

Potter's Palace Ministries

Serving the nations....

APRIL 2024 – NEWSLETTER

“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. - John 17:20-21 ESV

Before going to the cross, our Savior prayed for the disciples—and He included us too.

After washing His disciples’ feet and commissioning them to go out into the world—not as conquering kings but as loving servants—Jesus shared His intimate thoughts. He helped them see what this task would look like and the type of troubles they’d face.

He helped the men understand what “kingdom of God” meant and why He must leave them for a while. He promised that while He was gone, the Comforter would be with them. And though Jesus said they’d certainly have trouble, He then encouraged them, for He had overcome the world.

Can you imagine sitting at that table, eating that dinner, and looking into Jesus’ eyes as He broke the bread, drank the wine, and shared from His heart?

Then, Jesus prayed one last time for His friends. And not only that—amazingly, He also prayed for all who would believe based on their word (**John 17:20**).

Friend, that means you. That means everyone who’s trusted in Him—Jesus was praying for us, and we have His very words. What could be more precious?

On that terrible night—Jesus’ last night before dying—the one thing He asked was for us to remain unified.

For us to be knit together in love so the entire world would recognize Jesus in us. It is a sacred invitation, as important today as it was then. (*In Touch Ministries*)

Prayer Points

- Pray for the land & people of Israel; the Word of God commands us to do so (Psalm 122:6);
- Pray for Pastor Jaci & her family in these difficult times for strength.
- Pray for that Jesus will heal the Royal family, The King and Princess.
- Pray for government to fund the repairs to school building – some children have their classes in sheds.
- Pray for God’s peace in the Gaza and in Ukraine.
- Pray for that the local election happening in Thursday 2nd May 2024 – pray Christian candidates are elected.
- Pray for persecuted Christians around the world, God to give them protection, comfort and support.

- Praise God – Always Be Thankful.

Date	Hanger Lane	Watford
March 3rd	Psalm 51:10,11; Acts 13:22; Job 15:12; Mark 7:20-23; Proverbs 4:23; Acts 10:38; John 8:29; Matthew 9:26; 20:28, 5:28; Psalm 130:4; 32:5; 1 Samuel 16:7; Jeremiah 17:10; 1 Chronicles 22:19;	
March 10th		Luke 10:38-42; John 4:13-14, 7:38-39;
March 17th	Numbers 21:4-11; Deuteronomy 18:10	Numbers 21:1-9; Galatians 3:13
March 24th		John 10:10; Colossians 1:13
March 29th	Luke 9:23; 23:33-34; 41-43; John 19:25-27, 19:28-30; Luke 23:46; Matthew 27:46;	
March 31st	John 20:19-22; Romans 8:11; Psalm 34:4,5; Luke 24:17	



What does Colossians 1:15 mean? – “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation”.

Verse 15 begins a new section, running through **verse 23**, focusing on the supremacy of Jesus. This idea of "**image**" is similar to the words used by John in the opening of His gospel:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (**John 1:1**). Jesus, who is God the Son, is equal with God the Father (**John 10:30**). Jesus is God in human form, the visible image of the invisible God. The unseen God became seen, in the form of Jesus.

The phrase "**firstborn of all creation**," has caused considerable controversy. Some have attempted to interpret this to mean that Jesus was God the Father's first creation, and afterwards everything else was created by or through Jesus.

Taken this way, Jesus would be a created being and not equal to the Father. He would not be eternal. However, in this context, the term "**firstborn**" refers to supremacy, or priority. Jesus is the greatest over all creation. He is not a created being; He is the Creator.

The Daughters of Zelophehad are figures mentioned in the Bible, specifically in the book of Numbers in the Old Testament.

Zelophehad was a member of the tribe of Manasseh, and he had five daughters: **Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.**

Their story is recorded in **Numbers 27:1-11** and later in **Numbers 36**. The daughters of Zelophehad approached Moses, Eleazar the priest, the leaders, and the congregation, raising a concern about inheritance rights.

They pointed out that their father had died without sons, and they were worried that they would be left without a share of the land when it was distributed among the Israelites.

In response to their plea, God instructed Moses to grant the daughters of Zelophehad the right of inheritance, ensuring that they received a portion of the land allotted to their tribe. This decision set a precedent for inheritance laws in Israel, emphasizing fairness and justice.

Later in **Numbers 36**, additional concerns were raised regarding the inheritance rights of these daughters, particularly the potential for the land to be transferred to another tribe if the daughters married outside their tribe.

In response, a compromise was reached, stating that the daughters could marry within their tribe to maintain the tribal inheritance.

The story of the daughters of Zelophehad is often cited as an example of the Bible addressing issues of social justice and fairness.

- **Pandita Ramabai** (formerly Rama Dongre) was born in India in 1858 to a poor Brahmin family with no schools for girls.
- Despite financial challenges, both her parents provided her with a thorough education in Sanskrit, and she recited Hindu Scriptures to earn money.
- During the 1876-78 famine, her parents died from starvation, and she gained recognition for her intellect and teaching skills.
- In 1880, her brother died, leaving her alone. She married, but her husband's lower caste led to social ostracism.
- Facing the worst positions as an orphan, widow, and single mother, Ramabai developed a strong desire for social reform for women.
- She learned English, embraced Christian faith, and travelled to England for studies in 1883, where she experienced Christian charity.
- Upon returning to India, she found Christ, leading to the foundation of the Mukti Mission in 1889, providing refuge for orphans, widows, and single mothers.
- In 1905, Ramabai initiated a prayer circle, experiencing a Pentecostal outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which influenced her belief in the power of Scriptures in ordinary language.
- She undertook Bible translation, learning Hebrew and Greek, with a focus on Marathi for uneducated lower-caste women.
- Ramabai completed her translation just before her death in 1922, leaving a remarkable legacy in Bible translation.
- Despite being intellectually brilliant and deeply familiar with suffering, her life journey found fulfilment in the quest for social justice, culminating in a Bible translation for a marginalized audience.
- The document suggests that Ramabai may not have received international prominence due to her gender, Indian origin, and independent work. - . *By David Morgan*



Ramabai



Did you see or notice this?

Deuteronomy 5:8 ‘You shall not make for yourself a carved image—**any likeness of anything that is in heaven above**, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

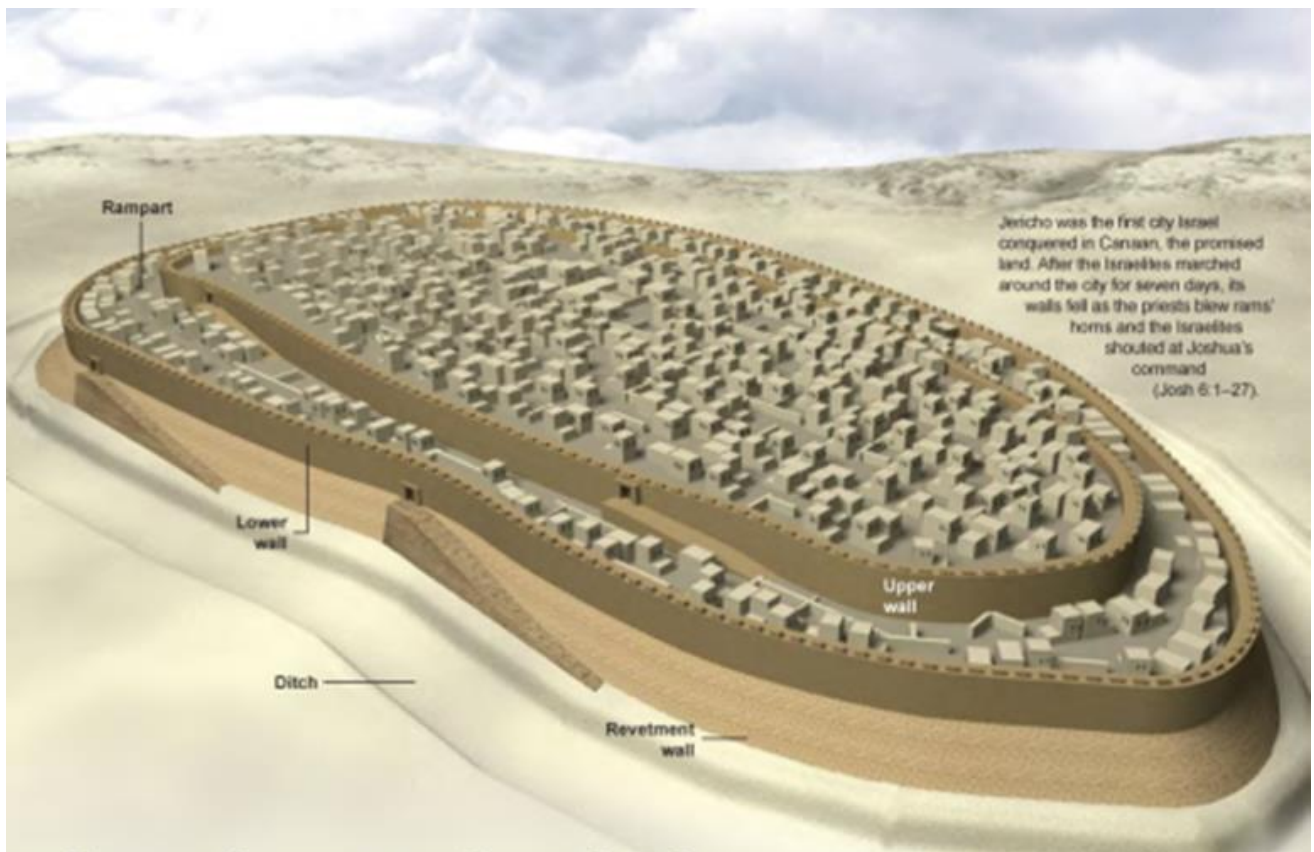
- Or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath: In that day as well as in our own, worship was tied closely with images – idealized images, or even images in the mind of man. God will not allow us to depict Him with any such image, nor replace Him with another image.
- The second commandment didn’t forbid making an image of something for artistic purposes. God Himself commanded Israel make images of cherubim (**Exodus 25:18, 26:31**). **It forbade the making of images as an “aid” to worship.**
- **John 4:24** explains the rationale behind the second commandment: God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. The use of images and other material things as a focus or “help” to worship denies who God is (Spirit) and how we must worship Him (in spirit and truth).
- Paul reminds us of the futility of trying to make God into our own image: Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man; and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. (**Romans 1:22-23**) - (*Word Bible Commentary*)

Night prayer of the Church

I pray now with the 5th century **North African Bishop Augustine of Hippo (354 - 430)**

‘Watch, O Lord, with those who wake, or watch or weep tonight, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend your sick ones, O Lord Jesus Christ; rest your weary ones; bless your dying ones; soothe your suffering ones; pity your afflicted ones; shield your joyous ones; and all for your love’s sake.’

- Augustine of Hippo, also known as Saint Augustine, was a prominent Christian theologian and philosopher who lived in the Roman North African region during the late 4th and early 5th centuries.
- He was born on November 13, 354, in Thagaste (modern-day Souk Ahras, Algeria), which was a part of the Roman Empire at that time.
- Augustine is best known for his contributions to Christian theology, his extensive writings - had a profound influence on Western philosophy and Christianity.
- One of his most famous works is "**Confessions**," an autobiographical account of his spiritual journey and conversion to Christianity. Augustine reflects on his early life, his intellectual struggles, and his eventual embrace of Christianity.
- Augustine’s theological views played a significant role in shaping the doctrines of the Catholic Church. His ideas on original sin, grace, and predestination have had a lasting impact on Christian theology.
- He argued against various heresies of his time and defended orthodox Christian beliefs.
- Another notable work by Augustine is "**City of God**" (De Civitate Dei), written in response to the sack of Rome in 410 by the Visigoths.
- In this work, he explores the nature of the earthly city (representing human society) and the city of God (representing the divine realm).
- Augustine addressed questions about the relationship between Christianity and the political challenges of his time.
- Augustine served as the Bishop of Hippo Regius (modern-day Annaba, Algeria) for several decades until his death on August 28, 430, during the siege of Hippo by the Vandals.
- He is recognized as a Doctor of the Church and is venerated as a saint by the Catholic Church and various Christian denominations.



Jericho was the first city Israel conquered in Canaan, the promised land. After the Israelites marched around the city for seven days, its walls fell as the priests blew rams' horns and the Israelites shouted at Joshua's command (Josh 6: 1-27).

Ancient Jericho

Toward the end of the Bronze Age

Archaeological excavations reveal that Jericho was violently destroyed sometime toward the end of the Bronze Age. The walls seem to have been thrown down by sudden force, as if by an earthquake. Charred wood shows that what was left of the city was burned. Excavators have also found food supplies buried in the destroyed city, which shows it was not captured by siege.



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City of Jericho as revealed today.

Twelve Tribes

Joshua 13-22

1400 BC

6 City-State Empires in 1406 BC

Amorite 15 city state Basham empire
 King Jabin at Hazor
 Hazor, Madon, Shimron, Achshaph, Dor:
 Joshua 11:1-3,10; Judges 4:2

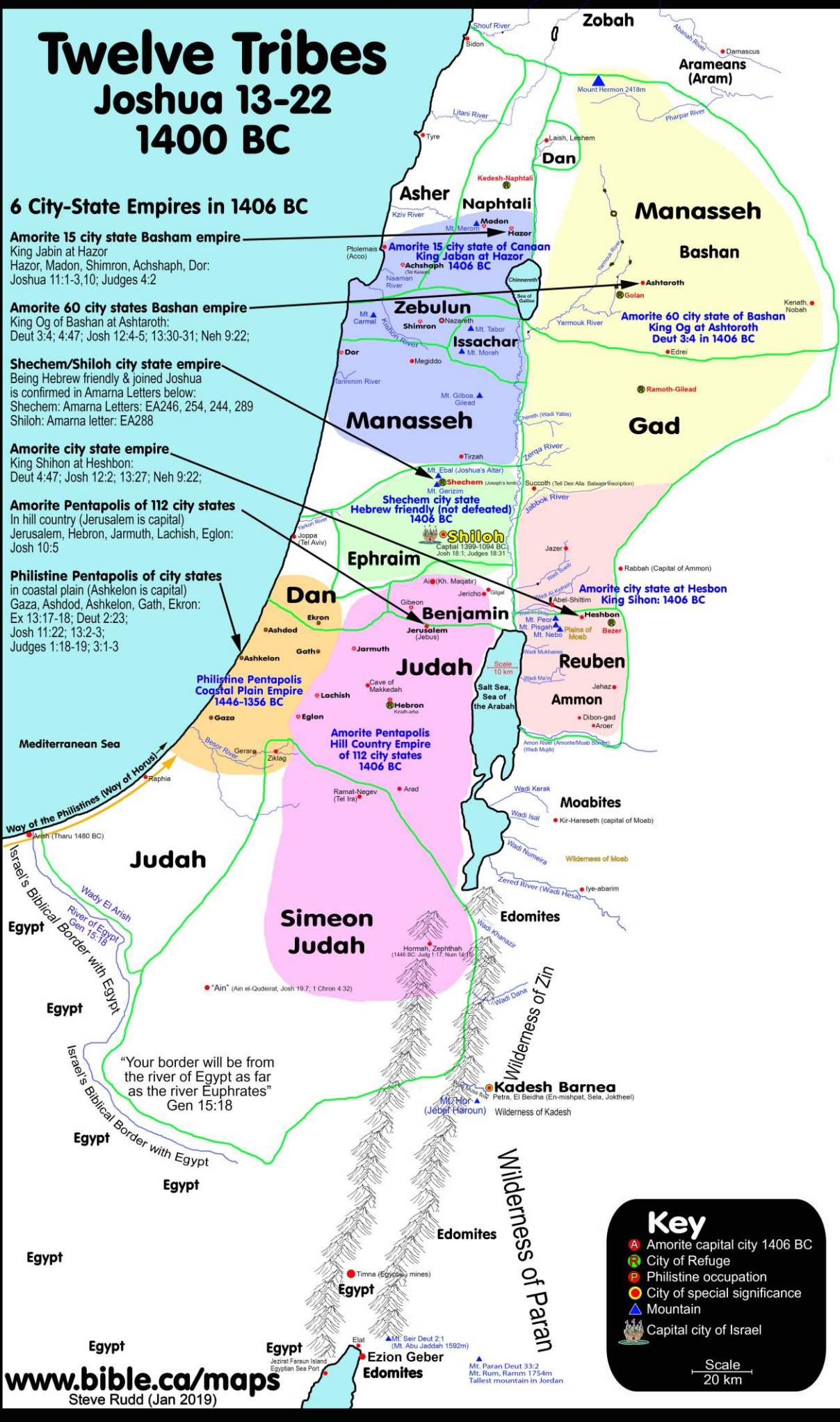
Amorite 60 city states Bashan empire
 King Og of Bashan at Ashtaroath:
 Deut 3:4; 4:47; Josh 12:4-5; 13:30-31; Neh 9:22;

Shechem/Shiloh city state empire
 Being Hebrew friendly & joined Joshua
 is confirmed in Amarna Letters below:
 Shechem: Amarna Letters: EA246, 254, 244, 289
 Shiloh: Amarna letter: EA288

Amorite city state empire
 King Sihon at Heshbon:
 Deut 4:47; Josh 12:2; 13:27; Neh 9:22;

Amorite Pentapolis of 112 city states
 In hill country (Jerusalem is capital)
 Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish, Eglon:
 Josh 10:5

Philistine Pentapolis of city states
 in coastal plain (Ashkelon is capital)
 Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath, Ekron:
 Ex 13:17-18; Deut 2:23;
 Josh 11:22; 13:2-3;
 Judges 1:18-19; 3:1-3



Key

- A Amorite capital city 1406 BC
- R City of Refuge
- P Philistine occupation
- S City of special significance
- M Mountain
- I Capital city of Israel

Scale
20 km

Born in AD 69, Polycarp was a disciple of the Apostle John, who later ordained him Bishop of Smyrna, now Izmir in Turkey, but then a major city in Roman Asia. By the middle of the second century, **Polycarp** was the most influential Christian leader in the Eastern Empire.

Having personally known many of Jesus' apostles in his youth, his long life bridged the gap between them and the great Christian scholars writing at the end of the century - men like his young friend **Irenaeus**.

Living as he did before the New Testament was an agreed text, **Polycarp** wrote letters which quoted extensively from the four Gospels and Paul's epistles in a relentless effort to establish the truth of the good news against strange interpretations of the words of Jesus.

The Hebrew word **kavod**, usually translated 'glory', comes from a root word meaning **to be heavy**, and thus **to be important, to have honour and majesty**.

Polycarp carried the weightiness of a man who lived in God's presence. He radiated glory.

In his History of the Church, **Eusebius** tells how, in around the year 155, during a pagan festival in Smyrna, the now elderly **Polycarp** heard that trouble was coming his way.

Friends persuaded him to leave the city and go to a nearby farm where he devoted himself to prayer, 'that God would grant peace to the churches throughout the world'.

A little later, he was arrested by the Roman authorities and urged to deny Christ.

'Swear by the genius of Caesar,' the proconsul announced, 'and I will set you free.' Polycarp replied, 'For eighty-six years, I have been his servant, and he has never done me wrong: how can I blaspheme my King who saved me?' 'I have wild beasts,' said the proconsul. 'I shall throw you to them.' 'Call them,' replied the old man. The proconsul answered, 'If you make light of the beasts, I'll have you destroyed by fire.' Polycarp answered, 'Why do you hesitate? Do what you want.'

'As he said this,' **Eusebius** notes, 'he was filled with courage and joy, and his features were full of grace.' Soon a shout went out in the arena that **Polycarp** must be burned alive and he 'was bound like a noble ram presented from a great flock as a whole burnt offering acceptable to God.' And so, he died, a faithful witness to the end. *(By Leitco)*



Let's prayer for a blessed month.

Father, help me to live this month to the full,

being true to YOU, in every way.

Jesus, help me to give myself away to others,

being kind to everyone I meet.

Spirit, help me to love the lost, proclaiming Christ in all I do and say.

Amen.