

“That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”

On July 20, 1969 astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first human being to walk on the moon. While we have always looked at the moon with awe it was a monumental effort for NASA scientists to bring mankind to the lunar surface. Powered by a Saturn V rocket the Apollo 11 mission traveled the 238,855 miles from the Kennedy Space Center launch pad to the surface of the moon. Then we heard the words: “Houston. Tranquility base. The Eagle has landed.” First it was Neil Armstrong and then Buzz Aldrin leaving their footprint on the moon. It was a landmark accomplishment and a game changer for our country’s space program and vision beyond what we could previously experience. The mission took 8 days from launch to splashdown. Its success gave hope and a future to exploration beyond our earthly world.

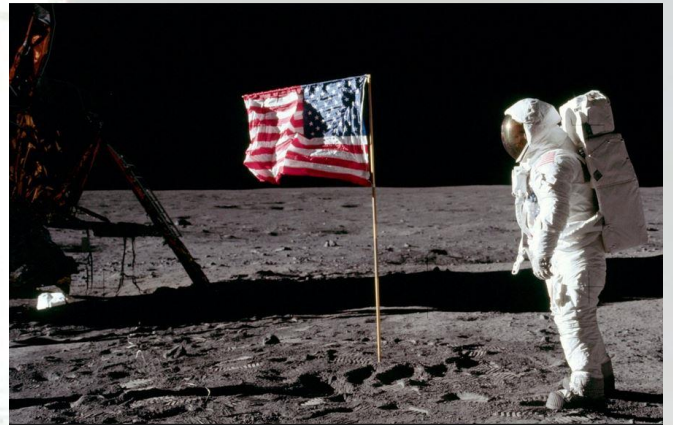


When I think of our country today the best “one small step for man” event would be a person making a commitment to become a follower of Christ. Each person who commits their life to serving the Lord creates the potential for a “giant leap for mankind” by bringing others to explore God in their lives. In turn, each new follower can change additional lives by sharing the gospel and planting the seeds of faith with people they meet. It becomes a domino effect as they, too, could spread God’s influence to those they meet.

Just as the Apollo 11 mission gave hope and a future to a world beyond our comprehension, each person who comes to faith discovers the hope for a future of eternal life and the peace of Jesus Christ for their life. The scope of their world would explode from a limited earthly experience to the promise of heaven to all believers. That is a giant leap for mankind – truly a game changer for you and those you influence to become believers.

You can help mankind take a small step with your encouragement. Start with yourself. Commit yourself to mentor and nurture others in the faith. Then, encourage others to take a leadership role to spread God’s love. The ripple effect benefits future generations of believers. Your commitment becomes the catalyst for others.

For the Apollo 11 astronauts this was their first landing on the moon. I am sure they approached the mission with confidence but also with apprehension. The first time you share your faith with others might cause you some apprehension as well. But approach the mission with confidence because God will be with you every step of the way. Let God be your Mission Control. As you share your faith you don’t need to use big words or flowery, eloquent “churchspeak” phrases. The Holy Spirit will help you express your faith in a genuine way that comes from your heart. *For the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say (Luke 12:12).* You are God’s representative, acting on His behalf. *We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us... (2 Corinthians 5:20).* Our role is to plant the seeds and the Holy Spirit does the rest. Mission control is your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. God manages the mission if you are willing to explore the universe of God’s creation. *“Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” (John 20:21).*



As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the landing on the moon let us also celebrate the opportunity we have to reveal a new world of God’s blessings to others. For us it is a small step but for those who receive the sharing of faith it is a giant leap for mankind.

Question: What opportunities do you have to share your faith with others? Are you ready to take that small step?

Prayer: Dear Lord. Give us the courage to step out of our comfort zone and share our faith with others. Amen.