

because of the hope of Israel

Acts 28:20

"For this reason I have asked to see you and talk with you. It is because of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain."

Dear Father in Heaven,

Thank You for Your mighty work among us through GLEF 2025. Thank You that through it, You have begun a spiritual revival in this land and that You desire to continue the Acts of the Apostles through our next generation. Thank You for softening even my hardened heart with Your love, for teaching me that the power of Your love and strength is far greater than my sin or weakness, and for wanting to use me as Your instrument and a witness of Jesus.

Please help me at this hour to testify to Your grace and work in my life and to make a clear decision of faith. In Jesus' name, amen.

When the sailors did not listen to Paul's advice and continued their voyage, they were caught in a severe storm. All were helpless in the face of death and had gone 14 days without proper food. In that chaotic situation, Paul encouraged everyone to eat and have faith in God, and he continued to testify. Paul was confident that God would use him as a witness in Rome.

Where did his confidence come from? It came from his absolute faith in God's promise and sovereignty. He held God's promise from Acts 9:15–16 deeply in his heart—that God had chosen him as His instrument.

Verse 25 says, *"So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told."* Paul did not know how they would be saved, let alone how he himself would reach Rome. But the promise, *"Just as you have testified for me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome,"* was alive in his heart.

Luke emphasizes that not one of the 276 people on the ship perished; they all survived and reached land, just as God had promised Paul.

Paul finally arrived in Rome. He was allowed to live by himself with a soldier to guard him. From a human perspective, the situation seemed discouraging. But Paul saw that God had prepared the best environment for him to serve in Rome.

After three days, he arranged a meeting with the leading Jews in Rome to explain why he had come and to win them as prayer coworkers. In verse 20, Paul testifies that he is in chains for the hope of Israel.

It was God's hope to use His people as a kingdom of priests for world mission, and His heart's desire was for Israel to become a nation of Bible teachers to the whole world. Paul had once been the worst persecutor of Christians, but after his conversion, he carried God's hope for Israel in his heart.

Because Paul understood and was convinced of God's hope, he could joyfully endure all sufferings and imprisonment and dedicate himself unwaveringly to God's mission.

For the hope of Germany and Europe, we also dedicated ourselves over the past eight years through the GLE Forum to the continuous raising of spiritual leaders who carry God's hope for the mission field—including the online world—in their hearts.

Wherever there is even one person who lives with God's hope and willingly bears the "chains" for it, a whole nation can be saved.

Let us not be content with our own salvation during this time, but like Paul, bear the chains for Germany and Europe to the ends of the earth and experience spiritual revival.

Paul's work in Rome was not a massive megachurch event. Rather, he served the work of disciple-making through **one-to-one Bible study**.

By sharing his life, testimony, and hope, some who came to him could accept God's hope for their lives and become Bible teachers, through whom the gospel spread to the whole world.

Paul didn't see them as isolated individuals but as a whole people. That's why, for him, one-to-one Bible study fulfilled the world mission command of Acts 1:8.

Through today's passage, I was encouraged to hold firmly to God's counsel and vision in my heart at all times and to live it out in obedience and faith.

What is God's counsel for me?

Looking back on my life, I can only give thanks for God's grace and sovereign guidance. I was thirsty for true worship and longed to be happy through academic success, money, career, love, and a harmonious family. Hoping for a better future, I endured the present. But even after achieving things one by one, I remained dissatisfied and empty. Even though I married a wonderful husband, I was unhappy because of my human expectations and destroyed our love relationship. But God did not leave me as I was. He intervened in my life with His living word. He trained me through life Training—through illness such as tuberculosis and the miscarriage of our first child.

Through such events, God taught me that He is the giver of life, and I could begin to understand His pain in sending His only Son Jesus into the world to die on the cross out of His love for a sinner.

When I was in deep darkness because of my sin, Jesus visited me through His Word:

John 21:15 — "Do you love me? Feed my lambs."

John 4:21 — "I who speak to you am He."

He restored my broken love relationship with Him.

By faith in the absolute love of Jesus, I was able to build a new life.

God transformed me—from a victim of circumstances, a beggar for love, and a thirsty egotist—into a joyful worshiper of God and a witness of Jesus.

I no longer need to live in misery, hoping that my situation will somehow get better.. Because of Jesus' grace alone, I can truly live happily now.

God has called me to willingly bear all chains for the hope of Germany and Europe.

Here I confess that I have not willingly borne the chains for even one soul, or for Germany and Europe, but carried them reluctantly.

I repent of having followed the wrong life goal — desiring comfort and living according to the desires of my flesh.

Through studying the book of Acts, I learned that being a witness of Jesus to the ends of the earth does not mean that serving God's mission will bring me smooth success and blessings.

Rather, it may mean losing everything in this world, being slandered and persecuted, and suffering greatly—yet gaining Jesus, knowing Him more deeply, sharing in His glory.

God gave me the grace to establish a house church with a great man of faith, so that we might willingly carry the chains for world mission.

God gave sh. Johannes the grace of his habilitation- to be a professor, so that he may reach students through it and, like John the Baptist, lead many to repentance to Jesus.

God began a revival work in our house church when we prioritized building a prayer altar on campus, wrote testimonies weekly with Paul Ezra, and had deep word fellowship together.

I always desired a happy, harmonious house church—but the secret was this:

To devote our hearts to God's Word and obey Jesus' world mission command.

That's why God gave us **Matthew 6:33** as our life's promise verse.

I now accept God's hope and counsel for me—that He wants to use me as a **mother of faith** for two great peoples: Paul Ezra and Noa Marie, and for the next generation.

He wants to use me as a capable **Bible teacher and missionary** for the young people in Germany and Europe.

Even under house arrest, Paul led Bible studies, welcoming everyone and boldly proclaiming God's kingdom. Because he was confident that the Word of God is not bound but has the power to work in one person and transform even a whole nation.

This vision made a great difference.

With this vision, M. Peter was able to bear the chains of persecution, mobilize German students and our next generation, and raise them as global spiritual leaders through God's Word.

With this vision, M. James Point studied and preached God's Word in a difficult environment and took up the challenge of the M Mission.

A person like Lydia Point, who leads one-to-one Bible study, is a great nation and important for pioneering the M-world.

World mission begins with one **One-to-One Bible Study**.

One biblestudy with Paul Ezra, Noa Marie, Sohyun, Jessica and the student has the power to work in them and raise them as global spiritual leaders.

Therefore, as a **second-gen missionary**, I want to make a clear decision to inherit the spiritual legacy of our predecessors in faith, actively build one precious biblestudy team this year, and pass on the legacy of one-to-one Bible study to my children and the next generation.

With Acts chapter 28, the book of Acts does not end—it is only the beginning of God's sovereign world salvation plan.

Through Ezekiel 37:10, I see God's vision: that the dry bones on our medical campus will come alive and rise as a great army of 120 Bible teachers, as they hear and receive God's Word. God does not work through the best conditions, but through the power of His Word and the Holy Spirit. I want to go to the campus every week with my mother-in-law, M. Sarah, to share the good news of Jesus and to lead 12 students into God's righteousness.

I pray that, for the sake of God's hope for the medical school, Germany, and Europe, I may **willingly bear the "chains"**—starting with early morning prayer, one-to-one Bible study, and invitation ministry—with joy and prepare for the spiritual revival in Germany and Europe by faith.