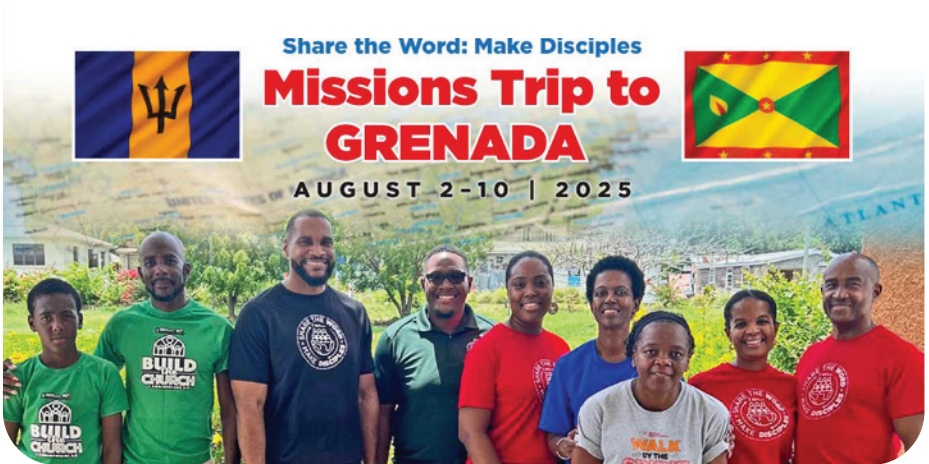


Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

MATTHEW 28:19 ESV



BEREAN BIBLE CHURCH

Worship & Communion Service

Sunday, July 6, 2025

SERVICES & CONTACTS

Worship Services In-person & Online 10:40am & 6pm

 <https://www.youtube.com/user/bereanbarbados/live>

 <https://www.facebook.com/BereanBarbados/live>

Sunday School In-person 9:30 - 1015am

 **ZOOM** links provided

Midweek In-person & Online Service (Wednesday)

Noon & 7:30 pm | ZOOM links provided

Youth Service in-person 7pm (Friday)

 **WhatsApp** 845 - 5752 or Tel: 426 - 4707

email: info@bereanbarbados.org

www.bereanbarbados.org



Faithful Missions, Sovereign Fruit

How God Tracks Gospel Success

The question of what defines successful missionary work is complex and often debated within the modern missions movement. Churches and mission agencies frequently highlight stories of mass conversions and spiritual revivals as indicators of success. Such accounts inspire hope, yet numbers can be misleading, exaggerated, and do not always reflect the true impact of the work. On the other end of the spectrum are missionaries who labor for years with seemingly little visible fruit, leading to the common saying that success is not measured by fruitfulness but by faithfulness. Yet, a complete absence of fruit may also signal a loss of focus or purpose.

The question remains: what constitutes true missionary success?

One helpful guide comes from Jesus's Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:3-9). In this parable, Jesus describes a sower scattering seed, with varying results depending on where the seed lands—some along the path devoured by birds, some on rocky ground that withers, some among thorns that choke the plants, and some on good soil yielding an abundant harvest.

The first observation is that the sower stays focused on the task. His job is simple and clear: to sow the seed. For missionaries, the calling is similarly straightforward—"Go and make disciples." However, maintaining focus in the face of cultural, spiritual, and environmental challenges is far from easy. Mission work is often done in difficult and even dangerous places, which is why Jesus, in giving the Great Commission, assured his followers of his authority and continual presence (Matthew 28:18, 20).

Seed Killers: Discouragements in Mission Work

The parable also outlines three sources of discouragement for those sowing gospel seeds:

Birds (Satan stealing the Word):

1. The birds represent the enemy snatching the gospel away from hearts before it can take root. It is a painful but familiar experience for many missionaries to see someone initially respond positively to the gospel, only to disappear or fall away soon after.

2. Rocks (Shallow Faith and Doubts):

The rocky ground symbolizes a lack of spiritual nourishment, leading to shallow faith that cannot withstand trials or doubts. New believers may encounter theological concerns or personal struggles that challenge their faith. Without strong roots, their initial joy can spiral into confusion and eventually rejection of the faith, highlighting the need for deeper discipleship and supportive communities.

3. Thorns (Worldly Distractions and Pride):

Thorns represent worldly concerns, temptations, and pride that slowly choke spiritual growth. Some who profess faith can become increasingly entangled in the pursuit of material success or personal status, while their faith becomes nominal or even harmful to the church community. Scripture warns that such individuals can become like wolves within the church, causing division and damage (Acts 20:29).

These discouragements are not unique to missionary work, but their impact can feel amplified on the mission field. Years of work can pass without tangible results, testing the resolve and faith of those called to serve.

The Hope of Fruitfulness

Thankfully, the parable does not end with birds, rocks, and thorns. Jesus also promises that some seeds will fall on good soil, producing an extraordinary harvest—thirtyfold, sixtyfold, even a hundredfold. Historically, such yields were considered impossible, but with God's involvement, they become not only possible but abundant.

Sometimes, the long-term impact of faithful gospel sowing is only revealed years later. Churches flourish, ministries multiply, and people come to faith through efforts that seemed fruitless at the time. Even more encouraging is seeing believers who were once discipled leading their own ministries and encountering new converts entirely unaware of the individuals who initially sowed the seed. This is a humbling reminder that the work belongs to God, not to human effort alone.

Redefining Missionary Success

In light of Jesus's teaching, it becomes clear that Scripture speaks little about measuring missionary success in terms of immediate or visible results. Instead, success is defined by staying the course—faithfully sowing gospel seeds, persevering through challenges, and trusting in God's sovereignty.

For those who see abundant fruit, the proper response is humble gratitude, recognizing that God alone gives the growth. For those who labor without visible results, the encouragement is to remain faithful, knowing that even one genuine convert can be the spark for a harvest beyond imagination. Ultimately, missionary success lies in unwavering perseverance, gospel-centered focus, and confidence that God sees, knows, and multiplies the labor in ways often unseen by human eyes.

Missionary success begins and ends with faithful obedience—proclaiming the gospel, enduring hardships, and trusting God with the results. Whether seeing a hundredfold harvest or a single soul transformed, every gospel seed sown in faith is known by the Lord.[†]

MACK STILES (@mackstiles) formerly served as Senior Pastor of the Erbil International Church. He's the author of *Evangelism: "How the Whole Church Speaks of Jesus."*

[†]This article has been summarised to fit the bulletin. Below is a link to the original article:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/faithful-missions-sovereign-fruit>

COMMUNION SUNDAY ORDER OF SERVICE

Sunday, July 6, 2025 at 10:40am

THEME: "Worship King Jesus"

- i-ii Welcome & Announcements
1. Meditation
2. SCRIPTURAL CALL TO WORSHIP
3. PRAYER OF ADORATION & INVOCATION:
4. **Rejoice The Lord Is King**
5. **How Firm A Foundation**
6. **The Solid Rock**
7. **Praise To The Lord (Joyful, Joyful)**
8. OT SCRIPTURE — Lev 13:47-59
9. NT SCRIPTURE — John 20:19-31
10. PRAYER OF CONFESSION & PARDON
11. PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & OFFERTORY
12. **Offertory: You Are My King (Amazing Love)**
13. PRAYER OF INTERCESSION
14. **Berean Choir: Ministry of Music**
15. **All I Have Is Christ**
16. SERMON: Pastor Paul Garnes
17. **We Receive**
18. Communion
19. **We Receive** *cont'd*
20. **He Is Exalted**
21. **Benediction**

ITEMS FOR PRAYER



- For the youth and team attending IBYC
- For Pastor Winston Clarke's recovery.
- For Chirlene Black, lost everything to fire.
- For upcoming Vacation Bible School (VBS)
- For the missions team heading to Grenada
- For comfort to those who are grieving.
- For the persecuted church.
- The proposed building project.
- Pray for the ministry and wellbeing of our Pastor and family.
- For healing for our sick members and grace for our shut-in members.
- For the Berean Churches, Grazettes, Dominica, Grenada and DR Congo.
- For unemployed members to find meaningful employment.
- For the peace of Jerusalem. Psalm 122:6-8

July Birthdays

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1st - Kenmore Maycock | 15th - Joshua Prescod | Chanté James |
| 6th - Cheryl Brewster | 16th - Earthon St. Cyr | 28th - Janice Reece |
| 11th - Alma June Corbin | 18th - Clyde Lucas | 29th - Joan Osborne |
| - Gwendolyn Spencer | 22nd- Christopher Ward | 30th - Michele Richards |
| 13th - Norma Thompson | 25th - Ann Proverbs | |
| Barry Ward | 27th - Goldie Spieler | |
| 15th - Leianne Bovell | 28th - Delano Austin | |

AUGUST

- 1st - Louise Moore

July Anniversaries

- 1st - Kenmore & Carol Maycock