"We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and of your love for all the saints; because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, which has come to you, as it has also in the world, and it is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth" - Colossians 1:3-6.
What was God's Mission like after Pentecost?

- There was rapid growth. Acts 4:4 recorded 3,000 men baptized in one day.
- Jesus promises that He will send us the Holy Spirit to empower us to do this mission.
- The book of Acts tells of Philip preaching in Samaria, Paul's missionary journeys throughout the Mediterranean region, Peter studying Scriptures with Cornelius.
- The New Testament church grew rapidly because everything they did was through prayer, dedicating their lives to and dependent on God.
- It is Jesus' power that accomplishes His work through us. It is not our wisdom, intelligence, good looks, or our knowledge that win souls.
- Ellen White reminds us that: "We need to look constantly to Jesus, realizing that it is His power which does the work ... Only the work accomplished with much prayer, and sanctified by the merit of Christ, will in the end prove to have been efficient for good" (The Desire of Ages, p. 362)
Prayer Suggestions

"Praying God's Word" - use Colossians 1:3-4 as a starter to your prayer session.

"Praying Always" - we know that we have not spent enough time in prayer.

"Your Faith in Christ Jesus" - Ask Jesus to help us make prayer a high priority in all our witnessing work, in our personal lives and families.

"Your Love to All Saints" - God of Love, You created us with an eternal capacity to grow in Your love. Thank You for pouring out Your love into our hearts so that we in turn may be enabled to love those around us.
Song Suggestions

- Love at Home (CH #652)
- I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go (CH# 573)
- Give of Your Best to the Master (CH #572)
- So Send I You (CH #578)
- We Are His (He is Our Song #140)
Prayer Activity: Five-Finger Prayer

- Thumb: Say a prayer for a friend who does not know Jesus yet.
- 2nd Finger: Say a prayer for school teachers and Sabbath school teachers.
- Middle: Say a prayer that Jesus will fill you with love for others from different nationalities and races.
- 4th Finger: Say a prayer for a sick person.
- Smallest: Say a prayer for your government.