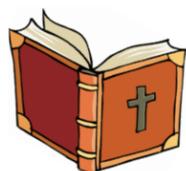


A Life That Follows A Vision



Let's read the Bible

Acts 20:17-32
23:11-25
27:19-37

We consider together

Dear Holy Spirit, let us have a dream for God and carry it out. I am not afraid but encouraged even when challenges come to me as You will be with us always.



St. Paul was a man of visions. Visions are dreams that God gives to us. Whenever Paul was going through something difficult and hard, he was able to continue on while thinking of God's promise, and bravely threw himself into God-given opportunities. In order to share the gospel to foreigners, he thought he would go to Rome while doing an evangelizing tour. This thought was also a vision he received from God. Paul went through tough experiences like arrests, threats of assassination, storms and shipwrecks, but even these things could not make him give up on his vision.

Cameron Townsend, who established SIL (1936), Wycliffe Bible Translators (1941), JAARS (1948), etc. was also a man of visions. Townsend never said "can't", and always did what others thought were impossible. Townsend also knew how to tell the difference between 'a vision from God' and a 'fruitless thought'.

Townsend's key to receiving answers to his prayers was by waiting. After praying, he did not rush to try to make his prayers come true, but he left it so that time would pass. Townsend believed that if it was a vision from God, God would open a path for him. If he truly believed that a path was opened up to him by God, he was quick to grab that opportunity.

Townsend was wondering how to share the gospel to people living in the deep jungle, and after finding out that smaller planes could go into the deeper parts of the jungle, he believed that Bible translations can be done, even in deepest parts of the Amazon. He prayed that God

would provide a plane for this Bible translation ministry, and started to share his dream with other people. At first, there was no person to help him, no money to buy a plane, and at the time America was not financially doing well. But Townsend waited until God answered his prayers twenty years later, and God then opened a path for him to start the Bible translation ministry.

One time, Townsend broke his leg because of a plane accident, and was bleeding a lot. Other people might not have continued working because of this accident, but Townsend did not think this way. He took pictures of the plane accident and thought of it as a good opportunity to let others know that a safer piloting ministry was necessary. The JAARS (Jungle Aviation and Radio Service) ministry started in Peru in 1948, and moved its base to Waxhaw, North Carolina in 1968.

The leaders of JAARS who took Townsend's place after he passed away were also people who had visions. By God's grace they continued to knock on doors while praying until God opened them. This is how many pilots and ships have come to serve JAARS today. They are giving great help to local people and missionaries serving and living in far away places.

Let us pray together with JAARS and missionaries who have visions from God and continue to pray as they work, and that they would be able to receive the planes, ships, and transportation they need to go to places that are hard to reach.

Wycliffe Canada wants to see the revival of the Canadian Church through Bible engagement, not only by their reading but also praying and living it out in their life, while they bless those people groups who do not have the Bible by prayers and offerings, a cent per verse or 10 cents per chapter. Please contact us if you want to join.

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