

The Missionary MEMO

Vol. 16 No. 2

Tips and Tidbits for Cross-Cultural Missionaries

2nd Quarter 2010

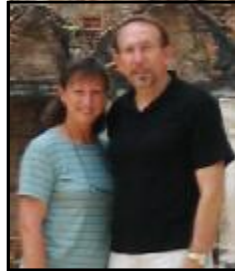
Editor: Lynn Raburn

109 Tanglewood Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72118

Email: Lraburn@faithNLR.org

Missionary Accountability

By Lynn Raburn



“We asked our missionary to report on how he was spending the money from the mission fund and he let us know that we had no right to question him.” Those chilling words from a sending pastor were the other side of the story of why his missionary was seeking a different sending church. He felt the church didn’t trust him so he was seeking someone who would. Is requiring accountability lack of trust?

Missionary Paul did not think so. He went to great lengths to guard his reputation of integrity. Rather than thinking he was above accountability, he ensured it. This is evident in what he wrote to the church in Corinth (2 Corinthians 8:16-24) about the funds being gathered to be sent to Judea for famine relief. Notice Paul’s example of missionary accountability.

He Had Accountability Partners

And we have sent with him the brother, whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches; And not that only, but who was also chosen of the churches to travel with us with this grace, which is administered by us to the glory of the same Lord, and declaration of your ready mind (8:18-19).

Paul sent an accountability partner with Titus to Corinth in order to protect both Titus’ name and his own. Note that the man he sent had a good reputation himself. He was “praised” among the churches. Not only that but he was also elected to this position by the churches. Paul said he was “chosen of the churches to travel with us.” Perhaps this was the ancient version of the missions treasurer or even the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions. Then in verse 22, Paul informed the church that he was sending another unnamed brother along just to be sure that there were no doubt about how the finances were handled. While Paul referred to Titus as a “fellowhelper,” the two men who provided accountability were called “the messengers of the churches.”

Whether any do enquire of Titus, he is my partner and fellowhelper concerning you: or our brethren be enquired of, they are the messengers of the churches, and the glory of Christ (8:23).

Continued on page two



My Greatest Fear

By Joel Cobbs

Jenna and I recently returned to Kenya for a few weeks after being in Botswana for more than a year. It has been our joy to see the continued growth of the work here, both numerically and in spiritual maturity. With the joy, however, has come heartache. It seems that heartache is inevitable when we invest our lives in people. Since we were last in Kenya, two men I spent countless hours with and who I saw come so far, went astray in the ways of the world. Their failure caused untold sorrow to themselves, their families and the churches they had ministered to. God is always faithful and He has called and prepared young men to take their places, but from the human side it still is disappointing.

Late one afternoon after our return, I grabbed my walking cane and set out for a slow walk around our place. It was cool with the wind blowing hard and the African sunset glowing. As I entered the Bible Institute property, I paused to look at the surroundings. Fine stone buildings stood where we once had mud huts with grass roofs. I walked up to a gum tree that I could not reach around with my arms and remembered the day I planted that tree. So much has changed. The growth in the work of God has been above and beyond what I ever dreamed.

Like a father teaching a young child to ride a bike, I have watched as churches have taken off their training wheels, so to speak. They may have wobbled a bit at first, and may have had a crash or two, but in the end they have learned to ride, long, hard, and fast.

Like a father teaching a young child to ride a bike, I have watched as churches have taken off their training wheels, so to speak. They may have wobbled a bit at first, and may have had a crash or two, but in the end they have learned to ride, long, hard, and fast.

Nevertheless, one of my greatest fears remains that someone will come along, interfere with that process of growth and maturity, and derail what God is doing in this place and with these people. Unfortunately there are many unscrupulous missionaries that come and make it their ministry to find an

Continued on page two

2010 International Missionary Retreat

September 6-10 Akadule Hotel Ephesus, Turkey

This Retreat is for Cross-Cultural Missionaries Only

Arrival, Monday, Sept. 6 for 6pm Service

Tues.-Th., Sept. 7-10, Retreat Services & MK VBS

For more information, download MEMO Vol16 No1 at

<http://www.lynnrarnburn.com/memo.htm>

If you plan to attend, please email
Lrarnburn@faithNLR.org

Update on Samaritan Ministries

Good News

The bill passed by congress requiring all citizens to have insurance coverage recognizes Christian co-ops as valid insurance. This means members of Samaritan Ministries will not have to pay a fine for lack of insurance.

Changes

The monthly contribution from members will increase slightly but in return, needs of up to \$250,000 will be covered as opposed to the previous limit of \$100,000.

Recommendations

If you are a member of Samaritan Ministries and are not participating in Samaritan MV (needs from a vehicular accident) and Save To Share (needs over \$250,000), you should be.

If you join Samaritan Ministries, be sure and list a current missionary member as the person who recommended them to you. This will save that missionary one month's contribution.

My Greatest Fear

Continued from Page One

existing church to "help." They usually do not care what kind of church they are or what they believe. To follow the bicycle metaphor, they find a young church that has just taken off the training wheels and, at the first fall, say how horrible it is to have to ride a bike. They say: "Come let me give you a limousine, with a driver. There is no need for all that learning and hard work. Just get in for the ride and we will take care of the rest." Unfortunately, some are duped into believing the devil's lies and what could have been a congregation of sacrificially serving believers, that would have accomplished great things for God, becomes a lazy group of people who are just along for a free ride. This is not a new problem. Even the apostle Paul dealt with false teachers following him and trying to corrupt young churches. How much better it is to see churches growing and maturing than just going along for the ride. It should be the goal of every missionary to challenge the churches they plant to take off the training wheels and ride.

Accountability

Continued from Page One

Paul did not shirk accountability. Rather he went to great lengths to insure it.

The missionary who has no accountability partners places himself in a precarious position. He may think what he is doing with his missionary support is right and just without realizing he is erroneously justifying his actions. There is safety in counselors (Proverbs 15:22) and every missionary needs them. Something is amiss when a person is unwilling to be accountable to someone else.

He Avoided Blame

Avoiding this, that no man should blame us in this abundance which is administered by us (8:20).

Paul took steps to make sure there was no blemish on his reputation for how funds were collected or dispersed. Keeping receipts where possible, keeping a good set of books, and preparing thorough reports to churches will protect the missionary's reputation and maintain his integrity. It is not always possible to get receipts for purchases in developing countries and not everyone is adept in making spreadsheets. That does not mean missionaries cannot make an effort to keep records and avoid blame.

He Acknowledged Accountability to both God and Man

Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men (8:21).

Missionaries need to be constantly aware that they will answer to God both for how they raise support and how they spend it. This sobering thought ought to be enough to motivate missionaries to maintain their integrity. But they need to also acknowledge that they must give account to men as well as God. Missionaries should not be offended when their sending church or supporters ask for accountability. No one is too good for that request. Paul understood that and so must today's missionary.

Questions to Consider

1. Who would defend your integrity if you were attacked or accused of financial impropriety?
2. How can they do that if you are not willing to make yourself accountable to them?
3. Is it really possible to truly be accountable without submitting regular financial reports?
4. What steps do you need to take to set up an accountability plan?

Handy MW Recipes

Submitted by Mechelle*



No Knead Bread

Ingredients

3 cups warm water
1 1/2 Tablespoons Yeast
1 T sugar
1 1/2 Tablespoons Salt
6 1/2 cups plain flour - **not** self rising
Can also use half whole wheat flour

To check yeast - dissolve yeast and 1 T sugar in 1 cup warm water. Let bubble to make sure yeast is good.

Mix flour and salt in large bowl. Pour in water then yeast water. Mix until blended. Cover bowl with damp cloth. Let stand on counter for 2 hours. Put cover over bowl - do not snap closed. Put in fridge. Can keep in fridge 4 or 5 days.

To Bake

Sprinkle with flour. Cut/break off piece. Put in lightly greased loaf pan or make round on a cookie sheet. Spread it out lightly to fit pan. Let sit on counter for 30 to 40 minutes. Bake at 450 degrees for 30 minutes.

Make Your Own Jiffy Cornbread Mix

2/3 cup flour
1/2 cup corn meal
3 T sugar
1 T Baking powder
1/4 t salt
2 T oil

Mix until no lumps

To make muffins, add 1 egg & 1/3 cup milk
Preheat oven to 400F, lightly grease muffin pan . Fill 1/2 full, bake for 15-20 minutes.

*Last name withheld due to the name of this publication, that it is posted online, and the sensitive nature of her work and location.

The Missionary MEMO

Is a quarterly newsletter for cross-cultural missionaries and the pastors and churches who send them. It is a part of the **World Missions Ministry** of Lynn & Brenda Raburn, a missionary outreach of Faith Baptist Church, 109 Tanglewood Dr., North Little Rock, Arkansas, 72118. All articles are the property by copyright of the editor and may only be reprinted by permission. Back issues may be downloaded at www.lynnraburn.com.

Finding Him by Losing Me

Submitted by Susan Teer



Sometimes I wonder if people back home realize the blessings we have of working as cross-cultural missionaries in Thailand. We have not had to make the sacrifices that many who have gone before us had to make, and the people on our field are some of the friendliest in the world. God has given us amazing opportunities to work with

people from so many cultural backgrounds. Sometimes we miss seeing these incredible blessings because we are too focused on ourselves rather than what God is doing. Focusing on the blessings keeps the feelings of discontentment away and helps us to see God, who He is and what He is doing.

When we stop to think of the blessings of serving God where He has placed us, we realize that it's not about us so much as it is about Him and what He is doing. How in the world could we have planned or guided our ministries to this point unless we yielded ourselves to Him? I realize more and more each day that to discover who I am I have to discover who God is. When I see Him and trust His plans for my life and ministry, I don't have to understand each step but follow where He leads. When I feel God chiseling I often want Him to stop, but I've learned that I need to lose those parts so He can work. I find Him and lose those parts of me that keep me from doing His will in the land He has called us to labor. He has done great things, even in me!

World Missions Focus

at the ABA

Hosted by Faith Baptist Church
North Little Rock, Arkansas

Tuesday, June 22, 2010 at 3:00PM

WV Room 105
Charleston Civic Center, Charleston WV

“Missions Programs
That are Out of This World”

(Four 15 mintues sessions)

1. Going to MARS by Mike Withem
2. Partnership From the Launch Site by Jeff Foster
3. Looking for the Aliens Among Us by Roger Stewart
4. Reentry: Burn Up or Splash Down by Lynn Raburn

Why Go on a Mission Trip?

By Lynn Raburn

I've been involved in short-term mission trips since 1976 and I've seen the value of those trips. I've been asked a lot of times why one should go on a short-term mission trip and I've heard a lot of excuses why a person can't go. I've also seen people go for the wrong reason and the result was a bad experience for them, for the missionary that hosted them, and for the people in the country they visited. I am convinced that the most important issue in short-term mission trips is why you are going.

Growth - in Burden and Vision

Have you ever been to the Grand Canyon? Describe it for me. You can't! You just have to have been there. Missions is the same way. To grasp it, you have to have been there. One host missionary said, "It might be more accurate to label your short-term trip as a vision trip, because it will set your perspective for the rest of your life."

Harold Williams always quotes Lamentations 3:51 *Mine eye affecteth mine heart*. If you will open your eyes to see what God wants you to see, it will change your heart forever. You will no longer be able to think in abstract terms of people in another land and another culture. God will have put names and faces on those previously unnamed and largely ignored people groups. You will no longer be able to think about foreigners as those ignorant heathen. You will have seen them as people loved of God, affective in their own cultures, many of whom love Him. In fact, you may learn that their devotion is greater than your own. They may become your example to follow rather than the other way around. That increased vision is why you need to go.

Growth in Knowledge and Understanding

Your perspective may be that you are going from a developed nation to un-developed nations and so you need to help them, educate them, or train them. If you go with this attitude of arrogance, you will miss what God has for you to learn.

You need to go as a learner. Yes, you should be a story teller too – willing to share whenever and wherever possible what God has done in your life. First, however, you should be willing to listen to their story. You need to hear about the challenges they face. You need to hear what God is doing in their lives. You need to listen and try to understand how they do things and why. If you would just listen and learn, you might be surprised at what God would teach you on your trip. He has something to teach you if you are willing to listen and learn. That's why you need to go.

Growth in Faith

God wants to increase your faith. He cannot do that without violating your comfort zone. He needs to get you out of your familiar home, neighborhood and church. He needs to take

away your convenience stores, McDonald's hamburgers, hot water, cell phone, television and air conditioning. He wants you out of your comfort zone so you can learn to really trust Him

He wants to show you that He can provide for your trip. You may think you can't afford to go but if you will pray, trust Him, and share your desire to go with others, He will show you what He can do. His provision will increase your faith.

He wants to show you that He is in charge even when our plans fall through. An unexpected delay, unavailable parts or materials, a sudden change in plans, accommodations, schedules or destinations, are all opportunities for God to show that He is in charge and He can be trusted. He wants to increase your faith.

He wants to show you what He can do on the field you will visit even without all of our technology and conveniences. Their building may not look like yours. Their worship service may be very different from yours. Their methods may be different but the same Lord indwells them and works in their lives. Seeing Him work there as well as here will increase your faith. God wants you to learn to trust Him wherever you are and whatever you are doing. That's why you need to go.

Growth in Love

The purpose statement at our church is, "Love God, love others, serve the world." I didn't go to Africa because I loved Africans. I went because I loved God. Once I got there, I learned to love Africans. You need to go on short-term missions because you love God. And you need to go so God can teach you how to love others. God wants you to learn to love others – not just the members of your own team but the people you are going to serve.

Service and servanthood are key words in missions. Remember? "Love God, love others, serve the world." The proper expression of love is service. We don't have any trouble allowing others to serve us but God wants us to learn to be servants. That's why you need to go.

I usually give a lot of tips about do's and don'ts. Now I realize if you go as a servant, I don't have to say those things. If you will go as a servant, almost everything else will take care of itself.

Conclusion

God wants to do something special in your life. He's not nearly so interested in what you can do for Him as He is in what He wants to do in you. That's why you need to go on a short-term mission trip. And you need to go for the right reason.