



This year's devotionals will be focused on witness and testimonials to those who have chosen to take up their cross and follow Christ. We will each day have a focus scripture, a witness to a missionary who has dropped their nets and followed Christ into the fields of missionary work, and a missionary challenge for our own fields. I pray that you will find this both challenging and inspirational.

-- Yours in Christ, Pastor Don

ASH WEDNESDAY, February, 22, 2012: Scripture: Matt. 16:24-26

²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. ²⁶What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?"



Many make it their habit to commit to some act of self-denial during the season of Lent. For the forty days, they will abstain from something that they really, really love—chocolate, soft drinks, coffee, potato chips, facebook, etc. My wife's family used to joke that they were going to give up poverty for Lent because it was just too much fun!

I encourage you to consider this Lent what you are willing to sacrifice for Christ. When we consider the price he paid in order you and I to have forgiveness of sins and obtain eternal life and when we hear Christ's command to take up our cross, deny ourselves, and follow him, we must seriously ask ourselves, "Am I following?"

While we will be looking at missionaries who are currently giving their lives for the sake of Christ, I recognize that all of us are NOT called to foreign fields of service. But, we ARE called to service in and around the community in which we live. How can we be more responsive to the calling of Christ to take up our cross and follow?

Prayer Concern: Ask God to open your eyes in order to see more clearly your field of service. Ask God to make things resonate in your heart when there are people and situations that God is calling you to minister.

Act of Devotion: Spend 10 minutes in silence. Let God have a chance to move your heart.

