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Missions Bulletin

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CBM ESL Ministry

One look at headlines and it's easy to say, "We're living in terrible times (the last days)! What can we do to stem the flood of bad news?" OR we could say, "What an opportune time to share the Light of the world! How can I do it better?" As the number of missionaries and churches has been declining, Ed has been investigating ways to advance missions and evangelism. We'd like to share some ideas that might be useful in your ministry.

1. The first is not our idea, but God's, therefore the most important: PRAY! (Matt. 9:37-38). Pray that God will raise up an army of laborers. Pray at home, with your children, at prayer meetings, in youth group, from the pulpit. Prayer is vital to advancing missions.

2. Examine your circle of contacts. Whom do you know—at work, school, the gym, grocery store, in your neighborhood? God puts each of us in unique spheres of influence, even as He did Queen Esther. He supplies His Word and Spirit to empower and enable us. Write the names of people in your circle of acquaintances, then pray—fervently—for opportunities to build relationships that lead to sharing hope in Christ.

A few weeks ago, a whole new circle of contacts opened to us: hematologist, oncologist, radiologist, technicians, and nurses. After almost 73 years, Dorothy was initiated into the "Big C Club," first with a diagnosis of leukemia (CLL), then last week, breast cancer. As we meet with the surgeon to determine the best course of action, our prayer is to view this unexpected challenge as an open door we'd not otherwise have.

So, as you pray fervently and examine your circle of contacts, please pray also with us for:

- 1. The new Bible study on Friday afternoons.*
- 2. Fruit from the ESL class and Sunday Bible study*
- 3. Wisdom, strength, health for us, and peace as we begin this cancer journey together*
- 4. Provision—there are insurance hurdles to jump*