

God's Calling Requirements Part 52

Be with the Right Company of People

“1 Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance, and joined affinity with Ahab.” (2 Chronicles 18:1 KJV) King Jehoshaphat was a righteous king in Judah, and the Lord blessed him with riches and honor, but he went and joint affinity in marriage with the wicked King Ahab of Israel. That was a wrong move and a wrong decision that caused him and caused Judah much to pay for such a wrong move. **Marrying with non believer is havoc. Marrying with a believer who do not fear God is also havoc.** Ahab through his wife Jezebel had brought Baal worship in Israel. Jehoshaphat when he allowed his son to marry the daughter of Ahab put himself and all Judah in a big trouble. Baal worship came to Judah because of that marriage. Jehoshaphat would be forced to go along the wrong ways that Ahab was going through and ultimately will introduce the Baal worship in Judah. That showed the foolishness of Jehoshaphat in doing such. **When God is blessing you, then don't be foolish and go and do bad and associate yourself with wrong people and wrong marriages; the Lord will not be pleased with such behaviors.**

“2 And after certain years he went down to Ahab to Samaria. And Ahab killed sheep and oxen for him in abundance, and for the people that he had with him, and persuaded him to go up with him to Ramothgilead.” (2 Chronicles 18:2 KJV) Jehoshaphat moved to explore his new destination with King Ahab, but he was not aware that troubles are ahead of him. **Sometimes you move forward thinking that there are blessing ahead of you in certain direction that you had opened by your own will but you are not aware and you are not able to see the troubles ahead of you.** Based on that marriage, Jehoshaphat was forced to move into the direction of Ahab and put himself in troubles by associating with wrong people and putting himself with a wrong company. The Scripture says, ***“he went down”***, it means he was deteriorating. **It is your responsibility to avoid putting yourself with a wrong people and a wrong companies or gatherings.** Here Ahab slaughtered sheep in abundance and might be Jehoshaphat was happy with that at the first instance, but that was not to honor Jehoshaphat and the people with him but to pull him and persuade him to go with him for a battle to recover Ramothgilead.

“3 And Ahab king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat king of Judah, Wilt thou go with me to Ramothgilead? And he answered him, I am as thou art, and my people as thy people; and we will be with thee in the war.” (2 Chronicles 18:3 KJV) Here after the honour that Jehoshaphat received and after he allied himself in marriage with Ahab, how then he can refuse to go to battle with him? Ahab now wanted to use Jehoshaphat and Judah to do his own will and agenda. Jehoshaphat was trapped, that is why he said, ***“I am as thou art, and my people as thy people; and we will be with thee in the war.”*** But in reality he was not happy and was aware the differences between him and his people with Ahab and his people.

“4 And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel, Enquire, I pray thee, at the word of the LORD to day.” (2 Chronicles 18:4 KJV) Jehoshaphat, now was aware that he fell into troubles and that going to Ramothgilead was a wrong decision, therefore he pleaded with

Ahab to inquire about the Word of God that the Holy Spirit would send to him to reveal to him if it was right to go to battle or not. *** Every time we are about to take a big or important decision we need to inquire of the Word of the Lord, so we will be sure to be on the right side in the decision that we are going to take. * We need also to believe that when we inquire from God, the Lord shall send us by the Holy Spirit His Word that teach us what right decision that we need to take.**

“5 Therefore the king of Israel gathered together of prophets four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall we go to Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for God will deliver it into the king's hand.” (2 Chronicles 18:5 KJV) Here there were around Ahab four hundred prophets who all of them agreed with him and approved to go to the battle. Ahab surrounded himself with people who will agree with him of what he wanted to do. They assured him that God shall deliver Ramothgilead to his hand. **When you always keep people who agree with you that situation is dangerous because such people will agree with you even in your wrong decision and wrong move and with such you will be falling in troubles.**

“6 But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD besides, that we might enquire of him?” (2 Chronicles 18:6 KJV) Jehoshaphat was aware that these four hundred prophets were faked and were not of the prophets of God that is why he asked to inquire from a true prophet of God who will declare to him the will of God for that day. **You need to discern from who you need to inquire of God, which church you need to join and open your life, and you should reject the advice of the false prophets.**

“7 And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he never prophesied good unto me, but always evil: the same is Micaiah the son of Imla. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so.” (2 Chronicles 18:7 KJV) The reply of Ahab showed that he did not want Micaiah the prophet because he did not want to tell him what he did not want to hear. Therefore everyone who will oppose Ahab he will hate and he will persecute and he will drive away from him. That is how the four hundreds false prophets gathered around him; they were agreeing with him to please him even when he was wrong just to receive his favor and his support. But Micaiah the son of Imla was a true prophet and he would tell to Ahab all the truth, even if he will know that Ahab will hate him. Jehoshaphat told him not to say that he hates Micaiah because what he speaks is from God and that was for his own benefit. **When we advice you with the truth that is for your own benefit and you should love us and not hate us for that. Many people hate me and do not open up to me because they know I will tell them what they are doing is not the will of God.**

Don't be tempted to hate the prophet of God and the church leaders who warn you not to do certain things because that for your protection and for your own benefit.

Jehoshaphat was aware that he was in a big trouble now because being with Ahab who was going to pull him to enter into a war which was against the will of God. **See here when you know the Word of God and the will of God you need to stop and refrain from going and associating yourself with such kind of people who will bring troubles into your life as God's Word declares to us, “20 He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.” (Proverbs 13:20 KJV)** Here now clear, if you go along foolish people you will suffer the same as they are.

“8 And the king of Israel called for one of his officers, and said, Fetch quickly Micaiah the son of Imla.” (2 Chronicles 18:8 KJV) Finally God will make a way that his true prophet will come on the surface to bring His Word and His will and that is how He brings His mercy even to the wicked who refuse to obey His Word and His will and go along His ways. He said to his officer, ***“Fetch quickly Micaiah the son of Imla”***, not because he was eager to hear the truth but just to show in front of Jehoshaphat that he was giving chance to all the prophets to speak. See how the suffering of the true prophet of God that he was rejected and persecuted by the king.

“9 And the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah sat either of them on his throne, clothed in their robes, and they sat in a void place at the entering in of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets prophesied before them.” (2 Chronicles 18:9 KJV) That is what going on now in most of the churches, large number of people gathered and will vote and the majority will win. But the majority in most of the time is wrong as we are seeing here with this big gatherings of prophets who were prophesying lies to King Ahab in pertain to God’s will.

“10 And Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah had made him horns of iron, and said, Thus saith the LORD, With these thou shalt push Syria until they be consumed.” (2 Chronicles 18:10 KJV) That man, ***“Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah”***, was like the dynamic speakers of today, moving the people using emotions with illustration and smooth speech and poem words to convince the crowd with false promises and lies whom they love to hear and see.

“11 And all the prophets prophesied so, saying, Go up to Ramothgilead, and prosper: for the LORD shall deliver it into the hand of the king.” (2 Chronicles 18:11 KJV) They were flattering each others, so the king will be pleased and in return he will honor them with food, dress, money and material things. That was dishonesty and using the ministry to make living, for those prophets were not honest before God.

“12 And the messenger that went to call Micaiah spake to him, saying, Behold, the words of the prophets declare good to the king with one assent; let thy word therefore, I pray thee, be like one of their's, and speak thou good.” (2 Chronicles 18:12 KJV) Here is now how they are gathering the like minded people; those who condone and compromise with them they will be added and invited to their club. The messenger advised the prophet Micaiah to go along the crowd of people to please the king and let all things go smooth. They were looking for agreement even if it was against the will of God. That is what they call it certain time today as unity to cover up the corruption that is going on in the churches. He told him ***“speak thou good”***, not about speaking the will of God, but to speak something agreed with all the four hundreds prophets, even if it was against the will of God, just to please the wicked Ahab.

“13 And Micaiah said, As the LORD liveth, even what my God saith, that will I speak.” (2 Chronicles 18:13 KJV) Here the prophet reinstated himself once again that he will only speak what the Lord wanted him to speak. It is so painful to read how they were speaking to the prophet of God to persuade him not to speak the truth that God wanted

him to declare. Fit to them the Word of God: ***“10 Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits.” (Isaiah 30:10 KJV)*** Such kinds of people are not aware that they are putting themselves in big troubles by rejecting to receive what God is saying to them.

“14 And when he was come to the king, the king said unto him, Micaiah, shall we go to Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And he said, Go ye up, and prosper, and they shall be delivered into your hand.” (2 Chronicles 18:14 KJV) Micaiah mocked the king when he told him, ***“Go ye up, and prosper, and they shall be delivered into your hand”***, because he was aware that he would not believe on his word that he will declare to him. That also was a rebuke to King Ahab who refused repeatedly to listen to the Word of God. That also indicates the bad experience that Micaiah had with Ahab and Ahab repeatedly refused him to listen to the counsel of God that He was sending him through Micaiah. Great is the love of God, even to those who are not willing to listen, the Lord will continue to give them His Word and instruct them perhaps they will repent. **We as a church and responsible leaders we need to continue to give the Word of God to the people even if they hate us and even if they are harming us. As long as we can give the Word of God then we need to give it to them.**

“15 And the king said to him, How many times shall I adjure thee that thou say nothing but the truth to me in the name of the LORD?” (2 Chronicles 18:15 KJV) Here the King was pretending before his guest King Jehoshaphat that he was looking after the truth and requested Micaiah to tell him the truth. As if he was saying, You see how I am humble man and looking for the truth.

“16 Then he said, I did see all Israel scattered upon the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd: and the LORD said, These have no master; let them return therefore every man to his house in peace.” (2 Chronicles 18:16 KJV) Here Micaiah declared to Ahab facts and the truth of what will take place. 1. Israel will be scattered on the mountains. 2. They were sheep without shepherd. It means Ahab was not the person who was caring for the sheep. Sheep without shepherd it means he will die in the battle and the people will escape from the battle and go to their houses. 3. A warning message to King Jehoshaphat that he was sitting with wrong people whom God will punish, and that he will be in troubles if he continued in that.

“17 And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee that he would not prophesy good unto me, but evil?” (2 Chronicles 18:17 KJV) He asked the truth but Ahab still wanted to hear what he likes to hear. King Ahab would like to receive opinions that were supportive to what he intend to do and not to what God’s will declare. Ahab was complaining to Jehoshaphat about what Micaiah said to him, and was describing it as something not good but evil. He was accusing the prophet of God. I had seen such kind of people when I faced them with the truth of God they got angry with me and they would start to accuse me to others that I am cursing them thinking that it was in my hand to give them the message that they like. The prophet Micaiah was accused by Ahab that he was prophesying evil against him, thinking that Micaiah can determine what he can tell to him, forgetting that the true prophet of God cannot change the message that God would send to His church and to His people. If the church and the people of God sin then God would send a warning message declaring the evil that will take place if the church or the people of God would not refrain from doing their own will.

Today God with this message He is sending you warning to restrain you from doing your own will and plan. Take heed of the message, humble down before the Word of God and repent and be willing to listen to the instructions of the church leaders and those whom God put to guide you in God's ways. Refrain from your wrong ways so you will be preserved from troubles. Take heed and do not reject the instructions of God's Word for your own benefit.

Here Micaiah to defend himself in response to the accusation that Ahab was telling to Jehoshaphat, needed to tell Ahab more details about what he received from the Lord. ***"18 Again he said, Therefore hear the word of the LORD; I saw the LORD sitting upon his throne, and all the host of heaven standing on his right hand and on his left."*** (2 Chronicles 18:18 KJV) Here Micaiah declared to him that he was seeing the Lord in Heaven sitting upon His throne and the host in Heaven standing around Him. Micaiah was declaring to Ahab that he was a true prophet of God and what he spoke was receiving from God. Therefore Micaiah further told him what other details he had seen and heard from the Lord: ***"19 And the LORD said, Who shall entice Ahab king of Israel, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one spake saying after this manner, and another saying after that manner.20 Then there came out a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will entice him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? 21 And he said, I will go out, and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And the Lord said, Thou shalt entice him, and thou shalt also prevail: go out, and do even so. 22 Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil against thee."*** (2 Chronicles 18:19-22 KJV) Micaiah was present with the spirit of prophecy in the presence of the Lord. Therefore he explained to Ahab, that God was not happy with him and was looking for someone to entice him to go to battle at Ramothgilead and perish. Finally a spirit came and was willing to entice him by putting a lying spirit in the mouth of his prophets, and the Lord approved that, putting a lying spirit in the mouth of the prophets of Ahab and his counselors because Ahab was looking for such people who will go along with him even if they were telling him lies. Micaiah declared to Ahab such truth clearly that God had allowed his prophets to tell him lies and the Lord had spoken evil against him.

You may ask: How God will allow lying spirit to be in the mouth of the people that will allow others to take wrong decisions and caused them destruction? How God will allow His people to be scattered without shepherd and cause them troubles? **God will allow that because the 400 prophets were from His people who knew the truth but decided to please Ahab. God allowed that because the people wish such. They hate the truth and they hate the people who tell them the truth, therefore what is left for them was to listen to lies and wrong counsels that will bring them into destruction.**

The Word of God tells us the following: ***"22 Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established."*** (Proverbs 15:22 KJV) But we need to choose the right people whom we need to put ourselves with, so we can receive the right input and to avoid putting ourselves in troubles. Many they refuse to come and ask advice because they don't want to hear that their plans are not from God. They open up their lives to their friends, colleagues at work, and to non believers just to avoid the rebuke from the church leader who is telling them the truth and who is advising them for

their own benefits to avoid troubles. But what kind of advice they will receive? They will receive lies only. What Micaiah spoke and prophesied was a real warning message to Ahab but he refused to repent in spite of all the details that was given to him.

"23 Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah came near, and smote Micaiah upon the cheek, and said, Which way went the Spirit of the LORD from me to speak unto thee?" (2 Chronicles 18:23 KJV) Micaiah prophecy ignited others false prophets to be angry against him. Truly, what he prophesied was a slap to the face not only to Ahab but to the false prophets who were with him; those were making living out of telling lies to Ahab. Micaiah was smote on the cheek for the truth he said. This will happen to us when we declare the truth to the people who hate to hear the truth that contradict their plans and their inclinations. But we need to bear such as we delight in serving the Lord and doing His will.

"24 And Micaiah said, Behold, thou shalt see on that day when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself." (2 Chronicles 18:24 KJV) Micaiah prophesied to the face of Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah what the Lord will do to him, that his counsel will be defeated and his lies will be exposed, and he will be followed by shame and he will run to hide himself in the inner chamber either running for his life or hiding from shame to the wrong counsel that he gave to Ahab.

"25 Then the king of Israel said, Take ye Micaiah, and carry him back to Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son; 26 And say, Thus saith the king, Put this fellow in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I return in peace." (2 Chronicles 18:25-26 KJV) This how true prophet treated like John the Baptist, and like Paul, imprisonment, denying them their rights and giving them bad treatment in the form of bread of affliction and water of affliction. That was done to punish Micaiah for his saying of the truth, as well as to force him to bend to their pressure and requests to connive with them and approve to them what they liked to do. **We need to persevere at this time. We might be pressurized by people and by church members and workers who would pressurize us, persecute us, and boycotting us in order to make us bend to approve their wants.** I had pass through such experience, when I don't approve to the people their wrong plans, they will start to fight back, they will withdraw from the church and withhold their financial contributions to the ministry, they will also pull others and teach them to do the same trying to pressurize me thinking that I will bend to them. But I endured all suffering; the isolation, the bread and the water of suffering, and I did not bend to such evil doers, and the Lord rewarded me in sustaining me and in watching over all His Word that He gave me and fulfilled them, and I was kept saying to them that the Lord shall fulfill all His Word that He spoke through me, as was Micaiah was assertive to repeat to them the very Word that God spoke through him to them that all will be fulfilled as he declared to Ahab that he will not come back home safe. ***"27 And Micaiah said, If thou certainly return in peace, then hath not the LORD spoken by me. And he said, Hearken, all ye people."*** (2 Chronicles 18:27 KJV) I told and I will keep saying to those who rebel against the Word of God and His counsel that they will end up in hell if they will not repent.

"28 So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramothgilead." (2 Chronicles 18:28 KJV) Hard headed people they will not listen and their sins will be their punishment. Ahab did not listen and Jehoshaphat was ashamed to leave Ahab that is why he went along with him. **Wrong people and wrong company you should do all what you can to**

move away from them and to avoid them, for this is what God would expect from you to do. God was expecting from Jehoshaphat to move away from Ahab especially after he heard the detailed prophecy of Micaiah, but he did not move away from Ahab because he was in a real bondage and slave to it. **Be careful and learn from the lesson and free yourself from such yoke with harmful people who will mislead you and put you finally in troubles.**

“29 And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, I will disguise myself, and I will go to the battle; but put thou on thy robes. So the king of Israel disguised himself; and they went to the battle.” (2 Chronicles 18:29 KJV) Such kind of people they will use you to help them and they will put you in troubles. You see here how Ahab was using Jehoshaphat to protect himself from the enemy and how of what he suggested was putting Jehoshaphat into troubles. Ahab knew that he will be searched out by the Syrians to kill him, that is why he resorted to do such to hide himself from death, As well as Ahab might be really scared about the prophecy of Micaiah that God was after him and that he will not come back safely.

“30 Now the king of Syria had commanded the captains of the chariots that were with him, saying, Fight ye not with small or great, save only with the king of Israel.” (2 Chronicles 18:30 KJV) Truly, that was the mind of the Syrian, they were targeting Ahab to kill him, and that what Micaiah told Ahab that God had spoke evil against him. The plan of the Syrian will also fulfill the Word of God, that king Ahab will die in the battle and the army will be scattered as sheep without shepherd. Ahab was thinking that he can avoid the judgment of God and avoid his death in the battle by letting Jehoshaphat to die in his stead.

“31 And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, It is the king of Israel. Therefore they compassed about him to fight: but Jehoshaphat cried out, and the LORD helped him; and God moved them to depart from him. 32 For it came to pass, that, when the captains of the chariots perceived that it was not the king of Israel, they turned back again from pursuing him.” (2 Chronicles 18:31-32 KJV) Now here the Lord allowed such to happen to Jehoshaphat to show him that what he did to have allied with Ahab was wrong and dangerous for his life so he can repent. God did not intend to kill him in this battle but to make him learn a lesson. He was really scared with those who compassed about him to fight him. Jehoshaphat as if he was not aware about the true wickedness of Ahab, therefore the Lord showed him that clearly. But when he cried to God, the Lord helped him and the Lord moved them away from Him. The Lord also made them see that he was not the one whom they were looking for. **The Lord may do the same to you as he did with Jehoshaphat in order for you to wake up from you hardheadedness, to realize and to repent.**

“33 And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: therefore he said to his chariot man, Turn thine hand, that thou mayest carry me out of the host; for I am wounded.” (2 Chronicles 18:33 KJV) Here the Lord would fulfill His Word even if Ahab would disguise himself from the enemy, but he cannot disguise himself from God. **Those who reject the Word of God and the will of God, the Lord is their enemy.** Ahab was not aware that with his wickedness

had made God his enemy, and that arrow was shot from God to show that God can reach wicked people and deal with them wherever they are and whatever they do to hide themselves to fulfill His Word, that Ahab will be killed, ***“34 And the battle increased that day: howbeit the king of Israel stayed himself up in his chariot against the Syrians until the even: and about the time of the sun going down he died.” (2 Chronicles 18:34 KJV)*** and the army will be scattered as sheep without shepherd. After Ahab was injured the battle increased that day and he witnessed how God fulfilled His Word that He spoke through Micaiah. He proved himself to be fool when he refused to hear the counsel of Micaiah and rejected his advice, ***“20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.” (Proverbs 19:20 KJV)***

“1 And Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned to his house in peace to Jerusalem. 2 And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD. 3 Nevertheless there are good things found in thee, in that thou hast taken away the groves out of the land, and hast prepared thine heart to seek God.” (2 Chronicles 19:1-3 KJV) The Lord allowed Jehoshaphat to return to his house safely and there He sent the seer Jehu the son of Hanani to rebuke him for his wrong doing that he did by helping the ungodly and loving those, as Ahab and his company, who hate the Lord. He declared to him that the wrath of God shall come on him from this day onward because of what he did. As well as he declared to him the good in him that he removed the groves from Judah, that he removed the things that God does not want them to worship idols and corrupt the people with, and that he prepared his heart to seek the Lord. **As church leaders we need to act and behave as Jehu the son of Hanani when we notice people behave as Jehoshaphat and yoked themselves with non believers and start to help the wicked and those who hate the Lord, we need to rebuke them, correcting them, so they will repent and will be sound in faith.**

My dear and beloved: * How about you now? Are you still adamant and hardheaded and not willing to change your mind? If you are as such then be sure that you will be put into big trouble as what happened to Ahab and the Israelites. Humble down and repent and turn from your wicked ways and accept the rebuke, the advice and correction so you will be saved. * Come out from wrong people company and move away from evil doers so you will not face the same troubles of them as what happened to Jehoshaphat.

Let us pray.

My prayer: My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that showed me clearly that I need to come out from among wrong company and come back to you and to your church.

Confess your sins and renounce them. Confess and renounce your stubbornness and hard headedness, your pride and your bondage with wicked people, doing your own will, being independent and not willing to humble down and come and ask counsel and advices from the church and the leaders of the church. Renounce all your lies, flattering, compromises, and your breaking to the Word of God to please people. Repent of being yoke with the non believers and asking advices and counsel from them. Lord I confess and renounce the following sins

_____. Lord I confess and renounce the following wrong friendships and relationships _____. Lord I am coming back to you and to your church, Lord forgive me my sins, I repent from them all.

Lord I commit myself to the principles that I learned from this message. Lord I commit myself not to be yoked with friends who do not know God and with non believers. Lord I commit myself to teach against marriages with non believers and with those who do not fear God. Lord help me to continue to go through the narrow way and the narrow gate, Lord protect me from evil doers and provide all my needs. Lord I ask you to help me to take the right decision in this matter _____.

Lord thank you for all my brothers and sisters who repented of their sins and humbled themselves and came back to you and to your church. Lord have mercy on them; restore to them all their losses, give them sense of direction, give them strength and direct us to teach them and help them to be back in the way they need to take to go on to live for you and to serve you. Lord help us to guide them to take the right decisions that they need to take in their lives.

Lord, I pray for us as a church to help us, protect us, and provide for us to go on in serving you and do your work and your will. Lord lead us to advice your people with your will and to bring them back into the way that you ordained for them to pass through. Lord give us the fruit of the Holy Spirit, love, joy, peace, humility, self-control, patience, perseverance, long-suffering, faith and faithfulness to go on and serve you in a better way reflecting the character of Jesus in our lives in helping others who are in troubles who need our hands, our efforts, our help and our prayers, and to stand firm to tell the truth to those who oppose us and persecute us. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and serve you, to evangelize, making new disciples, training new workers, and to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church and to reach out new people and new places. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus' name, Amen.

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