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THE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC MISSIONARY INTERCESSORS OF
THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE BURNING BUSH

"BEAR ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS AND SO FULFILL THE LAW OF CHRIST." (GALATIANS 6: 2)

INTERCESSION AND EVANGELIZATION

By Sister Stephen

*"The harvest is ripe but the laborers are few.
PRAY, THEREFORE,
the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into His harvest fields."
(Mt.9: 37; Lk.20: 2)*

"PRAY, THEREFORE ..."

The Lord Jesus, the only Son of God reveals God's way for us in face of the overwhelming needs we find in the lives and hearts of all people around the world and in all God's creation.

"PRAY, THEREFORE ..."

Our Lord Jesus, the Christ, THE Missionary and Evangelist of the Father in Heaven (*John 1:18*), sets before us His response to the Father's Great Commission to bring all back to Him, in Whom is the Fullness of Life. Indeed, this whole Scripture on the Harvest reveals God's initial overall strategy for this unique time in history, when *all Christians* of all denominations from around the world are called by God to work "TOGETHER" during a special decade of evangelizing the whole world by 2000 A.D. beginning in 1990.

The Lord Jesus spoke these words about the harvest to His disciples as He sent them out on mission. He Himself was to visit the peoples and villages, and His followers were to prepare the way before Him. The signs and wonders they were given power to do and the words they had authority to speak were to be preceded by

"PRAY, THEREFORE ..."

And He called them to pray TOGETHER. It was as if to say --- the Father Himself confirms His call to serve in prayer --- even as Jesus Himself experienced. He sent them out of His own prayer

with the Father. And as they prayed TOGETHER, the Father Himself would clarify and more specifically direct, equip, and empower them for His Mission. **“PRAY, THEREFORE ...”** was not only to precede their mission, but was to be the manner of their mission and the means to have others sent out as well.

This Scripture on the harvest reveals a marvelous Divine Strategy: God's Vision, our initial response, and the key to fulfilling His vision. First, we catch a glimpse of how God sees our world: HARVEST-TIME. The harvest produced by that “seed that fell in the ground and died”, Jesus Christ, the Son of God-made flesh, is ready. This is God's Vision ... His Son.

“Without a Vision, the people are scattered and perish” ... so the Holy Spirit reminds us in Proverbs 29. We need God's Vision to properly see the peoples of the world. And the Vision God sets before us is that of Harvest --- a harvest so rich, a harvest so ready that there is an urgency to respond. (*John 4:35-38*) As the Lord shares His Vision of harvest, He also describes the main need He sees--*“The laborers are few!”* Not the needs we usually speak of --- food, shelter, peace, and faith --- No, “The laborers are few!” He sees the people as *“sheep without a Shepherd”*. Jesus knows the Father-Shepherd and His abundant provision. Remember that marvelous Psalm 23 on the Shepherding Fatherly care of the Lord, Almighty God ... the Lord-God of infinite possibility and provision. *“Is anything too wonderful for God?”* (*Genesis 18: 14*) It is this God who cares for all people through His laborers.

The provision is ready, the dispensers are few. This is the real need in the world today --- those who would bridge the gap to make the connection between the creative, manifold provision of God and the many needs of His people and His creation. Our first response to that vision of God is **“PRAY, THEREFORE ...”**. Here is the call to a united, desperate, corporate kind of prayer --- an urgency like that of farmers at harvest time. NOW is the appointed moment --- NOW is the time to reap! So NOW is the time to PRAY --- in earnest --- as never before.

“PRAY, THEREFORE ...”

And the prayer target - the key for God to fulfill His vision is *“for the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into His harvest fields.”* Already there are a few laborers in the fields. But some 25% of the world believes in the Lord Jesus. Some 50% have never heard of His name or seen a Christian. Today for the first time in history we have the capability to reach the entire world for Jesus Christ. And the Holy Spirit has sent out the call for all Christians to work TOGETHER in the coming decade of the 90's to accomplish the Father's Dream. *“Whom shall we send? Who will go for us?”* The Father's words echo from Isaiah 6 to our time.

“PRAY, THEREFORE ...”

Come, Holy Spirit, for a new Pentecost on the whole Body of Christ so we can be witnesses of the Lord Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth ... for only *“... with God are all things possible. (Lk.1: 37)*

At the Global Consultation on World Evangelization (Singapore, January 1989), the present situation of the Body of Christ was explained in terms of Israel at Kadesh-Barnea in the desert, during their journey to the Promised land from Egypt (*Numbers 13*). Like the Children of Israel, we are at a point of serious decision as the people of God --- standing at the gates of the Promised Land. The "spies" have returned to tell us of the abundance God has ready for all who will enter --- and of the readiness of the people who bow before God. But also they tell of “giants” in the land --

- language barriers, satanic strongholds, and spiritual warfare in so many non – Christian and previously Christian nations, and, most of all, of a selfishness and local - mindedness in Christians themselves. The first two years of this decade are the crucial time. Will God's people catch His Vision and be ready to be sent in His power like Caleb and Joshua? Or will they focus on “our inability” and find comfort in the “way it's always been” and rebel in fear because "there are giants in these lands" --- even next door --- and refuse to go. **“PRAY, THEREFORE ...”** for the Lord of the Harvest to send forth laborers.

During a recent missionary outreach in Japan, the Lord showed the effectiveness of His Divine strategy for the harvest. Japan is ½ of 1% Christian; and spiritually the ground is very hard with much opposition to the Lord Jesus and Christianity. Many Japanese worship some 8 million gods. The initial prayer weapons the Lord led us to use in this harvest field were praise and worship. Psalm 22 says God "makes His home in our praises" --- or God is "enthroned as King on our praises". The Holy Spirit showed us that by our praises and worship, we can build a throne to the Lord Jesus that would be above all the other thrones people build to the many gods in Japan. Then He promised: *“If I am lifted up, I will draw all men to Myself”. John 12: 32)* He Himself would go out as the laborer in the field.

The Catholic Charismatic Missionary Intercessors of the Fellowship of the Burning Bush (Ai No Izumi or Fountain-Spring of Love ... the Japanese branch of FBB) began to seriously praise and worship God in their meetings during this past year. They are now seeing a dramatic change in terms of answered prayer and conversion. In one group an intercessor, who is the only Christian in her pagan family, had been praying for her family since her own conversion. She and others began to target in on their families with much praise and worship intercession, in obedience to the Direction of the Holy Spirit. In one week her husband, mother and father joined the Catholic Church. **ALLELUIA!!!!** Also, God has since been answering every prayer in that group with conversions and dramatic miracles and healing and deliverance --- even raising the dead --- just through earnest praises and worship of Jesus. **GLORY TO JESUS!!!**

What is the vision and prayer strategy God will give you to prepare the way for the Gospel in your own area or in some other area of the world? **“PRAY, THEREFORE ...”** and ASK HIM!

How can you respond to Jesus command to **“PRAY, THEREFORE ...”**? DO IT!

(Here we are now in 2008 A.D. Many peoples around the world have been reached through the decade of Evangelization and some have some to believe in Jesus. But the work of the harvest is far from finished. So we invite you, even more earnestly...

“PRAY, THEREFORE ...”

We especially invite you to join us in prayer TOGETHER for the Church. Join in some of the other many and various prayer networks the Holy Spirit has inspired ... as well as in upcoming prayer events in your nations and a round the world.

“PRAY, THEREFORE ...”

**COME, HOLY SPIRIT, HAVE YOUR WAY
FOR THE GLORY OF GOD, OUR FATHER, IN JESUS, OUR LORD! AMEN!**