

#### IV. ACTION ITEMS WE CAN ENGAGE IN PRAYER TO MAKE HEAVEN CROWDED

- A. Decide and make a plan how you will regularly pray for our missionaries. Pray that they will share the Gospel boldly.
- B. In your prayers, pray for the Gospel to spread to the nations, especially to the unreached. Pray that the Gospel will be shared with clarity.
- C. As you pray, pray that the Gospel will be received gladly and that Heaven will be crowded from the tribes and nations of the world.
- D. Pray and ask what God would have you to be giving to our mission giving for this next year.

#### MAKE HEAVEN CROWDED BY PRAYING

What did God do through Gladys who knew how to pray?  
An entire monastery of 500 Tibetan monks heard the Gospel and a good number will be in heaven.

What did God do through Emily who prayerfully gave 5 pounds to a missionary?  
An entire tribe received the Gospel. The result was that 100% of that tribe responded to believe in Christ for salvation and they will all be in heaven. That tribe is now sending missionaries to others.

### MAKE HEAVEN CROWDED Make Heaven Crowded By Praying Steve Howell

#### Introduction:

- A. Do you ever wonder what heaven will be like? One thing we know is that God's ultimate victory culminates with a massive crowd in heaven praising God. And it will include people from every nation, tribe, people and language.

<sup>9</sup> *"After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,*

*<sup>10</sup> and crying out with a loud voice; saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"*" Revelation 7:9-10

God invites us to join Him in making heaven crowded. Jesus' last command was to, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations"* (Matthew 28:19a). And the Greek word for *"nations"* (ethnos)) in Jesus' command is exactly the same as the word in Revelation 7:9.

- B. But there's a problem, many people are unreached and at the moment there will be some empty sections in heaven. Join us for the Make Heaven Crowded Missions Focus & Teaching Series to draw closer to God and discover what you can do to expand the crowd in heaven.

June 29	Let's Make Heaven Crowded!
July 6	Make Heaven Crowded By Inviting
July 13	Make Heaven Crowded By Caring
July 20	Make Heaven Crowded By Giving
TODAY	Make Heaven Crowded By Praying
Aug 3	Make Heaven Crowded By Sending
Aug 10	Reaching The Unreached

- C. **TEXT:** II Thessalonians 3:1

Key Verse:

*"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you,"* II Thessalonians 3:1

## HOW TO MAKE HEAVEN CROWDED BY PRAYING

Let me introduce you to two women who prayed:

Gladys Alyward – was rejected by China Inland Missions, but she learned how to pray.

Emily Davies – prayed and asked what God would have her give to a missionary and she gave 5 pounds to missionary Watkins Roberts.

We will hear what God did through their prayers after we look at God's Word and invitation to be involved in Making Heaven Crowded through our prayers.

### I. PRAY FOR THE MISSIONARY

A. Paul, the missionary, asked them to pray for himself.

<sup>1</sup> *"Finally, brethren, pray for us..."*

II Thessalonians 3:1a

B. What should we pray for missionaries?

Pray that missionaries will boldly preach the Gospel.

<sup>18</sup> *"praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—*

<sup>19</sup> *and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,*

<sup>20</sup> *for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."*

Ephesians 6:18-20

### II. PRAY FOR THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL

A. Paul, the missionary, asks them to pray that the Gospel message will spread far and wide.

<sup>1</sup> *"...that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified..."* II Thessalonians 3:1b

B. What should we pray for the Gospel?

Pray that the Gospel will be made clear.

<sup>19</sup> *"and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,"* Ephesians 6:19

### III. PRAY FOR THOSE WHO WILL BE HEARING THE GOSPEL

A. Paul, the missionary, asked them to pray that the hearers of the Gospel would receive the Gospel.

*"...just as it is with you."* II Thessalonians 3:1c

B. What should we pray for those hearing the Gospel?

Pray that the Gospel will be received.

<sup>13</sup> *"For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe."*

I Thessalonians 2:13