

**Mission Month Devotion**  
**12 October 2016**

**Jesus reaching a paralysed Man**

*Mark 2: 1 - 12. A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. <sup>2</sup> They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. <sup>3</sup> Some men came, bringing to him a paralysed man, carried by four of them. <sup>4</sup> Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralysed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."*

*<sup>6</sup> Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, <sup>7</sup> "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"*

*<sup>8</sup> Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? <sup>9</sup> Which is easier: to say to this paralysed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? <sup>10</sup> But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, <sup>11</sup> "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." <sup>12</sup> He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"*

What a privilege this man had to have four friends who were willing to go to the extreme to bring him to Jesus, the Healer of the body and the One who forgives our sins.

Nothing would stop them. Even if they had to cause damage to the roof of the house where Jesus was teaching and that was so packed with listeners that it was impossible to enter through the door

When the ordinary was impossible, they did what could be perceived as the impossible, or least the extraordinary.

Jesus, our great Missionary, reaches out to us by attending to our material and physical needs. *But his priority is to forgive our sins and create a reconciled relationship with his Father* Jesus came to save those who are lost.

But an integral part of God's plan to accomplish the rescuing of sinners from their fate and invite them to a complete commitment to him and to our holy God, is to call other believers to bring those who need him, to Christ.

Jesus wants us to know that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins. So he said to the paralysed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home" and he got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

You too will stand amazed in the presence of Christ when you bring those who need him, to Jesus. You too will be the reason why men, women and children praise God and are astonished by his forgiveness and healing.

So, should we not also be willing to do the extraordinary?