

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## A FOCUSED FAMILY

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While it is a delight to see individuals dedicated to the Lord, it is equally encouraging to see whole families focused upon the Lord and His cause. For example, Stephanas' family no doubt provided helpful encouragement to all Christians who came near them. They had “*set themselves to minister unto the saints*”. They were among the number who “*helpeth in the work and labo-  
reth*” (I Corinthians 16:15-16). This family, no doubt following the leadership in the home of her head, Stephanas, determined to minister, help and work for the Lord's cause. Aquila and Priscilla were a husband and wife who were likewise focused upon serving the Lord. Let us observe the nature of their focus.

They focused upon the Lord's cause regardless of where they lived. They opened their home to saints gathering for worship on a regular basis. Having to leave Rome due to the edict of Emperor Claudius, we find them in Asia Minor saluting the brethren in Corinth with “*the church that is in their house*” (I Cor. 16:19). Back in Rome, they and “*the church that is in their house*”

*received Paul's greetings* (Rom. 16:3). Being in new surroundings and experiencing new circumstances, some families might become distracted. Not Aquila and Priscilla. They were not fervent for the Lord in one town and slothful in another. They were active in a local church everywhere they lived.

They focused upon the whole counsel of God when they heard only part of the truth. In Ephesus, Apollos was teaching accurately the way of the Lord but his message needed “the rest of the story.” Yes, John and his baptism were indeed part of God's plan in preparing people for the coming Savior, but now, it was only part of the revealed truth, for Christ had now come. John and his mission had now deferred to the authority of Christ and baptism in His name. When Aquila and Priscilla heard Apollos preach knowing only the baptism of John, “*they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more accurately*” (Acts 18:26).

Some might have let the matter lie, thinking “Oh, baptism is baptism, what difference does it make?” It made a difference with

Paul when he met twelve men who probably were taught by Apollos (Acts 19:1-5), and it mattered to a godly husband and wife as they taught the eloquent Apollos more perfectly. Both Aquila and Priscilla were involved in teaching Apollos the way more accurately. Both were interested and active in his gaining knowledge of the Way.

They also focused on promoting the Gospel despite real dangers. Paul said that this couple were his “*fellow-workers in Christ Jesus, who for my life laid down their own necks*” (Romans 16:4). They were not only fellow-workers in making tents (Acts 18:2), but more importantly, they were fellow workers in promoting salvation in Christ. This dedication to Christ apparently threatened their physical safety. But they remained focused and dedicated to the Lord.

Families today are subject to edicts of government, move from city to city, and hear religious messages. Is your family focused on the cause of Christ like the family of Aquila and Priscilla?