

“A Blessing to Be Shared”

Psalm 67

“I have a dream,” said Martin Luther King “a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed.” The writer of this psalm is also captured by a great dream, a dream that one day God’s people would rise up and live out the true meaning of the great promise to Abraham:

“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you;
I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” (Gen. 12:2-3)

- 1) Do you have a dream or plan that you’re looking forward to (or hoping will come true)?
- 2) **Read Psalm 67.** What passage in Scripture does v.1 remind you of (check your cross references? What words do you notice being repeated throughout this passage and what is being emphasized?
- 3) Can you recall a time when someone’s face lit up when they saw you? How does the picture of God in v.1 compare with how you envision God looking upon you?
- 4) In an age before modern media, how did the Psalmist see God’s fame spreading far and wide (v.2)? When/How did you first hear about God in a positive light?
- 5) What is the centre of the psalm between the sandwich of v.3 and v.5? There may be many things that make people happy (e.g. a great dessert), but what is the source of the nations’ gladness and joy in verse 4?
- 6) What is the largest group you have ever found yourself celebrating with? What do you think it would be like to be in a setting where “all the peoples” were praising God (cf. Revelation 7⁹⁻¹²)?
- 7) Commentator Derek Kidner notes that the only verb in the past tense in the Psalm (in Hebrew) is in verse 6 (lit. “the land has yielded its harvest”). This may indicate the original setting of this Psalm as being a harvest festival (Thanksgiving). What other kind of harvest is the Psalmist leading the people in a prayer for?
- 8) Spend some time in prayer for some of the nations in need and/or some of the nationalities in your area that need to know God’s “ways” and “salvation” (v.2).

MBMSI "Vision for Mission" Update (Fall 2010) - After 12 years of language learning, Bible translation and relationship building in a remote region of Burkina Faso (West Africa), the time came for Phil and Carol Bergen and their team to begin publically sharing the scriptures in the Nanerge' language. For two and a half months they shared the gospel with an interested family clan. Finally they came to Christ's call to "make disciples of all nations, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...". One man stated that although they believed the scriptures, they could not yet call themselves "Christians" because they had not yet been taught all that Christ commanded them.

Another young man stood up and declared "I am a Christian." The community asked him how he could know that. He responded that he had spent time in jail and a Christian had visited with him and told him that Jesus was alive and was the only Saviour. This young man testified that he prayed to Jesus that day in jail and asked Him for salvation. The next day he was unexplainably released from jail. For three years he had lived as a secret Believer in Jesus in a M*sl*m community. Through his testimony, eight other adults declared that day that they too wanted to become Christ's followers.

On the day of their baptism, this young man was riding in a vehicle with the Bergens when he began singing. Nanerge men never sing. An elderly woman who was also riding in the vehicle began laughing and asked the young man what he was doing. He responded that she should get used to singing because Jesus had given him a new song. He is now the worship leader of this growing church.

I was reminded of Paul's words, "Be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord." (Eph 6:18-19) There are new believers who are singing new songs because we are investing in mission together!