



**WORKERS  
FOR THE  
HARVEST**

*WE'RE IN THIS  
TOGETHER*

**Willing Workers**

18<sup>th</sup> October 2015

# Willing Workers

☞ Matthew 9:35-38 - *Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*



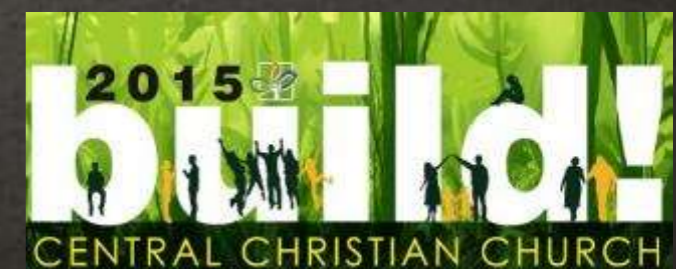
# Willing Workers

- ☞ *When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless*
- ☞ Harassed - to disturb persistently; torment, bother continually, pester; persecute.
- ☞ Helpless - unable to help oneself, weak or dependent, deprived of strength or power.
- ☞ Do we see people in such condition? That is how Jesus felt.



# Willing Workers

- ☞ The word used for compassion is the strongest word for pity in the Greek language.
- ☞ It describes the love that moves a person to the depths of their being.
- ☞ It is love that moves people beyond sentimental feelings to heartfelt action.
- ☞ Do you ever look carefully into people's faces when you're in public?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNOTWjIJ58E>

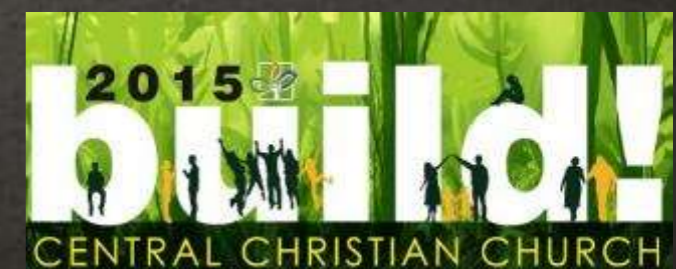


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# Willing Workers

- ⌘ How could these people be so hard-hearted as to ignore this women/men being hurt?
- ⌘ Like the disciples who were with Jesus then probably utter, send them away
- ⌘ They were so preoccupied with themselves and the immediate excuse is that they did not see the obvious need of this women in their path.
- ⌘ They did not see as Jesus would have seen.



# Willing Workers

☞ *Like Sheep without Shepard*

☞ Like sheep without a shepherd meant they would follow any guru or new idea or way even to their destruction.

☞ Sheep are dumb animals. They simply put their heads down and follow the sheep in front of them.

☞ If a guide or leader does not exist they will simply wander and wander and wander until they destroy themselves.





# Willing Workers

- ⌘ Those three thoughts, harassed, helpless, and sheep without a shepherd, are a fitting description of our society.
- ⌘ "People are living lives of quiet desperation." They are desperate for meaning and purpose distraught by the world's lies and heading for destruction.
- ⌘ They are walking down a path that Jesus referred to as "the broad road" that leads to death.



# Willing Workers

œ *The harvest is plentiful*

œ In Jesus' day the population of the world was approximately 150 million people.

œ Today's world population grows 150 million every two years.

œ Of the 6 billion people in the world, it is estimated that over thirty million people worldwide will die without Christ this year.



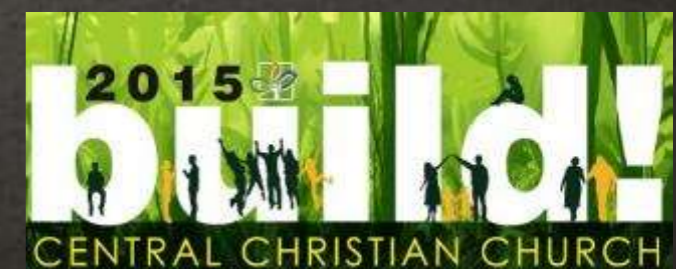
# Willing Workers

- œ Ripened wheat takes on a golden hue when ready for harvest.
- œ If reaping is delayed, the grain begins to turn a pale white, and will soon fall over on the ground.
- œ There is always a sense of urgency to bringing in the harvest.
- œ "The tragedy of our time is that the situation is desperate but the saints are not."



# Willing Workers

- ☞ We are living in desperate times. And desperate times demand action.
- ☞ Can we take responsibility for our field?
- ☞ Think of all the people we contact everyday: family, friends, neighbors, work associates, the woman at the cleaners, the guy at the car wash, our sports buddies, and our “mamak kaki”.
- ☞ We will never have a sense of urgency and priority until we realize that we are responsible for them.



# Willing Workers

- ☞ “Houston, we have a problem”. - the workers are few.
- ☞ Jesus doesn't say that the believers are few; the worshipers are few; the disciples are few; the intercessors are few; the tithers are few, but He does say the workers are few.
- ☞ He doesn't say we need more prayer meetings, worship services, sermons to preach, songs to sing, resources to share, money to invest, or more opportunities to seize; He says we need more workers



# Willing Workers

- œ Our job is not to save the harvest - that's God's work. Our job is to tell people about the Lord of the harvest.
- œ If we love the Lord with all our hearts, why do we lack workers?
- œ If we truly seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, why do we lack workers?
- œ If we believe that people are eternally lost in sin without the saving grace of Jesus, why do we lack workers?



# Willing Workers

☞ Top 3 reason why people don't work:

☞ 1. People think they are unqualified

☞ 2. People think there is still time /are too busy

☞ 3. People are afraid to be rejected/ think someone else will do the work.



# Willing Workers

☞ 1. People think they are unqualified

☞ God found Gideon in a hole. He found Joseph in prison. He found Elijah hiding in a cave. He found Daniel in the lion's den. He found Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in a furnace. He found Jonah in the belly of a whale. He found Moses and David tending sheep. The next time you feel unqualified to be used by God **REMEMBER HE TENDS TO RECRUIT FROM THE PIT, NOT THE PEDESTAL.**





# Willing Workers

☞ 1 Corinthians 1: 26 – 29 - *Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things - and the things that are not - to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him*



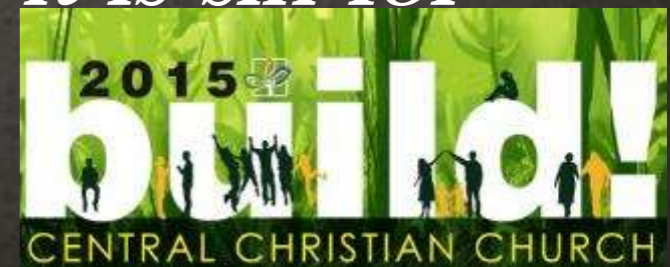
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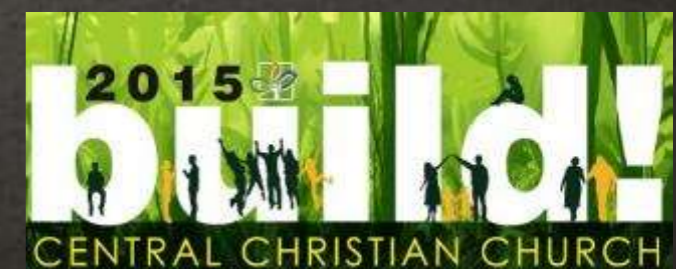
☞ 2. People think there is still time /are too busy

☞ James 4:13-17 - *Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.*



# Willing Workers

- ☞ An estimated 50 million people died worldwide every year
- ☞ About 10,000 people in Malaysia lose their lives due to tobacco smoking each year
- ☞ In Malaysia 60,000 a year is born out of wedlock.
- ☞ In Malaysia attempted suicide and death are on the rise, which is approximately 12 per 100,000, and mostly from ages 12 to 24 and female numbers are more.



# Willing Workers

☞ 3. People are afraid to be rejected/ think someone else will do the work.

☞ John 15:18-20 - *“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.*”



# Willing Workers

☞ What Kind of workers we need?

☞ We need FAT workers! That's right:

# FAT!



# Willing Workers

☞ F—faithful

☞ A—available

☞ T—teachable

☞ Jesus doesn't say recruit or solicit workers; He says pray for God to send out workers. Why? We may be able to pressure people to work, but it won't last. Only the Spirit of God can move us to answer our call to service.

☞ Let's be Willing Workers

