

To Witness God's Presence



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As Divine Word Missionaries carry out their various tasks and responsibilities, Acts 1:8 inspires them to serve as witnesses of God's presence in everything they do. Divine Word Missionaries are active wherever God is. God's presence spells out the purpose and direction for the tasks undertaken by Divine Word Missionaries. As our SVD Constitutions state, "His Life is our life, His Mission is our mission."

As God's instruments, Divine Word Missionaries dedicate themselves to fulfilling God's path to salvation and mission for us on earth. This mission does not simply entail accomplishing specific religious duties and charitable responsibilities demanded of religious people on a daily basis. God's mission is truly about maintaining God's love in the hearts, minds and souls of people throughout the world. The success of this divine mission does not depend on the magnitude of a particular task or the complexity of a problem awaiting a solution. As long as God's love finds a true home in the hearts of people, as long as God's kindness accompanies our action, and as long as God's compassion motivates our lives, God's mission is alive.

Divine Word Missionaries have everything to do with keeping that mission alive. As members of a religious community committed to preserving God's love in the world, Divine Word Missionaries often find it moving to witness the presence of God's compassion in everyday people. How can one's heart not be moved when seeing an old widow with meager income offering what she could to help the suffering people in Cameroon? How can one's eyes not fill with tears when receiving generous gifts meant for street children in

Ecuador? How can one not bow in respect to those with limited means responding to the cries for help from lepers in the central highlands of Vietnam? How can one not feel joy when you so readily support missionaries being educated at Divine Word College? These experiences truly remind Divine Word Missionaries of the awesome privilege of serving as witnesses to God's mission among God's people everywhere.

Though God's mission takes place in the hearts and souls of God's people; Divine Word Missionaries are simply God's instruments. When witnessing such blessings, Divine Word Missionaries are enormously grateful to you and all our lay missionary partners for affirming, year after year, an important truth about God's mission of love. He is constantly at work in the world as long as God's children open their hearts to witness God's presence in their lives and in all creation.

