

February 16, 2007

The late J. Oswald Chambers tells the story of a young evangelist from India. He was a simple man with very little education. He worked hard spreading the gospel to his people but saw very little fruit. One day he entered an unreached village and shared the gospel with the people, and as usual, they rejected the truth and drove him out of the village. Tired and dejected he sat down beside a tree on the outskirts of the village to rest and fell asleep. At dusk he awoke and was startled by what he saw. The entire village had surrounded him; he thought he would surely die. He sat trembling, waiting for his death, but God had something else in store for this young man.

The head of the village approached him and said, "We saw blisters on your feet, and knew that you must be a holy man. Please tell us why you have blistered your feet to come to us." He shared the gospel with them again, and this time the entire village came to Christ.

I have spent many hours with Jiwan and many other church planters in India and Nepal walking the small, narrow, winding trails sharing the gospel. As I walk I have nice comfortable hiking boots, but many of our church planters walk these trails with just flip flops. Their feet are messy, dirty, and dry, with cracked heels and, yes, blisters. In Romans 10:15, the Bible tells us that the ones that bring us the gospel have beautiful feet. I must say that I now look at those dry, cracked, blistered, dirty feet in a new light. God doesn't see them as smelling and disgusting, but as beautiful.

I started to weep as I heard this story. I was convicted and challenged to "blister my feet" to take this awesome gospel to more people and villages where it is not convenient to go; convicted to take up my cross and follow Him wherever He leads. If it means dirty and blistered feet, being tired and exhausted, having much or having little, we must press on to take this precious treasure to those who have not yet heard. When they see us, I want them to wonder why we blistered our feet to get to them.

My older brother, Jim, went with me to India last fall to take photos. Guess what the Lord led him to take pictures of? FEET!!!! How cool and awesome is our GOD!!! On the back of this letter you will see one of the photos he took. Place it where you can see it and remember to pray. Pray that we will all "blister and dirty" our feet as we take the gospel further and further around the world.

Please pray for our church planters in India, Nepal, and Bhutan who walk mile after mile spreading the gospel. Pray for the construction of the school that has now begun. Pray for the safety of the workers and for the salvation of the many Hindu laborers that are building the school. Pray for our upcoming evangelistic trip in March.

Jeff E. McFarland



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