

btw is the acronym for "by the Way (Jesus)." It sets the tone for the current issue.



The Family of God

By Angelina Gomez

Have you ever thought about how many people outside your church have no idea who Christ is or know of His love, grace, and forgiveness? As His children living in grace, we need to embrace the people who are spiritually interested, but biblically illiterate. These lost children need to know the truth of not just John 3:16, but also 3:17: *God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it!* The term "world" refers to all people — kids, teens, adults, moms, dads, aunts, uncles — all God's created people of all ethnicities.

How does our church reach this world? Yes, we have Vacation Bible School and Sunday School, but we need to do more. There are dads, grandparents, kids, teens, and moms who need Jesus. The heavenly Father wants us to be the ones to bring them home to Him! With God's help we can do it!

By the Holy Spirit's power given to the church, the witnessing potential is breathtaking. God's forgiveness and love comforts the grieving and heals the broken in our communities. It builds bridges to seekers, offers truth to the confused, provides resources for those in need, and opens its arms to the forgotten, the downtrodden, and the disillusioned.

How has God's love changed us? Jesus was born into this world not as royalty but as one of us. He grew up in this world of seekers and sought out the lost and forgotten. His approach to these lost souls is our example. But He did not stop at physical blessings, and He is not only an example. No, He became sin for each of us — and for all people — on the cross and embraced each of us with His saving love. His death and joyous resurrection are the reasons that we are no longer lost, forgotten, downtrodden, or disillusioned. By faith, what joy is ours! By the Holy Spirit's power, we each can share His forgiveness and love to all around us.

As a Heart to Heart sister, my vision of heaven is revealed in Revelation 7:9–10: *After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."*

Prayer: Precious heavenly Father, prepare us for the task of reaching out to our sisters and brothers in the world. *Loving Jesus*, You have enough love for every person who has, is, and ever will live. Multiply grace-filled mission workers for Your harvest. Please send workers who do not confuse the Law with the Gospel but are motivated by Christ's love. *Restoring Jesus*, You stepped into the lives of the broken, the sinful, the sick, and the outcast and restored and transformed their lives. Help us to be willing to do the same. *Compassionate Jesus*, thank You for loving us, for entering our broken and messy lives, and leading us to love others the same. Send your Spirit to guide us to embrace Your harvest field and share the love of Jesus with the people outside our doors. In Jesus' precious name. Amen. *Q*