



WOW: Word Of the Week

Dream – Time to Dream Again

February 17, 2021

I do not remember my childhood dreams and imaginations about “what I would be when I grew up.” I do not remember being asked the question. Perhaps I have a faulty memory. Eventually, I learned to dream about “what could be.” I learned to dream about the future and to imagine the possibilities. If I somehow escaped childhood “dreaming without limitations,” God taught me to think beyond the thinkable and imagine beyond the imaginable. How? Simply by reading and believing His Word! In Eph. 3:20, the Bible says that He is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine.

*When I observed that preaching the gospel could bring dozens to Christ every year, I learned to believe in the power of His Word to save people from sin. I committed myself to making sure my preaching always included the gospel, and God made sure that there were people present who accepted and responded and were baptized, across the years, hundreds of people!

*When I saw a new city spring up around the church building, I began to pray about how to reach 100,000 new residents, many of whom would be searching for a new church. Looking out the glass front doors of the church building and praying about the lost became part of ministry.

*When God’s energizing power within his people caused a church to double, another church to triple, I remembered his promise—more abundantly, beyond what we can measure, beyond what we think or imagine.

*When God’s promise was super-fulfilled again and again in mission work—beyond what I had thought possible, God was teaching me a lesson in dreaming.

God does not disappoint his dreamers!

A Dominican eldership dreams of a church planting effort and eight new churches are the result.

A new church is planted in a South American country, soon names elders and internal leaders, and dreams about sharing the gospel. The church is active in at least six new and renewed churches in its nation.

A Colombian evangelist dreams, prays, and keeps his eyes open, and now works with a group of churches – I think at last count the number was either eight or nine.

A Colombian evangelist believes the gospel is God’s power. He finds people who are interested in the gospel and brings dozens to Christ each year, when other workers in the same area see meager results.

A church is planted in a Central American capital, elders are eventually named, and 15 years later the result is a church of almost 400 with multiple assemblies each Sunday.

National churches are doubling, tripling, planting churches, preaching the gospel, growing spiritually, naming leaders. And many of them are doing this with little or no outside assistance!

How is this possible? God does not disappoint his dreamers.

The last year has not been easy. Many US churches have struggled. Some US Christians have found it difficult just trying to make it through another day. The furthest thing from the minds of many Christians, church leaders, and preachers has been the need to dream a new dream. With all we have faced, dreaming has been a distant option in our spiritual lives.

God is calling us to do more than merely hang on. That is not enough. Jesus’ promise of abundant life is still valid. God sees what we cannot see. God’s promise has not suddenly been invalidated until the pandemic is over. He still does immeasurably more than we ask or imagine.

Begin today. Recommit yourself to dreaming. Toward the end of 2019, a brother in Christ helped me dream a dream about virtual Bible study, classes, and assemblies. Not to overstate the case, but God has brought that dream to a reality so far beyond what we thought that it puts us to shame.

Today I am dreaming, thinking about new ideas, new possibilities. How do we evangelize thousands in this new environment? How do we reach the thousands who live in gated communities in the US and locked apartment buildings in Latin American countries, now that they have become familiar and comfortable with online classes? It is time to dream—and to pray! Dream, and put those dreams in the hands of the One who is so powerful that our dreams will always appear too small.