

*I will follow thee
whithersoever thou goest.*

LUKE 9:57

I HAVE DECIDED
TO FOLLOW

HARVEST HAPPENINGS

APRIL 21, 2024

2024 Ministry Theme: Engaging the Great Commission

Jesus...told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations" (Matthew 28:18-19a, NLT).

Invite Someone: Be intentional and invite someone to attend our Sunday worship service.

Thank You: A special thanks from Bill & Pat Brown to the Rooted Small Group for their assistance in the Food Pantry. Your generous help has made a big difference.

LIFE Sessions: Join us each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. for an in-depth study of the Bible. Our current study is titled *Sharing the Gospel*. Handouts available each session.

Family Focus Sunday: Beginning today, HHC will have a quarterly "Family Focus" Sunday Service. Our children will be in the sanctuary for AM worship. We want to encourage our families to use this opportunity to worship together, being models for our children and allowing them to make connections between the lessons they learn in Children's Church and our sanctuary worship services. Biblically themed activity packets will be available for Catalyst Kids aged children. Nursery will also be provided during these services.

Frontline Youth: Frontline Youth Band & Drama Team will be ministering at the Mebane Dogwood Festival April 27th. Please make plans to attend this outreach event. Immediate questions? Contact Steve & Angie Manuel or Angela Williamson.

22nd Annual Alamance District Revival: April 29th, 30th, May 1st - Breakthrough Community Church of God; 703 South Third Street; Mebane; 7:00 p.m. nightly - Kip Box, Speaker

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

Pre-Service Prayer
Each Sunday, 10:00 AM, Church Library

War Room Prayer Service
Each Sunday, 6:00-7:00 PM, Church Sanctuary

The Incredible Story Behind the Hymn, "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

In the 1800's, a missionary from Wales who had endured severe persecution finally saw his first converts in a particularly brutal village in the Northern Indian province of Assam. A husband and wife, with their two children, professed faith in Christ and were baptized.

Assam and its surrounding provinces was located in one of the most oppressive forms of Hinduism — a place where the caste system was entrenched, and where headhunters ruled.

These provinces often prided themselves on the hostile reaction they gave foreigners.

Their village leaders decided to make an example out of the husband. Arresting the family, they demanded that the father renounce Christ, or see his wife and children murdered.

When he refused, his two children were executed by archers. Given another chance to recant, the man again refused, and his wife was killed. Still refusing to recant, this husband and father was martyred.

Witnesses later told the story to the Welsh missionary. The reports said that when asked to recant or see his children murdered, the man said: "I have decided to follow Jesus, and there is no turning back."

After seeing his children killed, he reportedly said, "The world can be behind me, but the cross is still before me." And after seeing his wife pierced by the arrows, he said, "Though no one is here to go with me, still I will follow Jesus."

According to this missionary, when he returned to the village, a revival had broken out, and those who had murdered the first converts had since come to faith in Jesus themselves.

The Welsh man passed along these reports to the famous Indian evangelist Sandhu Sundar Singh.

Singh had risen to prominence in India because he was training foreign missionaries, and a theme in his teaching had been the necessity of avoiding the cultural trappings of Western Christianity.

He insisted that the missionaries now pouring into India focus on the essentials of the gospel while allowing the now vibrant Indian Christian community to develop their own Christian customs.

The accounts of the family that had been martyred in Assam were so astonishing and widely circulated that most Indian believers were familiar with it.

So Singh took the martyr's last words, and put them to traditional Indian music in order to make one of the first uniquely Indian hymns.

The song immediately became popular in Indian churches, and it remains a mainstay of worship music there to this day.

Eventually some of the American missionaries returned from India and they brought that song with them.

Finally, it ended up with Canadian song writer George Beverley Shea, and he made it a staple at the Billy Graham crusades.

Mission Statement

Harvest Hills Church of God is a life situation, worship centered, Spirit-filled congregation committed to Exalting Christ, Equipping believers and Expanding the kingdom.

Today's Sermon

Title:

Scripture:

Main Ideas:

- I.
- II.
- III.
- IV.

How can I apply today's sermon in my daily life?



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Food Pantry Ministry: Thank you for your donations to the Food Pantry. If you can volunteer your time to pick up food, stock shelves, deliver food, or if you know someone in need of food, please call Bill or Pat Brown at 336-222-9034.

Inclement Weather: All closings and/or cancellations will be posted on WFMV TV, Channel 2.

e-Prayer: If you would like to be a part of the e-Prayer team and receive prayer request & praise report notifications, please contact Dale Lowe. She will add your name to the list. Send all prayer concerns to Dale Lowe, e-Prayer coordinator at hhcogeprayer@gmail.com. The prayer concerns will then be forwarded to the e-Prayer team. When prayer concerns are received, please read and pray over each one.

Our Daily Bread: March 2024-May 2024 & Dec 2023-Feb 2024 edition are available on the Information Wall.

2024 Read Through the Bible: Please choose a version that you would like to read during 2024. Reading guides are available in the foyer to allow us to keep the same reading schedule.

Nursery Volunteers: We are in need of several volunteers to serve one Sunday per month to staff our church nursery. This ministry provides young mothers a much needed opportunity to attend our worship services.

Harvest Hills Church App: Have you downloaded the new HHC app to your phone yet? Simply visit your app store and download the Church Center app and select Harvest Hills as your home church. This will give you access to information about upcoming events, the church calendar, a link to the church bulletin and more. See Andy Carter if you need assistance or have questions.

