

The Missionary MEMO

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Tips and Tidbits for Cross-Cultural Missionaries

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Missionary Ethics

By Jerry Chandler

It has been said that "Missionaries are in the Lime Light." This is true! We are in plain view of those we minister to on the mission field. We are in plain view of the churches that support us. Most of all, we are in plain view of the world that we are trying to win to



The Bible says a lot about the value of integrity.

Integrity Protects Us

"Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee." (Psalm 25:21)

If we have integrity, we are protected against

Christ. Our words and actions are heard and seen all around the world. We are validated by our words and actions. We must be pure in heart and pure in our actions. We must have hearts of integrity!

In my last article I mentioned that we can give missions a good name or a bad name by our examples. We must be careful not to bring reproach upon God or His work. Satan is looking for those he can use to cause the enemies of God to blaspheme. The best way to keep this from happening is to have integrity. Integrity is important in all aspects of our ministry. Integrity is without compromise. Integrity is honesty, purity, truth, upright and complete. All these words are linked to integrity. We must have integrity in our family life, our spiritual life, our

fear. We won't have to keep looking over our shoulder if we are living lives that are upright and honest.

Integrity Provides Security

Proverbs 10:9 says, *"He that walketh uprightly walketh surely; but he that perverteth his ways shall be known."*

The word "surely" in the verse means securely. If we have integrity we are not walking on a shaky foundation and those that would walk in ways that are not upright will be found out!

Integrity Provides Guidance

"The integrity of the upright shall guide them; but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them." (Proverbs 11:3) Integrity makes our decisions easier. If our lives are guided by honesty, purity and truth then we will not find it hard to make the right decisions when we are tempted to do otherwise.

Integrity Provides Hope

"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." (Rev. 22:12) We will be rewarded according to our works! We should live our lives in integrity desiring to hear "well done" instead of a rebuke.

The question on your minds at this point might be "How can I be a person

Continued on page three

The Shield

By Alvin Dickerson

A Spartan mother to her son: "Come home with this shield or upon it."

My part has been done; I've raised you my son.
Now go forth to earn glory and fame.
Turn not your back when enemies attack;
Bring honor to your city and name.

With your weapon to wield, I give you this shield;
And when for the battle you don it,
Do not bring shame to your city or name:
Return with this shield or upon it.

So to the front line that young man so fine
Was sent by his king to his fate;
With his brothers-in-arms, ignoring all harms,
The enemy to hold at the gate.

Struck down in his prime before his due time,
Yet ne'er to the foe did he yield;
His life force now spent, to his family he's sent
With honor back home on his shield.

Like this Spartan I was sent
To fight on the front line.
Obediently I gladly went;
My will no longer mine.

And if asked, How does it go?
I just smile and say, All's well.
The truth is that it isn't so,
For, as they say, war's hell;

Our foe grows fiercer every day,
His blows each landing hard.
My shield arm's ready to give way;
My soul is battered and scarred.

And my vision's gotten bleary;
My armor, broke and bent.
My sword arm grows more weary
As I become more spent.

But I'll not stop till day is done,
Nor to our enemy I'll yield.
I'll fight the fight till vict'ry's won
And return with my shield
Or be borne home upon it.

The Bible says a lot about the value of integrity.

finances, and our reporting.

Before we can have integrity, we must value integrity. We won't adjust our lives to needed changes if we do not see the value of change. If we see the value of something it becomes more reasonable to us. If we see the necessity we are more apt to make the adjustments.

Doing Deputation Right the First Time Around

By Mike Rogers

Deputation! The very thought causes many men already dealing with God's call to the field to tremble. Deputation involves months of travel, putting your family on display, sharing your heart with strangers, etc. During all this, your burden grows for the people and the field that you have been called to. The desire to short circuit or circumvent the time of deputation is strong. I remember asking God "Why does it have to be this way? I know your will for my life. It is to be there now, reaching the lost, not here asking for money." I was mistaken and because of my ignorance my ministry and my family suffered. God is good and even in our weakness He is strong. All glory for what was done goes to Him but to remain willfully ignorant is wrong. Allow me to share my experience.



When God called me to Romania I was a member of Olympia MBC. I had surrendered to preach and had received my training through the church. I began full time deputation with the goal of being on the field just as soon as I could. My thought was that, after I had established myself as a "Missionary" and had some success stories from the field, raising support would be easy. I would come back after two years and in six months of deputation raise all the support that was needed to do the work and all would be well.

We began deputation in mid September, God blessed, and we were on the field in March. With a survey trip and a training seminar thrown in that left us less than six months of deputation. During that time we visited a total of 74 churches. The month we left for the field we received less than \$1200 in support. We had made arrangements to stay in another missionary's home on the field while he was on furlough so we had a place to stay when we arrived and work to do. Praise the Lord! I couldn't have been happier. I trusted that the Lord would provide and He did but the sacrifices made by my wife and

children were incredible. It would be great to say these sacrifices were done from necessity to serve God but that would not be true. They were a result of my misconceptions and haste to get on the field.

I thought that raising support would be much easier after a few years on the field. People would see my faithfulness and God's blessings and want to join us in the work. The support would just roll in.

We returned after two years and did deputation for just over four months. That was way too long. The only thing we had to report on was language lessons and a work in its infancy. This information had been well detailed in the last two years of written reports. We did raise some support but we spent way too much time away from the work. Many first term missionaries think they need to return for six months. That is a serious mistake! I thought I would need to report back to each church that supported us but when I called I found that they wanted me on the field. They received my reports and there was no need for me to see them again so soon.

The other side of this is "what happens to your work when you are gone for six months?" I am thankful God provided men who carried on the work while I was away but the work was hindered. It

was not that these men did a poor job. They did an awesome job but it wasn't their work, it was mine. If I had raised adequate support before going to the field, I believe the work would be much further along today.

In closing consider these things:

Raise Sufficient Support Before You Go

There will never be a better time than your first time. Remember, deputation is not just about the money. Making friends, seeing different methods of ministry, the time to think and to plan, plus the prayer and financial support are all part of deputation and are of incredible value and importance in going to the foreign field. Having the resources to get the work done is so important to success and how fast things can be accomplished.

Do Not Over Stay Your Furlough

While furlough should never be mistaken for vacation, it is a necessary time to step back and refresh and regroup. The first furlough should be a time of rest and refreshing that allows us to get back to work instead of more months of deputation.

Do Not Over-Book Your First Furlough

Send reports regularly! Send them by e-mail or by snail mail but keep those who support and pray for your work up to date. Most churches would rather hear from the field how God is blessing rather than have you allow the work to struggle while you are back reporting on what you have done.

Deputation is a part of ministry. It is not always pleasant but it is not the nightmare so many build it up to be. While I would still like to be on the field sooner rather than later, I am thankful for this time that God has given us to share and prepare for the work ahead.

How Long Should Furlough Be?

In his article on doing furlough right the first time around, Mike Rogers debunks two myths prevalent in the minds of new missionaries. The first myth is that it is easier to raise support the second time around. The second myth is that a returning missionary has to visit all of his supporting churches. The result of holding onto these two myths is a furlough that is too long in relation to the time spent on the field

Does a missionary who spends 18 months to two years doing deputation to stay on the field for 18 months really need a six month furlough? Shouldn't three to four months after a full two years on the field be sufficient time away from that field? Don't the churches who support the missionary have a right to expect the missionary to be where they support him to be for a reasonable percentage of his time? While deputation is an important part of a missionary's ministry, should it be the dominant focus of his ministry. Shouldn't his time on the field greatly overshadow his time on furlough?

Of course, there are exceptions. Health problems may force a missionary to be away from his field more often or for longer periods of time. A missionaries job description or ministry focus may require him to be on more than just one field. Exceptions, however, are, by definition, exceptional and not the rule.

May I make the following suggestions:

- A missionary's first term on the field should not be much less than two full years.
- Three to four months should be sufficient for his first furlough away from that field.
- Once the missionary has been on the field approximately five or six years, a one year furlough is in order.
- Shorter furlough's every two to three years is better for the missionary, his family, and his work. It is also equitable to the churches that support him.

Lynn

Missionary Ethics (Continued From Front Page)

of integrity?" Here are some Biblical Examples.

Invite God to Examine Our Heart

"Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins and my heart." (Psalm 26:2) We must first let God be the judge. We must allow God to examine and search our hearts. We are too partial to our own ways to be a good judge. Also it is not wise to measure ourselves according to ourselves. We need a righteous examiner. We must then be willing to make the changes that God has revealed that we need.

Search for Truth

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth..." (2 Tim. 2:15) The Bible is full of scriptures that speak of integrity, honesty, truth, and purity. Also there are many illustrations of men and women who had Integrity and those who did not. We must make God's Word a vital part of our everyday lives.

Apply God's Word to our Life

"Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart." (Psalm 15:1-2) It is not enough just to read or hear God's Word, we must integrate it into our lives. We must be doers not hearers only, as James 1:22 tells us, *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."*

Remain Faithful in Spite of Circumstances

Don't give up! It is always the right time to do right! Job

maintained his integrity even in the face of harsh circumstances. *"And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause." (Job 2:3)* Our good or bad circumstances do not give us a license to ignore what God says is right. Job didn't give up on God! Isaiah 40:31 assures us, that *"they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."*

Do Not Let Others Dictate What You Do

"Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die. But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips." (Job 2:9-10) Many people let others dictate their lives. Our integrity is too valuable to allow this to happen. I'm sure Job's wife was sad to see him suffer. She may have even thought that if he would just curse God that it would end his life thus his suffering. Job's integrity guided his life and this is why we hear Gods testimony of Job. God said he was an upright man that holds his integrity.

God's work is the greatest work and we should be honored to be part of it. We must honor God with integrity. Godly integrity will make our lives fruitful in the service of God.

Why Have a Missionary Retreat?

Retreat – an opportunity to get away from the pressures of the field, the work, the cross-cultural frustration for just a little while. A retreat is more effective than a furlough because a furlough always entails more work. The furloughing missionary must spend his time visiting supporters and reporting on the work. He also has to deal with reentry trauma (reverse culture shock). A missionary retreat may be the only way for the missionary to truly get away from all of this.

Rest – along with getting away from the field, the retreat gives the missionary an opportunity to rest. The retreat is purposefully held at nice facilities so that missionaries can get some rest. Hot showers, air conditioning, good beds and a scheduled time to use them are an important part of the retreat.

Recreation – one of the prescriptions for culture shock and prevention of burnout is physical recreation. Afternoons at the retreat are set aside for either rest or recreation. Facilities are provided so that missionaries can “work off” some of the frustration they bring from the field. Laughing and playing with their children and the other missionaries do their hearts good.

Restoration – missionaries often come to the retreat burnt out and broken, disappointed and discouraged, down and almost out. They need healing.

The retreat offers them a safe place to share their hearts, their problems, their discouragements and their fears (this is why we do not offer an open invitation to non-missionaries). The sharing and caring, along with the prayer and encouragement of the retreat, work with the loving touch of the Holy Spirit to restore the hurting missionary.

Revival – this is the primary focus of the missionary retreat. Too many missionaries are “running on empty” and just plain need a revival, a renewing touch from God. Their ministry on the field and their time on furlough both require them to preach the Word to others. The messages at the retreat are specifically applicable to missionaries and call them to repentance and recommitment. We pray for revival at the retreat and preach for revival at the retreat.

Relationships – A huge benefit of the retreat is the opportunity of sharing time with peers. The other cross-cultural missionaries understand the trials they face and are better able to comfort them. Missionaries who attend these retreats often form relationships that will last a life time.

Reentry – the goal of the retreat is to send the missionaries back to their fields better prepared for the work than when they left. In that it serves both the missionaries and the churches that support them.

*Make Plans Now to Attend the 2009 International Retreat For Cross-Cultural Missionaries
September 6-10, Corinth, Greece*

IRS announces 2009 Mileage Rates

(IR-2008-131).

Beginning on January 1, 2009, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups, or panel trucks) will be:

55 cents per mile for business miles driven

24 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes

14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations

The new rates for business, medical and moving purposes are slightly lower than rates for the second half of

2008 that were raised by a special adjustment mid-year in response to a spike in gasoline prices. The rate for charitable purposes is set by law and is unchanged from 2008.

The business mileage rate was 50.5 cents in the first half of 2008 and 58.5 cents in the second half. The medical and moving rate was 19 cents in the first half and 27 cents in the second half.

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