

Imitation



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["A life worth imitating is a life that imitates Christ"](#)



Our society today seems to look down on imitations. We are told to buy "genuine parts", flaunt expensive name brands and find items that are not imitation but the "real deal". But GOD has a totally different view of this matter. We are instructed by HIM to be imitators. "Imitation", after all, "is the most sincere form of flattery", depending of course on the focus of that imitation. For us, we are to imitate Christ. That has been the meditation of my devotions all week as I anticipated the special weekend that is now upon us. This is birthday weekend here at the Sheldon household. My Daddy starts it off on the 18th, and my birthday follows on Monday the 20th. Party, party. This year we also add Eddie, Ruthann's boyfriend, who celebrates his birthday on the 22....he fits right in!!

I am writing this update on [my precious daddy's 80th birthday](#). I had the joy of hugging him and making the traditional Smith birthday breakfast of cinnamon rolls for him today. Living so far away from my parents, this is an especially exciting gift for ME!!

My daddy is an amazing imitator of Christ. HE has been a solid example of living a life of sacrifice and faith for me my whole life, and for my children as well. His love and endless support and encouragement for me to follow CHRIST in all I do has been the backbone of my own walk of faith. He has left footprints of faithfulness for us to follow him as he followed Christ. We are truly blessed.

As I embark on a new year of life myself next week, it is always a time of reflection. How am I doing....is CHRIST-likeness MORE of who I am? A hard and probing question to be sure. I, also, have children and now grandchildren that will follow my paths and I want them to be as clear and straight as the paths I have had to follow in MY parents lives.

This week I had the amazing opportunity of sharing [Christ with a sweet older woman](#). She was at the grocery store struggling to remove the husks from her corn. Arthritis made her hands stiff and very evidentially painful. When I asked her if she needed help she happily accepted. She asked the question I LOVE....”are you from around here, sweetie?” HA! “NO, not really.....  ” As GOD opened the door of conversation I was able to share with her WHY I live in PNG and all about the ONE WHO I serve there. She listened very intently. I invited her to join us at our church on Friday evening when I shared my ministry update with the dear ladies from our church. Though [Emma](#) did not come Friday, she listened and I trust heard in her heart about my precious Savior Whom I love and desire to imitate. PRAY for her to continue to think about what Christ has done for her, and for her needed decision to trust in Christ for herself.

I was reminded in my [God orchestrated “appointment” with Emma](#) of the compassion of our Lord, Jesus. He was busy going around all the cities and villages teaching and healing the sick, “but when he saw the multitudes he was moved with compassion on them because they fainted and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.....the harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few” (Matt. 9: 36-37) Oh, GOD open [our eyes of compassion so we may see the “Emma’s” around us](#)...lost and alone and struggling. May we be the willing labourers in HIS fields white unto spiritual harvest.

**“Prayer is the voice of
faith knowing GOD knows and cares about our
needs”**



PRAY for the harvest field of Lusilo as Bill ventures up the mountain and proclaims boldly the GOSPEL of peace that can break the bondage of their spiritual slavery to the evil one! Coffee crops are coming in...with them the flow of cash with the temptation to use it in ungodly ways. PRAY for our dear ones up at the top of the mountain to accept Christ and follow Him faithfully so they also can start laying down footprints of truth for their children to follow as well.



PRAY for our students at GBBC. With just the 1st and 2nd year students now on campus, the modular bachelors class also met these past two weeks, as Bill taught their philosophy of ministry class. I trust that they will put into practice all they gleaned last week. Pray also for our 3rd and 4th year students to be faithfully ministering in the churches they are working with during this time of practical experience for them as well. We continue to wait on results from the biopsy done on [Pata, Nicodemus and Jumda’s son](#) ,to confirm the [suspicion of Ewings Sarcoma](#), a serious cancer. Pray for God’s healing, peace and grace for this precious student family

as they wait. RAIN is once again a huge need for our campus as dry season is now in full swing. Pray also as the land survey work is being completed. We praise GOD for sending Kevin out to help with this need....may GOD open doors for our needed growth and expansion needed for our college ministry outreach.

PRAY for the harvest field of the clinic. Lori has been able to gather a few supplies while here in the USA....but,we are in real need of stocking our supplies again and finishing some very needed

repairs on the clinic at this time that it is not being used. PRAY that GOD will continue to meet the needs for this outreach.

[We need about \\$10,000 to cover these pressing needs.](#)



PRAY for the tiny harvest of our baby ministry....for Lilian's baby and Francisca's baby to wait for Auntie LORI to get home before making their grand arrivals. Baby Able and peanut continue to do well while mama Lori is away.

PRAY for the field team meetings this week in PNG. PRAY for unity and for God's direction in the decisions needing to be made. Pray for Bill as there is so much upon him now, especially with Lori in the USA. Pray for his health and strength and wisdom. Pray for GOD's protection on our home and family while we are all separated by the many oceans right now.

As we know and open our hearts to Jesus, may we open our hearts to others around us as well. "Our lives should be marked by love for Christ and others not obsession with self". May we truly be conformed to the image of CHRIST and be true imitators of HIM. After all, the name Christian means "little Christ" so we have quite a name to live up to!!

No reserves, no retreats NO REGRETS!!
Bill in PNG and Lori and the boys in the USA

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