it away. It's to take the water and throw it out, and all of a sudden now the bucket it's at least clean, but it's empty. You show up before a holy Christ with an empty bucket, you're not going to sing today about that day. Now something else has to happen, and that's what justification is. And that is that, not only does he take away our sin, but he gives us the perfect righteousness of Christ. It's called the imputed righteousness of Christ, where his account and your account switch. He says all the sin that's on your account, I'll take it, all the righteousness on my account you take it.

And therefore this last bucket is the Christian. This is why today we can sing about the day that we are going to be judged with equity, and the reason is because God tells us in Romans chapter eight verse one, "That there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." And what that means is this, is that we can sing today because God has promised us today that on that day when we stand before him, that we will be not only found innocent, but we will be declared innocent. So we can sing about it. I can't wait to see him. But not everyone can sing because most people they're simply taking that dirty bucket and they're trying to add through their good works a little bit more clean water. No matter how much clean water you add to a dirty bucket, it never gets totally clean. Only the gospel can prepare people for that day.

And so he tell us to go and what should we know? I know that there's a lot of people, even in this room, we've asked the question, what happens to people who never hear? Don't you recognize that you are not called to contribute to that argument, you are called to be the solution to the problem. Enough of Christians asking what of the people who don't hear instead, let's go tell them like he told us to. And so what do we need to know about these people who are out there? The first thing is this, we need to know that all people have knowledge of God. "His eternal power and divine nature have been clearly perceived ever since the creation of the world and the things that have been made so they're without excuse." I've been to over 40 different countries and every country I've been to, there are people who look up into the sunset or look into the beauty and they say, "There must be a God."

The second truth about all people though, is this is, there are no innocent people. We start the argument, what about all those innocent people on the other side of the world? It's a great question. It's just, there aren't any. Romans 3:23, "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. All have made choice to rebel against him to not be with him." And God in his mercy shows us the third thing, and that is that God has made a way of salvation. 1st Peter three, "Christ suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous that he might bring us to God." There is a way. And that brings us to the fourth. And it's a very important missional point. And that is this, it's sincerity in what is false won't save.

You came in and you sat down in that chair, assuming that it would hold you up, but your faith didn't hold you up, the strength of that chair held you up. If your chair was broken, you would've fallen to the ground, even though you were absolutely sincere and believing in placing your own life upon it. Jesus came to this earth and he said, "If God were your father you would love me." What that means is this, Jesus is saying, it does not matter how sincere a person is in terms of their belief system, if the source or the place where they're placing their faith is unable to save they won't be saved. And that gets to the last and the Christ is called us to be his witness, Acts 1:8, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judah and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

And every year, come this time, people come up to me afterwards and say, "You know what? We should not think about those nations, we should think about Raleigh. There's so much lostness in Raleigh." And that would be true if there were different words added in here. So let's read it, let's add some words and then that

would be true. “You’ll be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and then in all Judah and Samaria, and then to the end of the earth,” but the then is not there. And what that means is this, is that God has called us to not only care simultaneously about the people in our circle and in our city, but also the people who live today in Thailand and other places who’ve never heard of Christ. It’s simultaneous, it’s not one and then the other, because if we wait until everyone in Raleigh is reached or is saved in order to care about all others, we will never care about all others.

Maybe just end it this way, if it was you over there as one of those three billion people, would you want someone to come tell you? And that gets to the third thing, third desire of Christ, and is that Christ desires to bless us for the sake of all nations. This Psalmist, he knows that God has this record, this historical record of blessing people, not so that they become a bigger puddle, but become a channel to bless other people. This is how Israel was even started. God comes to a man named Abraham and he says, “Abraham, let me tell you something, I will bless you. I will make your name great so that you will be a blessing, and in you, all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” So the Psalmist recognizes this historical pattern that God wants to bless you in order to be a blessing, so notice how he bookends his Psalm verse one, “May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us.” Verse six and seven, “The earth is yielded, it’s increase God, our God shall bless us. God shall bless us.”

What’s happening here? Is he speaking selfish? I mean like all this blessing, it sounds like what I watch on TV, health and wealth preaching, all that. Just you have enough faith he’s going to bless you, he’s going to bless you, he’s gonna bless you. Is that what he’s doing? No, it’s not what he’s doing. Well, what’s he doing? This man simply knows that missions takes money. And so he goes to the Lord and he says, “God, this is what we need. We have seeds planted on the ground we’re asking you to bless those so that we have a really big harvest this year so that we can sell that and take a portion of that in order to send people with the gospel to people who have never heard.”

And so if you can understand that God blesses that we would be a blessing, then you can understand that it’s going to change your perspective of everything in your life, your friendships, your prayer time, your resources, your job. Some of you, you hate your job and you think what’s the purpose of going tomorrow? One of the purposes in many of us going to jobs in America is so that we can earn a paycheck and take a portion of that paycheck and help people send the gospel to the nations. It’s all connected together. He wants to bless so that we will be a blessing. And just as the Psalmist optimistically pronounced at the end, God shall bless us. Providence, I want you to know that there’s every reason to believe that God will continue to bless us as a church family if we remain committed to be a blessing to other people.

And so I want to end with some applications. The first one is for those who are here in the room, or maybe at home, or somewhere else who have never trusted Christ, and I want to encourage you right now to commit your life to Christ. Some of you’re thinking, “Man, you’re talking a whole lot about taking this news to places around the world, but I’ve never believed this. I’ve never heard this.” Some of you, this is the first time you’ve

ever heard that you can be forgiven of your sin, and entrusting Jesus right now, and praying to him right now, you can be forgiven justified. You can become that bucket that goes from dirty, not just to empty, but absolutely full with clean water. This is what he wants to do in your life. And you do that simply by admitting, by praying saying, “God, I admit that I have sinned against you. I believe in Jesus Christ and I confess him as Lord of my life.”

He will not only forgive you and give you his righteousness, but then he is gonna do something else, he’s gonna attach you to his community that has a distinct purpose to be a kingdom of priest and a holy nation to the world. Therefore we get to the card. You have the one of those cards, if you’re in the front row, you just have to reach back or hopefully have a friend that can reach in front and hand you a card. But you see the cards and the seat backs in front of you. Each of the rest of these applications, they’re all on that card. So if you want to go and take one and just look at it. Second thing I would ask you to do is to commit to pray.

And if you look on that card and you would fill that out, and if you would mark prayer, let me tell you what’s going to happen, is that monthly, you are going to receive confidential prayer requests from our partners around the world, our missionaries and church planners around the world, as well as prayer points for teams that will be leading from Providence to places in our country and outside of our country. And so he may be calling you to pray, or I would encourage you to commit to give. You say, “Well, what happens if I mark that?” Well, we’re aware of many financial needs among the institutions and churches, and church plants of people, our partners on the field, they let us know those needs and we simply would want to let you know what those needs are. You can pray about them and then you can make your choice as to whether that’s where you would want to give.

Next, to commit to go. You walked out, and if you walk out again in the lobby, you see all these banners with different places, there’s 16 mission trip, short term mission trips out there for this next year. We would love for you to simply go out there, you’d write your name. To write your name is not saying I need a passport, I’m going, it’s to say, would somebody let me know when this is happening and where and how, I’m interested in learning more. And you can mark that and we’ll be in touch with you about the opportunities. For some of you it’s not just a week or two weeks, maybe it’s like my wife and I, before we were married, I went to Southern Africa for six months and she went for two years. That’s actually how we met is in the training process. So I’ll tell that story next week. But the fact is it may be that the Lord is calling you to participate for longer than a short term mission trip.

And the last one is to commit to serve. If you flip that card, you see lots of different ways that we need people, just willing hands, right here at Providence to help serve in order to send people as they go. So what I want to do right now is I want to give you just a moment, a moment of silence with that card in your hand and just pray. God, is there anything here that you want me to do? Now look, there’s no pressure, this is between you and the Lord, and we’re going to do this next week also. So if you’re not ready to make a commitment, then don’t. But if you are, if you say, this is what God is calling me to do, then I invite you just to pray and ask. And

if that's the case, then you fill out that card. So let me give you a moment now.

So I know for some of you, you're not ready to fill that out and that's totally okay. I would ask you to pray this next week, and maybe next week, the Lord will make it clear to you. But if you did fill out that card, I want to ask you to do something that's a little unusual, it takes courage. And that is, what I want to ask you to do is just a clear expression of dependence to the Lord to help you. I want to ask you to stand and I want to pray for you, and then I'm going to ask you to sit back down. But if you filled that out that card, and if you would let it be known to the Lord and say, I would ask that you would pray for me that the Lord would make it clear, then go ahead and stand at this time. Okay?

So let me pray, father in heaven, we love you and we thank you for your kindness to each one of us. I pray for those in the room who are still considering trusting Christ. I pray that you would make it evident to their heart, that you love them and that you desire to rescue them. I pray for those who are standing, whether it's to pray or give or go or serve, pray God that you would give them the endurance, the clarity, the wisdom, the understanding, the resource, the time to carry out what you've called them to do. I ask father for those who are still seated, that you would give them clarity, but we know we all have a part to play, we confess to you, we don't always know what that part is. And so I simply asked that for us, that you would make it clear, that you would open up our heart to precisely how you would desire for us to commit. So thank you for your kindness to us. And we pray this in Jesus name. Amen.

Y'all can be seated. And when we're finished here this morning, if you did fill out a card and you want to turn that in, at the doors there'll be several buckets so you can just drop those in the bucket. But before we do that, I want to introduce to you Rachel Hulicki, she's going to be traveling to, I said traveling, she's going to be moving to Thailand for the next two years to serve. And we have the privilege as leaders and as the church family to pray for her and send her off. And so I've asked Rachel, as we have in the last two services to share just a few thoughts and needs with you. So Rachel.

Hey, Providence. I'm honored to be here with y'all today. I wouldn't be going without the immense support and prayers from this church. So thank you family. Like Brian said, I'm about to head to Thailand for two years to be working with a Providence plant there with our partner, Angela Dawson actually. I will be helping teach some missionary kids. And once I get enough language, I will be working in the community with some English clubs and some other ministry opportunities there. So I would really appreciate the prayers. I'm still waiting for my visa, that would be great, but please pray that I will fully depend on the Lord and that many Thai people would come to know the Lord.

So let's pause and let's pray for it, send her out as a church family. Father in heaven we thank you for the gift that you give to us to be a part of each other of lives. We see in the New Testament, that when you called somebody to leave a body, to go and to tell other people about the gospel that oftentimes leaders in the church family would gather around, lay hands and pray and send them out. And that's our privilege to do

now. We asked for Rachel that you would give her protection and grace that you would give her provision, that you would take care of her, that you would give her that visa, or that you would provide her friendship.

I ask God that you would give her heart humility as she interacts with people, wisdom to share the gospel, compassion to feel the needs that the people who were there, wisdom and working on the team with others. God we ask that you would protect and provide as only you can. Lord that you would do things in her life, in her heart to feed her, protect her, encourage her by the power of your holy spirit. And then father through her, would you bring the gospel to many people who've never heard that not only this year, but in the years to come, that those seeds would be planted and eventually watered, and eventually that there would be people who placed their faith and trust in Jesus Christ. And so we love you so much, we sing to you now as we send her off and we pray this in Jesus name. Amen. Amen. Would you stand? Let's sing together.



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