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THE IMPORTANCE OF FINISHING THE WORK

Introduction:

- 1) The Bible is clear as to how the Lord feels about our work assignment being **FINISHED**.
- 2) Jesus is our perfect example in the matter of finishing an assignment. *“I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.”* John 17:4. The Father sent Him to do a **work** and to **finish it**. Jesus also said in John 19:30, *“When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said **It is finished** and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.”* Luke said in Acts 14:26, *“And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled.”* The word “fulfilled” here means to Finish.
- 3) The subject here is “The **importance** of finishing the work.” The reasons it is important are:

I. The Relationship Of The Work With God.

A. We Are God’s Child.

“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:26

- We are in the **family** of God. It **grieves** the heart of God when the assignment He gives His child goes **unfinished**. *“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”* Ephesians 4:30. We do not serve God in the **abstract** (withdrawn). We are never to consider our labor as working **alone**. God is ever related to us and to His work **assigned** to us. *“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”* Philippians 2:13.
- We should always keep this fact of being a **child of God** in the forefront of our thinking. You and I are going to face a challenge in God’s work. Let us look at the armor of God given to us in Ephesians Chapter 6. *“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”* Ephesians 6:11-18
 - a. **Loins** girt about with the TRUTH. The only **defense** against a lie is the **truth**. When a lie is told, we are still God’s **child**.
 - b. **Breastplate** of RIGHTEOUSNESS. *“All unrighteousness is sin:”* 1 John 5:17. We all sin and come short, but we are still God’s **child**.
 - c. **Feet** shod with the preparation of the GOSPEL OF PEACE. When troubles come and our credentials are in question, we are still God’s **child**. We know that the gospel is powerful and that our doctrine is *life changing*.
 - d. **Shield** of FAITH. Satan has no fiery darts that cannot be **quenched** by FAITH.
 - We have promises from God’s Word that the victory is ours. John 5:4b *“and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith”* No matter what Satan does, we are still God’s **child**.

- *“Faith is the victory we know, that overcomes the world. Faith is the victory! Faith is the victory! Oh, glorious victory that overcomes the world.”* (John H. Yates in New Songs of Inspirations John T. Benson Publishing Co.)
- e. **Helmet** of SALVATION. This part of the armor relates to the head or the mind. Satan will try to tell you that you are not even saved, that the work is not important, and God does not really care. But we are still God’s **Child**.
- f. **Sword** of the Spirit, which is the **WORD of GOD**. As Faith is our defense, the Word of God is our Offense. We should never try to fight in the flesh. We cannot finish the work by relying on the flesh.

B. We Are God’s Couriers. (Messengers) 2 Corinthians 8:23, Philippians 2:25

- God has no other plan to evangelize the world. We must have confidence that God’s plan is perfect, yet, His **plan** involves **man**. This is another outstanding reason why it is so important to finish His work **assignment** which has been given to you and me. Remember that this work assignment is for men **and women**. However, His perfect plan will not work without **mankind**. This God has so **designed**, though mankind is **imperfect**. We have a number of examples in the Bible where God used **imperfect** mankind, and they **finished** the work that God gave them to do. For example, Noah **finished** the ark. *“Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.”* Genesis 6:22. Moses **finished** the Tabernacle. *“And he reared up the court round about the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the hanging of the court gate. So Moses finished the work.”* Exodus 40:33. Nehemiah **finished** the wall. *“So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days.”* Nehemiah 6:15. He did it against **great odds**.
- Of course, there is no **greater example** than the Lord Himself. *“When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said It is **finished** and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.”* John 19:30. Now, whether we are building an ark, a tabernacle, a wall, or being a **courier**, (God’s messenger,) it all **requires** work, think about the consequences if they had not finished the work that God gave them to do, especially, the Lord Jesus. Being a courier is the same as being a **postman**. Can you imagine a postman taking a letter **part of the way** and then **not finishing** his route, throwing the letter into the waste basket? Think of the one who is waiting desperately for the letter? We have the greatest message that a man or woman will ever need, and God has put it in our hands to deliver. To not deliver it would be **criminal**. The U.S. Postal Service’s motto is: *“..Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these **couriers** from the swift **completion** of their **appointed rounds**.”* Compton’s Pictured Encyclopedia, 11, page 385, 1952.

II. Relevance To The Mission Of The Church.

- A. Partnership:** The Missionary and the Church must be in **complete**:
- a. Concert — The importance of finishing the work is **substantiated** by the church and missionary working in **absolute** concert.
 - b. Collaboration — The Missionary and the Church will be in **agreement**.
- B. Program:** The **home** church and all **supporting** churches will make a **substantial** investment in the **life** and **ministry** of the missionary family. They will do this because they have collaborated **together** and intend to work in **concert** with one another to carry out God’s **program**.
- C. Performance:** The church has no **ability** to perform without the missionary **following through** to the finish. We **understand** that this commitment is on the **part** of **both** the church and the missionary. However, **failure** to finish the work of recent years has not been on the part of the

church but, rather, on the **part** of the missionary family. For the most part, it is not the lack of **financial** support or **material** needs that have kept the missionary family from finishing. This is why it is **IMPORTANT** to **finish** the work.

A LIFELONG MINISTRY

An Addendum to “The Importance of Finishing the Work”

Introduction: Philippians 3:10-14

- 1) A lifelong ministry will be a matter of a lifelong commitment. We all make commitments in life concerning various things, but most of them are temporary, because they are temporal. That is, they relate to material things such as carnal, worldly, secular, physical. Consequently, these kinds of commitments fail for the most part. However, many men and women have made a lifelong commitment in marriage and have succeeded. The same is true in the ministry. But, there is a reason that they succeeded both, in marriage and in the ministry. The main reason is one word: “**FOCUS.**” Again, Paul said, “*I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*” If Paul had not known what the “*mark*” was, he would not have gained the “prize.”
- 2) In verse 14, Paul uses the Greek work *skopov* (“*mark*”), and in verse 16 he uses the word *kanon* (“*rule*”), which means also means “line” i.e. **the marked line.** (Adam Clark Commentary.) We must, as Paul, keep our **Focus** right. May I suggest that we keep our focus on (1) The Sovereign, (2) The Saviour, (3) The Spirit, (4) The Scriptures, (5) The Saints, (6) and The Soul of Sinners.
- 3) Dr. Raymond Hancock always says, “The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.”
- 4) Let us look at three main areas of focus in order to have a “Lifelong Ministry.”

I. Focus on The Father.

Isaiah 26:3, “*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*” We can and will have perfect peace about:

A. His Will — He is our Sovereign.

Philippians 1:6, “*Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.*”

B. His Work — Our Service to Him.

Philippians 2:13, “*For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*”

C. His Word — Is our Surety.

Hebrews 6:17-20, “*Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.*”

II. Focus on the Field.

John 4:35b, “*Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.*”

A. The Preparation.

1. Submit Yourself.

2 Timothy 2:20-21, “*But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.*”

2. Study the Scriptures.

2 Timothy 2:15, “*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*”

B. The Place.

1. The Declaration.

Matthew 13:36a, “*The field is the world;*”

2. The Directive.

Genesis 24:27, “*And he said Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of his mercy and his truth: **I being in the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren.***”

C. The Plan.

1. Get Acquainted with the people. (Love them.)
2. Get Acclimated to the culture. (Live with them.)
3. Get Activated in planting a church. (Lead them.)

III. Focus on the Finish.

Acts 20:24, “*But none of these things move me neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.*”

A. The Course.

1 Corinthians 9:23-27, “*And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you. Know ye not that they which run in a **race** run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run that ye may obtain And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run not as uncertainly; so fight I not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.*”

B. The Consolation.

Philippians 4:1, “*Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, **my joy and crown**, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.*”

C. The Conclusion.

2 Timothy 4:6-8, “*For I am now ready to be offered and the time of my departure is at hand I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but **unto all them also that love his appearing.***”

The conclusion of all is the Words of the Lord Himself:

Matthew 25:21, “*His lord said unto him, **Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.***”

Additional Notes

I. What are the problems: Becoming Weary.

Galatians 6:9, “*And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*”

2 Thessalonians 3:13, “*But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.*”

II. Where they come from: Distraction from our work.

Psalms 88:15, “*I am afflicted and ready to die from my youth up: while I suffer thy terrors I am **distracted.***” (Afflictions)

1 Corinthians 7:35, “*And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without **distracted.***” (Conflict)

III. How to deal with them: Learn to recognize the symptoms.

Affections are waning towards the work. Thoughts of home are more prevalent than your thoughts of the ministry God has given you.

IV. How to avoid them: Deal with them immediately.

As soon as you realize your love for the work and love for souls are weakening, seek the face of God through His Word and prayer and share it with your wife and family. Do not be ashamed to share it with your pastor and mission director. Paul the apostle shared his conflicts and troubles with others. (2 Corinthians 11:20-33)

V. The Dangers of failing to deal with problems: You will become **Shipwrecked.**

1 Timothy 1:19, “*Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:*” Not only the danger of losing your ministry, but losing your family. Jesus, while on the cross, made seven statements: Of the seven, the most important was *It is finished.* Paul, at the end of life said 2 Timothy 4:7, “*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:*” Paul also said in Acts 20:24, “*But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, The Lord wants us to **finish** our course also with **joy.***”

WHY MISSIONARIES QUIT

Introduction:

- 1) Many years ago I heard some statistics about missionaries. The numbers of men and women that surrendered to be a missionary compared to the number that actually made it to their field was a staggering difference. These revealing numbers started to drop off during school. Men and women have been accepted with mission boards, went to orientation classes yet the deputation trail turned cold and they went home. The next category was the number that never finished language school. Some made it to the field but never finished one term. The last alarming number was about the ones that did finish four years but never returned, that was enough for them. Why are we seeing these casualties? Do I call them casualties? Yes! One who has fallen victim to our enemy, Satan. 1 Peter 5:8, “*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*”
- 2) He has devoured some of us and he would like to devour you!
- 3) If you have a desire to be a missionary, God put that desire there, not Satan. When people lose that desire or cast it aside for something else they are casualties in this spiritual warfare of which we are engaged. When you said “I do” to your spouse it was for life. When you said “I’ll go” to God, it was for life. For those who are in the military, there is a term for those who are going to make armed forces a career. They are “lifers.” We need to be LIFERS for Jesus.
- 4) **REAL MISSIONARIES DO NOT QUIT. QUITTERS QUIT.**
There have been some good, intelligent, qualified, talented, gifted men who have quit on God. WHY? That is what this lesson is all about.
- 5) You may call it:
 - a) **Burn out** — over extending yourself to the point of exhaustion and spiritual emptiness. To pooped!
RPM = Recklessly Pursuing Ministries
 - b) **Blow out** — one major incident or experience that causes you to leave the field. Ex. Robbery, death, assault, terrorist, etc.
 - c) **Stressed out** — drained emotionally through pressure points; competing with other missionaries. (We are too blessed to be stressed!)
 - d) **Flame out** — Out of ideas; out of gimmicks; out of lessons; out of messages.
 - e) **Shocked out** — letting differences affect you: culture shock; missionary shock, . .
 - f) **Scared out** — fear accompanied by little or no faith. Do not be afraid of fear, but there is a problem when you have fear with no faith.
 - g) **Faked out** — leaving, thinking it was the will of God. (How many are in the file that have quit on the job?)
 - h) **Thrown out** — leaving the country by being kicked out by the government.
 - i) **Pulled out** — Being brought out of the country at the request of your pastor or by the mission board.
-Immorality, immodesty, etc.
- 6) CALL IT WHAT YOU WANT, BUT THE SAD WORD IS “**OUT.**” No longer in, but out. **Out** of God’s will, **out** of God’s peace, **out** of God’s blessings, **out** of God’s fellowship. It is bad to be in the belly of the whale. Nothing seems to go the way you want it to go. No more **joy, peace, or fruit** in your life. When you are in the belly of the whale you just start stinking.

How do we prevent these attacks? How do we counter these attacks when they come?

I. STAY IN HIS WILL

It is easy to give up if you are not sure why you are going. Knowing, without any reservation, that you are doing what God wants you to do is a shield against most of these fiery darts.

Romans 12:1, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that **good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**”

You need to be sure about the:

- A. **WHAT OF HIS WILL** — What He wants you to do. Planter, printer, pilot, etc.
- B. **WHERE OF HIS WILL** — Where does He want you to go. God can use plowers, planters, and pickers everywhere.
- C. **WHY OF HIS WILL** — Why? I cannot tell you what or where, but I can tell you why. Precious souls! This is our motivation.
Mark 8:37, “Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Once you know the what, where, and why of His will doesn’t **change, alter, or compromise** for anything else short of **HIS PERFECT WILL**.

II. STAY IN HIS WAY

- Stay close to God.
- Spiritual check list: daily I will.

A. **Supplicate:**

Confess my sins and claim the promise of 1 John 1:9 cleansing me with His blood.

1 John 1:9, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

B. **Sacrifice:**

Die to self that I might live for God without the hindrance of the flesh.

Galatians 2:20, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

Galatians 5:24, “And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”

Romans 6:6, “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”

C. **Surrender:**

To God’s will and way to righteousness.

Romans 6:13, “Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your member as instruments of righteousness unto God.”

D. **Seek:**

The filling of the Holy Spirit to be used by God in whatever way He desires.

Ephesians 5:18, “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;”

Colossians 3:16, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

John 6:63, “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak

unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”

III. STAY IN HIS WORK

- Remember it is His work. You have been saved by God, justified by God, called by God. You are called to do a **spiritual work**. Do not get side-tracked.
- You are not there with a social gospel. Your burden is not to show them how to fix their cars, repair their houses, plant their gardens in a better way.

A. Keep your Focus on God’s business — The Great Commission.

B. Keep your Faith in God’s ability — Ability with Availability.

C. Keep your Fellowship with God.

1. Devotional life.
2. Prayer life.
3. Study life.

WARNING:

- It is easy to fall in love with the work more than the God of the work!
- If you will take care of God’s work...
If you will take care of yourself...
If you will take care of your family...
God will take care of you, and **YOU WILL NOT QUIT!**

HUSBAND / WIFE RELATIONSHIPS

Introduction: How many of you knew your husband was going to be a preacher when you married him?

I. A Commitment was made.

A. First to God.

We are to love Him, worship him, be a witness for Him, put our trust in Him.

Proverbs 3:5, “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.”

B. Second to Husband.

“Wives, submit yourselves unto your husbands, as unto the Lord.” Ephesians 5:22

II. A Contented Wife.

- A. She loves her husband **with all her heart**.
- B. She understands **his temperament**.
- C. She honors him and **does not put him down**.
- D. She respects him **by being in subjection**.
- E. She controls **her anger toward him**.
- F. She is willing to discuss problems she might have with him. **Communicate from the beginning**.
- G. She gives herself **physically**.
- H. She will always try to **look her best for him**.

III. A Compassionate Wife.

- A. She is supportive of her husband:
 1. In the Home — **Does not take the side of the children**.
 2. In his Ministry — **Be supportive in Church work—Help meet; does not take over**.
- B. She is tender hearted **not cold and indifferent**.
- C. She is understanding.
- D. She is sympathetic when things are not going well — **Do not say, “You should not have done that.”**
- E. She keeps peace in the family. Matthew 5:9

- F. She has a sweet spirit by acknowledging **her place** and by acknowledging her husband's **place** in the home.

IV. A Considerate Wife.

- A. She has a grateful spirit in **appreciation** for what her husband does for her.
- B. She does not **compare** him with others.
- C. She does not make him feel **guilty** about the way he has provided for her.
- D. She wants problems solved in a Christ like manner by **checking** her relationship with Christ (spiritual attitude). The question should always be, are we willing to obey God's Word? Because, we know that God's desire for us is to be **spiritual**, **silent**, **sweet**, **feminine** and obey his authority.

V. A Conservative Wife.

- A. She is aware of financial responsibilities. She is in agreement as to how finances are to be handled. It is okay for the wife to pay the bills if her husband wants her to take care of this task. Proverbs 31:11,12
- B. She will use "credit cards" wisely. (Pay them in full each month). If you do not pay them each month, you are headed for **financial trouble**.

CULTURE SHOCK

Introduction: What Is Culture?

- 1) **Culture** refers to patterns of human activity—socially shared designs for living.
- 2) **Culture** refers to traditions that distinguish a specific society.
 - Referring to Italian, Samoan, or Japanese culture refers to the shared language, traditions, and beliefs that set each of these people/society groups apart from others.
- 3) **Culture** refers to cultural traits that come from common ancestral background and experience.
 - **Common Identity**
 - **Foods**
 - **Music**
 - **Arts**
 - **Religion – Spiritual Awareness - Worship**
 - **Language or Dialect** (Includes both verbal and non-verbal forms of communication)
 - **Moral system**
 - **Decision making process**
 - **Gender Roles**
 - **Use of time**
 - **Transportation Systems**
 - **Methods of making a living\ Earning income**
 - **Habits**
 - **Relationships – Initiation and cultivation**
- 4) **Culture** is acquired through parents, homes, and environment.
- 5) **Culture** is a way of life of a group of people—the behaviors, beliefs, values, and symbols that they *accept, generally without thinking about them*, and that are passed along by communication and imitation from one generation to the next.
- 6) **Culture** is the sum total of the learned behavior of a group of people that are generally considered to be the tradition of that people and are transmitted from generation to generation.
- 7) **Culture** is a collective programming of the mind that distinguishes the members of one group or category of people from another.
- 8) **Cultures** are products of historical development. You cannot understand them by looking at the physical or psychological characteristics of their people. You have to understand them by studying where they have been as well as where they are right now.
- 9) **Culture** “is what makes you a stranger when you are far from home.” —anthropologist Philip Bock
- 10) **Bottom Line** – Culture is engrained into the very essence and being of mankind.

Layers of Culture

People even within the same culture carry several layers of mental programming within themselves. Different layers of culture exist at the following levels:

- **The National Level:** Associated with the nation as a whole.
- **The Regional Level:** Associated with ethnic, linguistic, or religious differences that exist within a nation.

- **The Gender Level:** Associated with gender differences (female vs. male).
- **The Generation Level:** Associated with the differences between grandparents and parents, parents and children.
- **The Social Class Level:** Associated with educational opportunities and differences in occupation.

Manifestations of Culture

Cultural differences manifest themselves in different ways and differing levels of depth. Symbols represent the most superficial and values the deepest manifestations of culture, with heroes and rituals in between.

- **Symbols** are words, gestures, pictures, or objects that carry a particular meaning, which is only recognized by those who share a particular culture. New symbols easily develop while old ones disappear. Symbols from one particular group are regularly copied by others. This is why symbols represent the outermost layer of a culture.
- **Heroes** are persons, past or present, real or fictitious, who possess characteristics that are highly prized in a culture. They also serve as models for behavior.
- **Rituals** are collective activities, sometimes superfluous in reaching desired objectives, but are considered as socially essential. They are therefore often carried out for their own sake (ways of greetings, paying respect to others, religious and social ceremonies, etc.).
- The **core** of a culture is formed by values. They are broad tendencies for preferences of certain state of affairs to others (good-evil, right-wrong, natural-unnatural). Many values remain unconscious to those who hold them. Therefore they often cannot be discussed, nor directly observed by others. Values can only be inferred from the way people act under different circumstances.

Symbols, heroes, and rituals are the tangible or visual aspects of the practices of a culture. The true cultural meaning of the practices is intangible; this is revealed only when the practices are interpreted by the insiders.

Cultural Awareness

Identifying the cultural differences that exist between one's home country and the country of intended travel will help prepare for the required adjustments ahead.

Culture Shock—Everyone Gets It!

Everyone experiences some level of disorientation and bewilderment. Some people will have it more severe than others, but unless you are really unique, you will experience some level of significant adjustment.

Culture Shock Is

- **Unavoidable** - part of any missionary service that involves visiting cultures that differ from our own
- **Profitable** - with a good understanding of the cultural differences that lay ahead.

- Opportunity to experience God’s grace and spiritual growth
- **Dangerous** - if we go blindly, with false expectations, or with unreasonable perception.
- Results in Discouragement, Despair, and Defeat

What is Culture Shock?

Culture shock describes the anxiety and feelings (of surprise, disorientation, confusion, etc.) felt when people have to operate within an entirely different culture or social environment, such as a different country.

Culture Shock expresses the lack of direction, the feeling of not knowing what to do or how to do things in a new environment, and not knowing what is appropriate or inappropriate.

Culture Shock – An Out Of The Womb Experience

There has been a great deal of research put into shock experienced by a newborn during the birth process. Hospitals and doctors in developed countries do everything possible to lessen the shock, preparing an environment outside the womb that will duplicate as much as possible the situation inside the womb. A caring, loving, support system of parents and medical personnel attend to the child’s every need. The baby has only to cry and its physical and emotional needs are met.

Going to the field is an **out-of-the-womb experience** for most first-term missionaries. They have left the support system of family, friends, and church for an unknown, often hostile, environment. Expectations of a loving caring support system are seldom realized.

- Local missionaries are often too busy with their responsibilities to provide adequate time and support for the newly arrived missionary family.
- Nationals in the church would like to provide the necessary support, but lack an understanding of the kind needed because they have a different value system.
- New missionaries will almost invariably seek to bond with someone from their own culture and socioeconomic status, whether inside or outside the mission family.

Culture Shock Triggers

Monoculturalism—Dangers from knowing only one culture

1. **A naive ethnocentrism** (belief in the superiority of one's own ethnic group)
 - I judge everything using my own culture as the measuring rod without being consciously aware of what I'm doing.
2. **Absolutist thinking**
 - Insisting that things are not to be questioned: “It's my way or the highway.”
An overly legalistic concern for maintaining form, precedents, and established customs.
3. **An embracing of naive realism**
 - “As we see things, that's the way they are.”
 - Naive realism says that we can know things in the world directly without taking into account our own filtering processes. Naive realism is the view that when we perceive something, we have perceived it exactly as it is. It is believing that our perceptions of reality are not colored or mediated by anything else.

4. Lack of respect for other people's ways

- “There's no one else here.”

5. The evaluation of customs and perspectives on the basis of one's own culturally learned assumptions and values (worldview)

- This grows out of the sense that one's views have been arrived at because they are superior to any other views.

6. The use of negative terms to describe customs different from one's own

- This may even be done innocently simply because one has not thought through the baggage, which those terms and phrases carry because of the way they have historically been used.
 - We often talk about British drivers driving “on the wrong side” of the road. Why not just say “opposite side” or even “left hand side?”
 - We talk about written Hebrew as reading “backward.” Why not just say “from right to left” or “in the opposite direction from English.”

Ethnocentrism leads us to make false assumptions about cultural differences. We are ethnocentric when we use our cultural norms to make generalizations about other peoples' cultures and customs. Such generalizations—often made without a conscious awareness that we have used our culture as a universal yardstick—can be way off base and cause us to misjudge other peoples. Ethnocentrism also distorts communication between human beings.

Culture Shock Timing

Culture shock is as unique as each individual who experiences it. The timing, both the start of and length of the culture shock experience will vary too.

- Generally, the feeling of culture shock sets in after the first few weeks of coming to a new place.
- Generally, the feeling of culture shock last anywhere from three to six months with the most **intensive period for most people coming at about the four month point.**

Culture Shock can be experienced as late as **four to five years in.**

- Novelty has worn off – Vision has diminished – Reality sets in
- Returning to the field after first furlough is a dangerous time for culture shock
 - No longer new and uncharted territory
 - Overwhelmed – knowing hardships, needs, lack of help

Culture Shock Symptoms

- **Excessive concern over cleanliness** and the feeling that what is new and strange is dirty.
 - This could be in relation to: drinking water, food, dishes, and bedding.
- **Fear of physical contact** with people in new culture.
 - Continual offering of excuses for staying indoors.
- **Feeling of helplessness.**
- **Heightened irritability.**
 - Irritation over delays and other minor frustrations out of proportion to their causes.
- **Delay and outright refusal** to learn the language of the host country.
- **Excessive fear** of being cheated, robbed, or injured.

- **Great concern** over minor pains and irruptions of the skin.
- **Preoccupation** with returning home.
 - Terrible longing.
 - to be back home.
 - to be in familiar surroundings.
 - to visit one's relatives.
 - to talk to people who really “make sense.”
- **Unwarranted criticism** of the culture and people.
- **Constant complaints** about the climate.
- **Utopian ideas** concerning one's previous culture.
- **Preoccupation** with returning home.

Everyone Will Not Have the Same Symptoms.

- Some will go to pieces or withdraw into their own world.
- Others will have guilt feelings.

Stages of Culture Shock

- **Fascination or Tourist Stage** – In this stage one will experience new places, new sounds, new smells, and a very kind people who are willing to help the newcomer find their way around. During this stage the Ministry/Missions worker is very tolerant of the host culture and excited about being on the “mission field.” Sometimes called the Honeymoon Stage. *(Short-term workers will usually only experience this stage)*
- **Rejection Stage** – The newness of the host culture will eventually wear off and the worker begins to reject the host culture and even become critical of it. Frustration with the new culture is high during this stage.
- **Recovery Stage** – The new comer begins to learn some of the “rules” of the new culture, its language and ways, and starts to feel more at ease. Frustration declines and one begins to accept the host culture leaning to be a part of it.
- **Bi-cultural Stage** – Full recovery occurs during this stage. The newcomer becomes functional in two cultures and some of the things from the new culture will be tremendously missed when the worker returns home.

How to Fight Culture Shock

- **Increase your quiet time and let God show you what He is doing.**
- **Develop** a hobby.
- **Do not forget** the good things you already have.
- **Be patient**, the act of immigrating is a process of adaptation - **It is going to take time.**
- **Include** a regular form of physical activity in your routine.
- **Relaxation and meditation** are proven positive for people passing through periods of stress

- **Maintain contact** with your ethnic group—Reduces your feelings of loneliness and alienation.
- **Maintain contact** with the new culture. Learn the language. Volunteer in community activities that allow you to practice the language that you are learning. This will help you feel less stress about language and useful at the same time.
- **Establish** simple goals and evaluate your progress.
- **Find ways to live with the things that do not satisfy you 100%.**
- **Focus** on similarities rather than differences.
- **Measure success** in little things. (Example: you got a smile from the taxi driver.)
- **Talk and pray** your feelings out with someone who is not in the valley.
- Use your **sense of humor** and laugh at yourself.
- **Write** in your journal including at least one positive experience daily.
- **Keep busy**; concentrate on what you have done; not on what you cannot or have not done.
- **Remember**, there are always resources that you can use. If you feel stressed, **look for help**. There is always someone or some service available to help you.

1 Samuel 30:6, “...David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.”

Help From the Bible

- **Paul** - grew up in modern-day Turkey - was educated in Jerusalem - moved around the Mediterranean planting churches in different cultural contexts. To the Philippians he wrote: “**Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.**” (Philippians 4:11)
- **Joseph** - forced as a slave into another country and culture - kept his faith and lived in such a wise way that he rose to a position of power. (Genesis 37-50)
- **Daniel** - Lived in Babylon during the exile period - kept his faith while also being a person of influence in the Babylonian government.
- **Abraham** – experienced some failures in his cross-cultural encounters - because of fears for his own safety - introduced his wife as his sister during a visit to Egypt. (Genesis 12:10-20)

ANALYZING YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1 Samuel 12:24, “Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: **for consider how great things he hath done for you.**”

Introduction:

- 1) There are good reasons for analyzing our accomplishments and good methods for doing it. If we do this, we will most likely excel and do more, and if we ignore this, we will fail: not fail ourselves, but fail others!
- 2) True growth that yields real fruit never comes about by accident.

I. THE RULER (*to measure by*)

- A. God tells us not to compare ourselves among ourselves, for this is not wise.
2 Corinthians 10:12, “For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.”
- B. This does not mean the spiritual thing to do is to ignore the facts.
He also says that iron sharpeneth iron and that there is safety in the multitude of counsel.
Proverbs 27:17, “Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.”
- C. We must understand that everything is not going to be equal in this life.
 1. This is not to see if we have been faithful in working. We have.
 2. This is to be sure we are working with God's wisdom and understanding.
Psalms 111:10, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.”
- D. It is one thing to work hard, but it is another thing to work smart.
Example: *A good southern, hardworking man moves north and is cleaning the snow off his sidewalk with the small, pointed shovel, he so fondly used to dig in his garden down south.*
- C. If there is a better way, learn it. If you know a better way, share it.

II. THE REASON

We are already looking at a lot of the reasons to analyze your accomplishments, but let us look deeper.

A. Personally

1. The way God made us, we need a little encouragement from time to time.
2. Analyzing our accomplishments allows us to give God the glory for what He has done through our lives and ministry, and this makes us thankful and willing to keep going on.

C. Purposefully

1. This is never done to gloat or think more highly of ourselves than we should.
Romans 12:3, “For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”
2. It is to find what is working and do more of that, and less of what is not producing.
Example: In today's high tech world there are computers with a GPS on combine machines. The computer and the GPS analyze the amount of grain harvested throughout the field and exactly what areas in the fields did not produce well. That computer and GPS are then put on the tractor that fertilizes the field the next year, and remembering where it did not produce well, adds the fertilizer accordingly and harvests a much greater crop the next year.
3. In analyzing, we may find that the work in one city, one part of the city, or even country, is growing much more than another area. This does not mean that we abandon the less productive, but prayerfully find the best way to use what God is doing in the more productive areas to help in the less productive.
4. Caleb never stopped looking for a way to take “that mountain.” Never stop praying and searching for the best way to reach lost souls.
5. God gives the increase, but He has called us to do the work.

C. Publicly

1. Another reason to analyze is to share what great things God hath done.
Isaiah 41:7, “So the carpenter encouraged the goldsmith, and he that smootheth with the hammer him that smote the anvil, saying, It is ready for the soldering: and he fastened it with nails, that it should not be moved.”
2. Always be ready to share and help other missionaries and national workers. If we know what is working, we can share it with others that are interested. Remember you can always learn from them too. (No exceptions.)
3. We owe it to the churches to let them know what has been accomplished. I hear missionaries complain of a lack of interest in many churches in the area of missions. Is it partly our fault?
4. If we will tell and show them what God has accomplished through their prayers and support, they will be encouraged to do more for God. (*Have some specifics about what has been accomplished.*)
5. Giving God the glory is always right.

III. THE REJOICING

A. Teach the Nationals to rejoice in the accomplishments.

1. The Workers

2. The Churches
3. The New Converts

B. Rejoice with your family.

1. They have suffered with you; let them rejoice with you.
2. This helps them to stay involved.

C. Rejoice with your churches.

1. Whether or not your accomplishments are as great as those of someone else, after analyzing them, you have something to report and rejoice about with your churches.
2. Also, have a plan of what you intend to do when you get back to the field.
3. Pastors are not looking for someone to just go to the field, but someone with a good understanding of what they are going to do when they get there.

THE SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Text: Ephesians 6:10-18 (Cp. Acts 20:26-31)

I. The Spiritual Warfare Calls for Evaluation. Ephesians 6:10-12

A. An Understanding of What Will not Work.

1. Not by Human METHODS.

Note:

- 1) During his earthly ministry, the Lord used different methods to achieve the same results, i.e. Glorify the Father, Display His Messianic Proofs, Help those Hurting. By this, we see that it is not necessarily the method we use, but that it is God Who must do the work in us, for us, and through us.

Examples:

John 9:1-7, Jesus heals a blind man by putting mud on the eyes of the blind man and then having him wash in the Pool of Siloam.

Luke 18:35-43, Jesus simply speaks, and blind Bartimaeus is healed.

- 2) The Message of the Apostles was confirmed by signs and miracles.

Hebrews 2:1-4, *“Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. 2 For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; 3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; 4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”*

Mark 16:15-18, *“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. 17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”*

2. Not by Human MIGHT.

V.10, *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of **his might**.”*

1 Corinthians 2:1-5, *“And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. 3 And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. 4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: 5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”*

John 19:9-12, *“And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer. 10 Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? **Knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?** 11 Jesus answered, **Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above:** therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin. 12 And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar’s friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar.”*

3. **Not by Human MEANS.**

Luke 10:4, “Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way.”

Luke 22:35, “And he said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing.”

B. An Understanding of How We Can Win.

1. **The WARFARE is SPIRITUAL.**

V. 12, “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

2. **The WEAKNESS is OURS.**

V. 11, “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye **may be able** to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

3. **The WISDOM is from GOD.**

Note: Power for this spiritual warfare is not just the ability to witness or preach, but also the ability to discern between right and wrong which comes from the wisdom of God.

James 3:17, “But **the wisdom that is from above** is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.”

II. The Spiritual Warfare Calls for Determination- Ephesians 6:13

“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore,...”

Note: The word “stand” has the thought of being (1) Settled and (2) Steadfast.

A. We Must Be Settled.

1. **In WHAT we Believe.**

2 Timothy 3:14-16, “But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; 15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:”

2. **In WHY we Believe.**

Hebrews 1:1-2, “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;”

2 Timothy 3:17, “That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

2 Peter 1:15-21, “Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. 16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. 19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the

day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

3. In WHOM we Believe.

Acts 27:25, “Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.”

2 Timothy 1:12, “For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: **for I know whom I have believed**, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”

B. We Must Be STEADFAST.

1. In Spite of SATAN’S ATTACKS.

Note: We may want to turn and run, but we must stand! Christian in *Pilgrims Progress* confronted two lions and was afraid to pass. But, mustering the courage, he found that they were chained.

1 Peter 5:8-9, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist **stedfast in the faith**, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”

2. In Light of The LORD’S RETURN

(He is our victory over sin, death, hell, Satan.)

2 Corinthians 5:7-11, “(For we walk by faith, not by sight:) 8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. 9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. 11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.”

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 Cp. Luke 19:11-15

1 Corinthians 15:58, “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

III. The Spiritual Warfare Calls for Preparation. Ephesians 6:11,13

Note:

- 1) V.11- “put on;” V.13- “take unto you;” “diligence” mean “haste,” “earnest care.”
2 Peter 1:5, “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;”
- 2) The call to **Serve** and to **War** are calls to **Prepare**.

A. Our Armor- Vs. 14-17a

1. “Loins gird about” (belt)- Truth (Revealed Truth)

John 17:17, “Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth**.”

Proverbs 23:23, “**Buy the truth**, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.”

2. “Breastplate”- Righteousness (Godly Character)

1 Peter 1:16, “Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

Ephesians 2:10, “For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.**”

3. **“Feet shod” (shoes)- Zeal of the Gospel** (Readiness)

Note: “Preparation” (Greek “hetoimazo” [het-oy-mad'-zo]) means to “make ready.”

Romans 1:14-15, “I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. 15 So, as much as in me is, **I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.**”

4. **“Shield”- Faith** (Protects from the fiery darts of doubt)

Hebrews 11:5-6, “By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 6 **But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**”

5. **“Helmet”- Assurance of Salvation**

1 Thessalonians 5:8, “But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and **for an helmet, the hope of salvation.**”

B. Our Arm - V. 17b- (The Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God)

1. **It is a DIVIDER.**

Hebrews 4:12a, “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and **sharper than any twoedged sword**, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow,...”

Note:

- 1) “Piercing” has the thought of “penetrating.”
- 2) The Bible divides the parts of man in order to get past the emotions and lustful desires in order to get to the center of man’s will so that a man may choose to be saved.
- 3) The same is true for the Christian so that he will not make decisions based upon his emotions and his human desires and lusts.

2. **It is a DISCERNER.**

Hebrews 4:12b, “...and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Proverbs 2:1-6, “My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; 2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; 3 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; 4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; 5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. 6 **For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.**”

IV. The Spiritual Warfare Calls for Supplication. Ephesians 6:18-19

A. The Pattern and Power of Prayer - V. 18a

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,...”

1. **The Pattern is from the SCRIPTURES.**

“all prayer and supplication”

Note:

- 1) “prayer” means “worship,” “a pouring out.”
- 2) “supplication” means “petition,” or “request.”

Luke 11:1, “And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, **Lord, teach us to pray**, as John also taught his disciples.”

a. Heavenly Relationship.

Luke 11:2-3, “And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, **Our Father** which art in heaven, **Hallowed** be thy name. **Thy kingdom** come. **Thy will** be done, as in heaven, so in earth. **3 Give us** day by day our daily bread.”

b. Human Relationship.

Luke 11:4a, “And **forgive us** our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us....”

c. Heart Relationship.

Luke 11:4b, “...And **lead us** not into temptation; but **deliver us** from evil.”

2. The Power is from the SPIRIT.

“...in the Spirit,...”

Romans 8:26-27, “**Likewise the Spirit also helpeth** our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, **because he maketh intercession for the saints** according to the will of God.”

B. The Persistency and Purpose of Prayer.

“...and watching thereunto with all **perseverance and supplication for all saints**; 19 **And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,**”

Note: “perseverance” means “persistency.” See Luke 11:1-10.

The purpose of prayer is not only to worship God but to make request to God for His help on our behalf. (Compare the meaning of the parable given in Luke 11:6.)

The Spiritual Warfare and Pride

Text: 2 Corinthians 10:1-7

Introduction:

- 1) We have an adversary, Satan, who is out to destroy us—if not physical—at the very least our testimony. We are in a warfare.
- 2) We are either Fighting (wounded or not), Absent without Leave, or Captured.
1 Peter 5:8, “*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*”
- 3) The enemies of the child of God are: The WORLD, The FLESH, and The DEVIL.

I. Satan’s Great Weapon of War- Vs. 4-5

Note:

- 1) “Pride is the stumbling block over which most men stumble.”- Dr. Bob Jones, Sr.
- 2) “Strong holds” (V. 4) and “High thing” (V. 5) means that which “*exalteth itself against the knowledge of God.*”
- 3) These are like Israel’s “high places” which became their stumbling blocks because they were not taken down.

- 4) The High Places of Israel:
- a) The Laws against the high places.
Deuteronomy 12:11-14, “Then **there shall be a place** which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD: 12 And ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God, ye, and your sons, and your daughters, and your menservants, and your maidservants, and the Levite that is within your gates; forasmuch as he hath no part nor inheritance with you. 13 **Take heed to thyself that thou offer not thy burnt offerings in every place that thou seest:** 14 **But in the place** which the LORD shall choose in one of thy tribes, there thou shalt offer thy burnt offerings, and there thou shalt do all that I command thee.”
Leviticus 26:30, “And I will destroy your **high places**, and cut down your images, and cast your carcasses upon the carcasses of your idols, and my soul shall abhor you.”
 - b) The Institution of the high places in Israel.
Judges 3:7, “And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgot the LORD their God, and served Baalim and the groves.”
Judges 6:25-26, “And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take thy father’s young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it: 26 And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down.”
 - c) Used for the Lord’s sacrifice until the building of the Temple of Solomon.
1 Samuel 9:14, “And they went up into the city: and when they were come into the city, behold, Samuel came out against them, for to go up to the high place.”
1 Kings 3:1-4, “And Solomon made affinity with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and took Pharaoh’s daughter, and brought her into the city of David, until he had made an end of building his own house, and the house of the LORD, and the wall of Jerusalem round about. 2 Only the people sacrificed in high places, because there was no house built unto the name of the LORD, until those days. 3 And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places. 4 And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there; for that was the great high place: a thousand burnt offerings did Solomon offer upon that altar.”
 - d) Re-established by Solomon for idol worship.
1 Kings 11:6-8, “And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father. 7 Then did Solomon **build an high place** for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. 8 And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods.”
 - e) Escalated under Rehoboam.
1 Kings 14:22-24, “And Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed, above all that their fathers had done. 23 For they also **built them high places**, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree. 24 And there were also sodomites in the land: and they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.”
 - f) Revival under Asa, but the high places remained.
1 Kings 15:9-14, “And in the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel reigned Asa over Judah. 10 And forty and one years reigned he in Jerusalem. And his mother’s name was Maachah, the daughter of Abishalom. 11 And Asa did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, as did David his father. 12 And he took away the sodomites out of the land,

and removed all the idols that his fathers had made. 13 And also Maachah his mother, even her he removed from being queen, because she had made an idol in a grove; and Asa destroyed her idol, and burnt it by the brook Kidron. 14 **But the high places were not removed:** nevertheless Asa's heart was perfect with the LORD all his days."

- g) Hezekiah removes the high places.

2 Kings 18:1-4, "Now it came to pass in the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign. 2 Twenty and five years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Abi, the daughter of Zachariah. 3 And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father did. 4 **He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan.**"

- h) Manasseh the son of Hezekiah rebuilds the high places.

2 Kings 21:1-5, "Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hephzibah. 2 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, after the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel. 3 **For he built up again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed;** and he reared up altars for Baal, and made a grove, as did Ahab king of Israel; and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them. 4 And he built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD said, In Jerusalem will I put my name. 5 And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD."

- i) Josiah destroys the high places.

2 Kings 23:8-20, "And he brought all the priests out of the cities of Judah, **and defiled the high places** where the priests had burned incense, from Geba to Beersheba, and **brake down the high places of the gates** that were in the entering in of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were on a man's left hand at the gate of the city. 20 And he slew all the priests of **the high places** that were there upon the altars, and burned men's bones upon them, and returned to Jerusalem."

- j) Rebuild possibly under Jehoahaz, Jehoiachin and Zedekiah until the Babylonian captivity.

2 Kings 23:31-32, "Jehoahaz was twenty and three years old when he began to reign; and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hamutal, the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. 32 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done."

2 Kings 24:8-9, "Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. And his mother's name was Nehushta, the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem. 9 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father had done."

2 Kings 24:18-19, "Zedekiah was twenty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hamutal, the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. 19 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done."

- 5) Satan's lie to Eve: Genesis 3:5, "...and ye shall be **as gods**..."

- 6) Pride breeds **SELF-WILL**. Self-will breeds **REBELLION**. This is Satan's main weapon against us.

- 7) There is a difference between Pride and Self-respect!

A. What the Bible Says About Pride.

Proverbs 6:16-17a, "These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: **A proud look**..."

Proverbs 11:2, "When **pride** cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom."

Proverbs 16:18, “**Pride** goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”

Proverbs 29:23, “A man’s **pride** shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.”

1 Timothy 3:6, “...lest being lifted up with **pride** he fall into the condemnation of the devil.”

1 John 2:16, “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the **pride** of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”

B. How Pride is Manifested.

1. Attitude- V. 5 Cp. V. 7 (Step 1)

a. How Pride Affects our Attitude.

Note:

- 1) Pride affects the way we think about ourselves and others:
 - a) No one can do it like me.
 - b) No one knows as much as me.
- 2) The rebellious attitude is: “I know more than my parents, my preacher, my teachers, the authorities, even God.”

b. Where Pride Begins

Note: Pride begins in the secret place of the mind.

Cp. V. 5, “*imagination*,” “*thoughts*”

Cp. Genesis 3:6, “...*a tree to be desired to make one wise...*”

c. How to detect a Proudful Attitude.

(1) The Countenance- Genesis 4:5-6

Proverbs 6:16-17, “*These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: 17 A proud look,...*”

(a) The Eyes.

(b) The Expressions of the Face.

(2) The Tone of Voice.

Genesis 4:8-9, “*And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him. 9 And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother’s keeper?*”

2. Actions- V. 6a (Step 2)

Genesis 4:8, “*And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.*”

Note: If our attitude is not dealt with, SILENT Rebellion leads to OPEN Rebellion. Cp. V.6- “*all disobedience*”

II. Carnal Weapons in a Spiritual War- Vs. 3-4a

A. Obvious Carnal Weapons- Ephesians 4:30-32

Note:

- 1) Because we so often forget that our “true” enemy is not flesh and blood but spiritual, we want to use carnal weapons to fight the “visible” source of attack against us. Very often this is a brother or sister in Christ.
- 2) The words that come to mind in this kind of warfare are **Revenge** and **Retaliation**.
- 3) When this type of battle is waged, the Holy Spirit is grieved!

- 4) In Ephesians 4:2, Paul warns the believer against using carnal weapons and even lists some of them for us.
1. **Bitterness-** (Greek *pikria* [pik-ree'-ah] means acidity [especially poison] and is translated as “*bitterness.*” This word comes from the Greek word *pikros* [pik-ros'] which carries the idea of piercing, sharp, or pungent, i.e. acrid [literally or figuratively].)
 2. **Wrath-** (Greek *thumos* [thoo-mos'] means “heated passion” and is translated “*fierceness,*” “*indignation,*” “*wrath.*” This word comes from the Greek word *thuo* [thoo'o] which means “to rush” [breathe hard, blow, smoke], and carries the idea of “to sacrifice” or “to slaughter for any purpose.” Hence, “*wrath*” is the emotion or response that lies deep within the human heart and smolders with a vengeful passion to do harm.)
Note: There is a time for anger, but anger without righteousness is wrong.
Ephesians 4:26, “***Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:***”
Mark 3:5, “*And when he had looked round about on them **with anger**, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.*”
 3. **Anger-** (Greek *orge* [or-gay'] means “violent passion.” It comes from a root word meaning “an outcry.” “*Anger*” is a quick emotional outburst. It is also translated “*indignation,*” “*vengeance,*” “*wrath.*”)
 4. **Clamour-** (Greek *krauge* [krow-gay'] means “an outcry” with the thought of creating a tumult or grief, seeking to enlist or affect others. It is also translated “*cry*” and “*crying.*”)
 5. **Evil Speaking-** (Greek *blasphemia* [blas-fay-me'-ah] means “vilification” or “blasphemy” and is also translated as “*blasphemy,*” and “*railing.*”)
 6. **Malice-** (Greek *kakia* [kak-ee'-ah] means “badness,” “depravity,” “malignity,” or “trouble.” It is also translated “*evil,*” “*naughtiness,*” “*wickedness.*”

Note:

- 1) Many people think that “*carnal weapons*” are just things like yelling, screaming, fighting, getting mad, pouting, etc.
- 2) Notice the statements used by Paul:
V.7a, “*Outward appearance*”
V.12, “*Comparing ourselves*”
- 3) You can only “**compare**” (judge by observation) what is on the **outside** of a person.
- 4) Cain was very religious.
Genesis 4:3, “*And in process of time it came to pass, that **Cain brought** of the fruit of the ground **an offering unto the LORD.**”*
- 5) Genesis 4:9-10- Cain tried to hide his sin.

B. Inconspicuous Carnal WeaponsNote:

- 1) Notice some “*good things*” that we use to judge the spirituality of a person and that we try to use as Spiritual Weapons:
 - a) Going to Church.
 - b) Going to Youth Activities.
 - c) Going to a Christian School.
 - d) Being raised in or having a Christian Home.
 - e) Carrying a Bible.

- f) Looking, dressing, talking right.
- g) Being a Preacher, teacher, church worker.
- 2) Parents think that, when their children **DO** certain things or **LOOK** a certain way, they are OK. We look at ourselves in the same way!!
- 3) When we think that this is all we need to be concerned about or to do, we are in trouble!

III. Combating Pride- Vs. 1,4

Note:

- 1) Verse 1 names the weapons exemplified by the Lord and made available to us to combat pride:
 - a) “*Meekness*” = inward quality of humility leading to submissiveness.
 - b) “*Gentleness*” = consideration of others; tenderheartedness.

Matthew 11:28-30, “*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*”
- 2) In Verse 4 Paul calls our weapons “**mighty through God.**” “Meekness” does not mean “weakness.” “Gentleness” does not mean “feminine.”
2 Timothy 2:24-26, “*And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, 25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; 26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.*”
- 3) Pride says, “**I AM; I CAN; I WILL.**” Humility says, “**GOD IS; GOD CAN; GOD WILLING.**” Pride looks to self. Humility looks to God!
1 Peter 5:6, “*Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, and he will exalt you in due time.*”

The Way Humility Works: James 4:6-10

A. Submission (To God)- V. 7a

To be submitted to God means to be submitted to:

1. Parents.

Proverbs 20:20, “*Whoso curseth his father or his mother his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness.*”

Ephesians 6:1-2, “*Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)*”

2. Authorities (Preacher, government, etc.).

Hebrews 13:17, “*Obey them which have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*”

Romans 13:1, “*Let every soul be subject unto the higher power. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.*”

B. Resistance (of Satan)- V. 7b

“*...and he will flee from you.*”

Matthew 4:10-11- Jesus said to Satan, “*Get thee hence...*” 11 Then the devil leaveth him...”

C. Dependence (on God)- V. 8

“Draw nigh to God...”

1. **By The WORD of GOD- (Love His Word and Spend time in it!)**
2. **By PRAYER- (Take time to pray!)**

D. Cleansing (of Self)- V. 8b

Note:

- 1) This is a command to us. It is laid upon us to come to God for cleansing.
- 2) *“Cleanse your hands”*= Our Actions.
- 3) *“Purify your hearts”*= Our Attitude (Bitterness, Thoughts, etc.).

1. Confessing and Forsaking of Sin.

1 John 1:9, *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

Proverbs 28:13, *“He that coverth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”*

2. Forgiving Wrong done to us.

2 Corinthians 2:10-11, *“To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ; 11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.”*

RELATIONSHIPS WITH MISSIONARIES

Introduction:

- 1) The number one reason for missionaries failing and giving up is **Interpersonal Conflict**.
- 2) Interpersonal Conflicts are a primary source of disruption in **Christian Ministries and Churches**.
- 3) Why do problems between missionaries arise? **Because missionaries are people too!**
 - a) Missionaries, like everyone else, have character flaws, fears, and phobias. These problems are magnified on the field. There are already enough strains on the missionary; physically, mentally, emotionally without the added stress of a problem missionary.
 - b) There are some missionaries who are dependent people needing constant support and direction. Rather than contribute to the team, they sap its energy.
 - c) On the other extreme, there are independent missionaries, the lone rangers, who divert the team’s energy as they yank this way and that to pursue their own agendas.
- 4) **The work of God always draws the fury of Satan.**
1 Peter 5:8, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”
- 5) **Missionaries need to be Interdependent People**, team players, who are willing to relinquish their own agenda and interests for the good of the team. They should be self-starters, self-reliant in the healthy sense, and able to reach out and be a support to others.
Galatians 6:2-5, “Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. 3 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. 4 But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. 5 For every man shall bear his own burden.”
- 6) At the same time, missionaries need to be **Filled with the Spirit**.
Ephesians 5:18-21, “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; 19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; 20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; 21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.”

The Cause of Interpersonal Problems—Sin

New Missionary	Veteran Missionary
• Fear	• Mistrust
• Fear of Loosing Power	• Fear of Being Swallowed Up
• Territorial Disputes	• Who’s the Boss?
• Conflicting Authorities	• Physical or Emotional Problems
• Selfishness	• Pride/Arrogance
• Indifference	• Personal Hang-ups
• Unforgiving Spirit	• Unwillingness to Cooperate, Work Together
• Jealousy	• Superior Attitude, or Just having “An Attitude
• Unclear About What is Expected of you Resulting in doing too Much or Not Enough	

1. What can we say about all the above reasons for relationship problems?

Galatians 5:19-21, “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

2. The work of God always draws the fury of Satan.

1 Peter 5:8, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”

Who Can be Involved in Problematic Relationships?

1. Husband- Self—Flesh—Old Nature

Amy Carmichael wrote, “One day I felt the ‘I’ in me rising hotly, and the Word came: ‘See in it a chance to die.’”

- a. Our Spirit – Our Tongue – Our Actions
- b. Our Failure to Set the Right Example

2. Wife - Self—Tongue—Mother Bear

- a. A wife in submission to her husband has him to blame, complain to, and shoulder to cry on.
- b. A wife in rebellion can cause trouble fast!
- c. Gossip—The Unruly Tongue (men also)
- d. Seldom has the roar of a mother bear been quelled when her cubs are in danger, treated unfairly, made fun of.

3. Children—Disobedience, Teaser, Provokes

- a. Children in different families are held to different requirements.
- b. Children tease other children.
- c. Children provoke other children.

4. Singles - Lack Understanding

- a. Does not understand the family.
- b. Family time.
- c. Husband-wife time.
- d. Quiet time.
- e. Father-son time.
- f. Mother-daughter time.

What Is Affected By Problems

1. It Affects the Missionaries

- a. Our spiritual relationship.
- b. Our family is torn and divided.
- c. Our testimony with other missionaries and those outside of the mission family.
- d. Those to whom we are trying to minister.
- e. The unsaved – who are watching our lives.
- f. Cause division, distress, and dullness.

2. It Affects the Mission Work

- a. Spirit of God will not be present where unity is lacking.
- b. Power of God gone.
- c. Nationals to whom you minister will sense something amiss.
- d. Operating in the flesh.
- e. Extra work / expense for mission office – field director – board members.

4. It Affects your Church Members

- a. They will never live a victorious Christian life.
- b. The missionaries can't even live/work together.
- c. They will lose faith in what you say.
- d. They will lose faith in what you preach.
- e. They will lose faith in what you teach.

5. It Affects the Mindset of the Unsaved

- a. Unsaved watch lives- more than listen our words.
- b. Unsaved weary – we are foreigner – speak with forked tongue.
- c. Tired of worldly, fleshly, carnal, Christians.

Suggestions for Resolving Conflicts

1. Begin conflict resolution with a mind, heart, and soul that is yielded to God having his way in our life.

- a. Begin conflict communication with "I" statements that reflect how you feel.
- b. Identify what is needed by another person.
- c. Ask for clarification when an issue becomes a conflict.
- d. Having an outside opinion can do wonders.
- e. Determine whether the disagreement is over facts or the respective feelings about the facts. "To me..." "in my opinion..."
- f. Do not make it personal. Say, "I do not agree with that idea." NOT, "Your idea is stupid."
- g. Is it really an "either" "or" issue? Often conflicts caused by boxed thinking.
- h. Do a trial solution - Let's try this for 3 weeks and then evaluate it.
- i. If people get visibly mad, stop the discussion. If you cannot discuss the issue without anger you need mediation. Take a "time-out."
- j. Rather than try to find the right answer, throw out the bad answers, i.e. the things you agree that will not work.

2. Getting along with national co-workers.

- a. Communicate with them.
- b. Respect them.
- c. Lead by example, not by word or command.
- d. Understand that what they mean is not always what they say. Understand how they think. You may not be butting heads, but it may be a matter of cross-cultural communication.
- e. Teach them the Word. Live by the Word yourself. Use the Word to solve differences or problems.

3. How to get along with those you cannot get along with.

- a. **Ask God's forgiveness if you have treated that person in an unchristian way.**
Matthew 6:14, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses your heavenly Father will also forgive you."
- b. **Realize it is not worth losing everything good God has for you just for the cheap pleasure of disliking someone.**

2 John 1:8, “Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.”

Matthew 18:33-35, “Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? 34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. 35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.”

- c. **Realize everything you are doing for God without love is counted as nothing.**
1 Corinthians 13:1, “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.”
- d. **Realize if you only love those who love you, you have no reward.**
Matthew 5:46, “For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?”
- e. **Realize that love is a commandment of God** - It is not a choice or option.
John 15:17, “These things I command you, that ye love one another.”
- f. **Love is part of a package deal called the fruit of the Spirit.**
Galatians 5:22a, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love...”
- g. **Dislike the characteristic of the person, not the person.**
- h. **Pray for that person fervently.**
James 5:16b, “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”
- i. **Believe God can change character flaws** - Put it in God's hand, not ours.
Ephesians 3:20-21, “Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”
- j. **Learn to say good things about that person to others.** Rather than saying bad things, pray for them.
- k. **Humble yourself of all envy, pride, and jealousy.**
Matthew 23:12, “And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.”
- l. **Have a servant's heart.**
Matthew 23:11, “But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.”
- m. **Do your part to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.**
Ephesians 4:3, “Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”
- n. **Realize God is the author of peace.** If peace is absent we have failed in some way to let God work.
1 Corinthians 14:33, “For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.”
- o. **Realize a person might be under much pressure**, maybe even greater than you.
- p. **Do not respond to the person the same way they respond to you.**
Matthew 5:39, “But I say unto you, that ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.”
- q. **Determine that God will give victory in this relationship.** In John 17 the Lord prayed that we all be one. Have faith that this is what he wants.
- r. **Realize many Christians have failed, quit, or became castaways because they have failed at interpersonal relationships.** Why not stop right now and pray for that person? Why not do something special for them today? May the strongest person go first!

PARENT/CHILD RELATIONSHIPS

Introduction: As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, our goal in life is to please and glorify our God. He is worthy of our praise, worship, and consecrated service—and He **expects** it. There is to be no area of our lives that is not wholly consecrated unto Him. We must present ourselves to Him, to be used for His glory. Personal sanctification requires three key elements: **God's enabling; our commitment to learn His will; our obedience to His Word.** God has already done much for us, and He is willing to do more! He has given us the Holy Spirit to teach us His Word, to convict us of sin, to direct our lives and to empower us for service. He will direct our paths if we seek to please Him.

Rom 12:1-2, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

I. Our Relationship to God — Our **FRUIT** Unto Holiness.

Romans 6:22, "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."

A. **Our relationship to God is the most important thing about us.**

1. When the scribe asked Jesus Christ what the greatest of all the commandments was, the Lord never hesitated. He responded by quoting from Deuteronomy 6:4,5. **WE ARE TO LOVE GOD!**
Mark 12:29-30, "And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: 30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment."
2. God loves us, and we are to love Him in return. The best example of God's love for us was when He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to come to the cross and shed His blood, dying in our place so we could be saved.
*John 15:13, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."
1 John 4:19, "We love Him, because he first loved us."*
3. By virtue of His sacrifice and resurrection, Jesus Christ is the head of the church and He is to have preeminence in ALL things. He is our **Lord**, and that means that He must be the one who is in control of our lives.
Colossians 1:18, "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."
4. There is something that is essential for Jesus Christ to **really** be our Lord and for Him to occupy His rightful place (preeminence) in our lives: **we must yield ourselves to His perfect will.** This surrender is an act of our human will.

B. Our commitment to God: To bear FRUIT UNTO HOLINESS, we must make a conscious decision: **“I will honor God with a separated life that is pure, holy, and consecrated unto Him.”**

1. We can only fulfill this commitment with the Lord’s help. In our flesh we fail!
2. For a Christian to be pure, holy, and consecrated to God is a life-long goal, not an instantaneous achievement.

II. OUR RELATIONSHIP TO OUR FAMILY — The FRUIT of the Womb.

A. Our relationship to our family is vital.

1. This relationship is second only to our relationship to God. We first love, God, but then we are to love others. God ordained the family as the first human institution, and it was intended to meet man’s needs and to bring glory to God.
2. As sincere Christians, our family relationship is much more than a physical or human relationship. There are many spiritual aspects involved, and our family relationships are an excellent platform to bring glory to God and to portray His love to the lost world.
3. We love our family with a pure heart, obey and honor our parents, nurture our marriage, train our children, and serve together in a good church.

B. Our commitment to our family: Each Christian must make a conscious decision: **I will love my family and train my children to serve the Lord, raising up a Godly generation!** We can only fulfill this commitment with the Lord’s help. In our flesh we fail!

1. To raise up a Godly generation requires diligence and steadfastness. It is something we must cultivate for a lifetime, and it is a heritage that we leave to our posterity.
2. Saying all that, let us take a closer look at the parent / child relationship. *Psalms 127:4-5, “As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. 5 Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.”*
3. Children are a blessing and gift from God to us, and He expects us to raise them up with the principles that He leaves us in His Word. As the previous verses mention, our children are “arrows.” Have you ever stopped to consider the relationship between the archer (parents) and the arrow (children)? The archer is to be strong, decisive, patient, and caring. He is the one who guides the arrows. The arrow is fragile, helpless, and needs guidance.
4. Maybe you are thinking how can I guide my children? We can only find these answers in the word of God. In the book of Proverbs we find three words that help us and that will help our children understand and know God. Understanding and knowing God is the basis for knowing what God’s desire is for our lives.

a. **“Wisdom”**

The word **“Wisdom”** is found 54 times. **Wisdom** is *“How do I deal with it?”*

b. **“Understanding”**

“Understanding” is found 53 times. **Understanding** is *“Why God wants me to do it?”*

c. **“Knowledge”**

“**Knowledge**” is found 41 times. **Knowledge** is “*What God wants me to do?*”

These are principles that we have to teach our children so they can deal with any and all situations that we and they face now and in the future. They need to know how to deal with situations; they need to know why God wants them to do it; and they need to understand what God wants them to do. Today many children have no clue of who God is in a personal way because we as parents have not cultivated in them a relationship with God. That is not done by taking them to church and giving them a Bible. It is done by cultivating in them truths and principles from God’s Word that they see real in your own life. How you deal with everyday situations? They must see that you as a parent are genuine about your love to God and your family. If they do not see that you are genuine in your love to God and to the family, they will not see their relationship with God as being relevant.

5. Another way is through family time. Now what is meant mean by family time is not a set time every day that you can say I give my family so many minutes a day every day when we read the Bible, pray, and sing. Family time should be a time (which I believe is not a set time but an all day hands on time) of cultivating a spirit of gratefulness and creativity with all that life has to offer. So often we as parents think that because our children can quote scripture and can sing that we are doing our job. Well, it goes a lot deeper than that. It is a time of showing them that I am interested in their everyday life, and I help them to be interested in my everyday life. This way they can see firsthand how I as a parent deal with everyday situations. In doing this, I am teaching my children to be totally creative in the society that they are in. This is very important when dealing with culture shock. If we as parents have nothing good to say about the weather, culture, food, and environment of the place that we say **God has called us to**, guess what, our children are going to be the same. Remember that discontented parents produce discontented children. Now, this has everything to do with:

- a. Making time for and spending time with your children.
- b. Helping your children deal with deputation.
- c. Helping your children deal with culture shock, separation from family and friends, learn the language.
- d. Using your children in the ministry.

- Think about this, if you are not spending time with your children and then you are complaining about the churches you are visiting while on deputation, what do you think your children are going to think of churches in general? Then you get to the field. You complain about the culture, you complain about the food, the weather, you complain because you miss your family, and then go on to complain about the language. Your children will certainly not like what they are seeing. They will think that Christian service is a thing of misery in which they will want nothing to do with.
- What does the Bible say about this? And how are these subjects relevant? Or why should it matter to a parent who is on deputation or the field? We need to take a close look at Deuteronomy 5-6 and Ephesians 6. Here is what Deuteronomy 6:4-9 says, “*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 8*

And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.”

- I believe that God sees the missionaries’ children as the first wave of their mission to make disciples. Making time for them is done like this. We make disciples of them the same way that Jesus made disciples... by spending time with them.

Mark 3:14, *“And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach.”*

- He chose 12 to be with Him. By that method, they saw first-hand what it was to be devoted to God. That is why this method of making disciples of our children is first and foremost to spend time with them. We need to have them with us in the routine of everyday life. Your children have the greatest opportunity by simply being with you as you live out your devotion to Christ. The routine that you have of driving, planning meetings, relating to imperfect people, watching you handle disappointments, preaching, sacrificing, and serving, they need to see Christ in you through these situations. By the way, they need to see this in our lives so they know how to respond to God when they face those same challenges,
- Our children need to see a good example of a husband/wife relationship. Our children do not come before the husband and wife relationship, but as they see the relationship that we have as husband and wife, they will glean from this, by seeing this relationship we have one to another before God. They will learn by example if we are truly a good model of this relationship. They will enjoy the benefits of our covenant which means they have the privilege of gleaning those things they need in the developmental years of their lives like instruction, kindness, comfort, correction, and admonition. As they see this relationship, they will be better equipped to cultivate godly relationships in their own lives not only with their own siblings, but with others as well.

2 Timothy 3:14-15, *“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; [15] And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”*

- Let’s be practical. Missionary parents could not do all they do in terms of ministry without their children, and they should be reminded often of that fact. Our children are not one more responsibility in the way of our calling. **They are our calling!** We are a ministry team. They need us, and we need them.

Luke 6:40, *“The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.”*

- Jesus was not with His disciples 24/7, but He did give them specific instructions for accomplishing tasks, then later evaluated their character for the purpose of helping them grow.

Luke 10:1,17-20, *“[1] After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come. 17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. 18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. 19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.”*

- This is what we need to do. Useful time with our children includes giving them meaningful tasks that produce something. Then, we carefully watch their attitudes to see how they are responding to life. This is a good thing to do on deputation. You give your child small jobs they can handle, then you watch how they do. If you see sinful responses, you look for appropriate times to privately and calmly address what you observed. Your children will never forget it. Your children will learn to serve Christ just like you do. They learn that doing the work is important, but their relationship with God is important also.
- God is sovereign over the affairs of man. Why would God allow a child to have to move and be transplanted to another part of the world? I cannot help but think of 2 Corinthians. These men of God faced all sorts of difficult situations, yet they handled each of them in a way that honored God. I think we need to be trained to help our children to learn how to respond to the difficulties of life in a way that pleases God no matter what it is. The first thing every parent needs to train their child in is that God is sovereign. He is in control. He holds the heart of the King in His hand. He raises up and puts down nations. He controls nature. But He is also good. That is big person theology but little people can handle that, too. God is so good that He promises that no matter what happens in what He allows, He has in mind some good for them.

Psalm 86, Romans 8:28, Genesis 50:20, 2 Corinthians 4

- God is always thinking about our good though sometimes good is concealed in a garbage can. All of us need to learn the habit of the heart of looking for the GOOD God has in mind for us even when people disappoint us, when parents sin against us, when relationships become strained, when people expect too much of us, when dreams seem to have died. We could go on and on. God knows and cares, but more than that, He has a good in mind, but it will require effort on our part to see it.
- Look at Joseph. Finding the good requires faith, faith that God is sovereign. He is good but, also, wise. God knows what is best. It is like the dad who had to take his child to the doctor to have a very large splinter removed from the child's hind end. The doctor had to have the father hold the child while he went through the painful procedure of extracting the wedge of wood. The poor child was too young to understand what on earth the father was doing as an accomplice in inflicting all this pain. It was hard on the father, too. He knew his son was in pain. He knew his son could not understand, but the father knew more. The father knew the relief the son would feel in a very short while when the pain was just a memory. Isn't that the way it is with God? We say, "God, what on earth are you up to? I am in pain. It hurts. Why are you putting me through this?" But He knows what the future is going to be like when the pain is only a memory. The wonderful thing about this truth is that it gives so much hope to know God always has our good in mind.
- Every missionary and child of a missionary needs HOPE that the short term difficulties will be worth it for the long term benefit, but God expects us to be looking for the benefits. Philippians
- If we cultivate in our children the principles of God's Word and help them establish the type of relationship that God wants with them, it will take spending time with them. It will make deputation/furlough fun and a bonding time. They will know how to handle being away from family and friends, learning a new language, and adjusting to the differences that are faced. They will understand that this is not a dad's ministry, and we are just along for the ride. They will understand that they are a part of a team and this is our ministry.

- Remember, if God has called you to a specific place, He will take care of you. He did not say that He would keep you from difficult situations or that you would not struggle some. But He did promise to be with you.
- Now when faced with difficult situations, we need to respond in a way that glorifies God. Why? Because it glorifies God and there are children watching us.

HOME SCHOOLING

(A brief glance at information, suggestions and legal requirements)

Home Schooling Do's and Don'ts

DO:

- Your best for the Lord. *“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.”* (Colossians 3:23) Your children may not always appreciate what you are doing, and you may not see the results you want to see, but remember to do it for the LORD! *“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”* (I Corinthians 10:31)
- Try to set up your homeschool like a “real” school (organized schedule, have a classroom, etc.). *Let all things be done decently and in order.* (1 Corinthians 14:40) Here, Paul instructs the Corinthian about their worship, but decency and order will go a long way in the classroom as well.
- Be controlled by the Spirit. *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”* (Galatians 5:22,23) Display these characteristics in all situations. It will take special strength from HIM!
- Be positive. *“Do all things without murmurings and disputing.”* (Philippians 2:14) Find a reason to be thankful in all situations. Your children will pick up on this attitude.
- Be enthusiastic. Make it fun and encourage a love of learning.
- Set a good example. *“... Be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”* (1 Timothy 4:12) Christ should be honored in every single word we speak. Even when we're not necessarily teaching a Bible class, a Christ-like and loving attitude should be evident in every word we speak. Our children are going to follow our example, whether good or bad.

DON'T:

- Get discouraged. Charity... *“beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.”* (1 Corinthians 13:7) Love and believe in your child.
- Lose patience. *“Charity suffereth long, and is kind”*....(1 Corinthians 13:4) It can be hard for even the best of parents to keep their cool. If you are frustrated it may help to switch subjects or take a break.
- Expect everything to fall into place without careful planning and preparation. *“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace...”* (1 Corinthians 14:33) This verse speaks of orderly worship at church, but it can also be applied to the home school setting.
- Expect your children to work hard if you don't!

Common Concerns and Questions

Should I home school? This is perhaps the biggest question for many of you. Talk with your spouse and prayerfully consider what is best for your family. Realize that it will take determination and commitment.

What if I am not a certified teacher? Can I still teach my children? Absolutely. Most curriculums are easy to follow, and there are tons of resources available such as teaching aids, video or online instruction, special classes and tutors. If you are simply willing and determined, you can do it.

Can my child still get a good education and be equipped to succeed in the world if he/she doesn't go to a “real” school? That is up to you, but YES, your child can get a well rounded education with a spiritual emphasis.

What curriculum should I use? This depends on your personal preferences and the learning styles of your children. Research available curriculums and talk to other homeschooling parents before making a decision.

How much time does it take? As much time as you want to put into it! Georgia requires 4.5 hours of instructional time, but you need to consider preparation time as well. The more that you prepare; the more likely you are to succeed.

What about my other obligations? If you commit to homeschooling your child, and you want to succeed, then you must realize that it will have to be one of your top priorities.

Is it worth it? According to one homeschooling Mom who taught her children for 19 years, “I believe it is! What better way to teach your kids; you’ll have a wonderful relationship with them: closer than if they were in school somewhere else. I wouldn’t trade that opportunity for anything.”

Homeschooling Pros and Cons (taken from the internet)

As with anything, home education has its disadvantages. Here is a candid look at homeschooling pros and cons:

Pros	Cons
Children are taught according to their learning styles and interests.	Parents must help children improve upon their weaknesses and not just cater to their strengths
Parents have more control over how and what their children are taught.	Parents take on sole responsibility for their children's education.
Children can progress slowly or quickly, according to their abilities.	Parents may feel inadequate to address the needs of gifted and special needs students.
Schedules revolve around family and allow time to bond with parents and siblings.	Extended time with family can strain tense relationships or lead to burnout on the part of the teaching parent.
Flexible schedules allow time for breaks, field trips, vacations.	Family crises, illness and lax supervision by parents can interfere with learning.
Curriculum for an entire year costs less than 1 month of private school tuition.	Parents must purchase own materials and still pay public school taxes.
Children spend time in a diverse, real world environment.	Parents must search for activities such as sports and music that are easily accessible at school.
Parents can transmit their values to children and shelter them from negative influence.	Parents must give children increasing independence and a chance to learn to stand for their values.

Legal Requirements

Requirements vary from state to state, but almost all states require some type of written documentation notifying the local school authorities that your child will follow a home school program. Make sure that you are familiar with these laws a few months before the school year actually starts so that you will

be able to comply with them. You can find out about your state’s laws by typing in the name of your state and the word “homeschooling laws” in your search engine or you can access the website for the Home School Legal Defense Association at <http://www.hsllda.org/laws>. The following are the requirements for homeschooling in the state of Georgia as found on their site.

Georgia State Laws

Compulsory Attendance Ages: “between 6th and 16th birthdays.” However, if a child is under 6 and has attended more than 20 days in a public school, he is then subject to the compulsory attendance laws.

Required Days of Instruction: 180 days.

Required Subjects: A basic academic educational program that includes, but is not limited to, reading, language arts, math, social studies, and science.

Home School Statutes:

1. Parents must submit a declaration of intent to home study to the local superintendent thirty days after the establishment of the home study program and by September 1 every year thereafter. This declaration must include the names and ages of students, the location of the home school, and the time the parents designate as their school year.
2. The home school must provide “a basic academic educational program.”
3. Each school day must consist of four and one-half hours.
4. Attendance records must be kept and submitted to the superintendent each month. The records will “not be used for any purpose except providing necessary attendance information.”
5. Parent must write an annual progress report and retain it for three years.
6. “Parents or guardians may teach only their own children in the home study program...but the parents or guardians may employ a tutor who holds at least a high school diploma or GED to teach such children.”
7. According to the Attorney General of Georgia, the local superintendent does not have the authority to require parents to affirmatively produce evidence of their continuing compliance with the law in the operation of home study programs or require the production of documents. Although the superintendent has the authority to “request” such materials, he cannot require parents to submit them.
8. This statute resulted from a home school decision by the Georgia Supreme Court, *Roemhild v. Georgia*, which found the former law to be “unconstitutionally vague.” The court reasoned: “...we conclude that the statute is not sufficiently definite to provide a person of ordinary intelligence, who desires to avoid its penalties, fair notice of what constitutes a ‘private school’...Furthermore, the statute violated a second due process value in that it impermissibly delegates to local law enforcement officials, judges, and juries the policy decision of what constitutes a private school.”

Teacher Qualifications: The “teaching parent” must have at least a high school diploma or a GED. Or the parents may employ a private tutor who has a high school diploma or GED.

Standardized Tests: Children must take a national standardized achievement test every three years beginning at the end of the third grade. “Test scores are not required to be submitted to public school authorities.” Parent must write an annual progress report and retain it for three years.

This Analysis does not Constitute the Giving of Legal Advice.
The analysis has been reproduced from the Home School Legal Defense Association

This may sound complicated, but it’s not! Don’t be frightened when you see the first word under Georgia State Laws is a word like compulsory. **Compulsory School Age** simply means the ages between which a child must receive formal instruction. The **declaration of intent** (A statement notifying the school officials that you will be teaching your child instead of enrolling them in school) and the attendance records are filled out on forms that are available online. You will note that GA also

requires **standardized test** every three years. You are not required to turn in the results. There are many different types of tests you can order or in some cases give with the help of a local school system. The annual **progress report** mentioned is done at the end of the school year. It is a brief summary of what your child has done throughout the year and is retained for your personal records.

Notice, also, that you are required to give your child **4.5 hours of instruction 180 days a year**. PLEASE to not make them sit in a chair without moving every day for that amount of time! There is more to instruction than sitting at a desk. Don't be afraid to be creative. Take them to the kitchen to teach a little math with measuring cups, throw in a music lesson or research something of interest online. Field trips are allowed too. You will most likely finish your curriculum before 180 days are up, but you are still required to "educate" during those extra days.

Before you start homeschooling, contact your local school district. You will most likely not be in direct contact with the superintendent himself. Many counties have a home school coordinator for the area who can answer your questions and who will be the one receiving your paperwork. Do all you can to make this person your FRIEND! Be courteous and turn in necessary paperwork on time. Do not hesitate to ask them any questions you may have.

Many of you will home school your children overseas. You should still comply with the homeschooling laws for your state of residence. This will prevent problems when you return, and give you some accountability. You will want to explain your situation in case living overseas makes it difficult to submit forms on time. (Mailing them takes a long time and some school email servers reject attachments from certain foreign countries. Let them know your situation so they can work with you.)

Choosing Your Curriculum

After deciding to home school, the next big decision is which curriculum to use. There is so much out there for the homeschooling mom today. Following are some tips in choosing curriculum:

1. Get advice from others. Talk to other parents about what curriculums they like and why. Read curriculum reviews online. (Check out <http://www.homeschoolreviews.com>.) If you are interested in a particular curriculum, find out if they have a display near you. You can check out what they have to offer and get discounts if you order.
2. Don't choose something solely because someone tells you it is easy or less time-consuming. We do not always learn much from the easiest classes, and NO curriculum alone is going to suffice without mother and child putting in time and effort. Choose rather what is going to be BEST!
3. Consider your child's learning style and needs. This one is tricky because you may not realize he/she has a particular learning style until you start school and have already ordered curriculum! As time goes on, you may need to consider changing your curriculum or using a combination of different ones.
4. Pick something that you will enjoy teaching! If it is fun for mom, it will be fun for the child. If Mom is bored with it, it's going to be a LONG few years together.
5. Don't select something based solely on the fact that it's the cheapest thing available. Cheapest doesn't mean the best for you. Save up ahead of time or work out a payment plan with the publisher if possible. Remember it will still be cheaper than sending your child to a private school. You can buy used curriculum. This is tricky, however, for the new homeschooling mom. It will take some diligent research to know exactly what you need to buy, but it can be done.
6. Consider going to a homeschooling convention (conference). Not only can they help you explore all curriculum options, but various speakers will give you lots of new ideas.

Curriculum to Consider:

ABC Jesus Loves Me (*preschool curriculum*) <http://abcjesuslovesme.com>

ABeka: <http://www.abeka.com>. Here is an introduction to the curriculum taken from their site: Christian schools throughout the nation recognize that *A Beka Book* sets the standard of excellence in the publishing of textbooks and other materials for Christian schools. At *A Beka Book*, we are unashamedly Christian and traditional in our approach to education. The *A Beka Book* approach to Christian education keeps learning lively, interesting, and memorable. Our materials reflect sensible theory that is firmly anchored to practicality. *A Beka Book* materials have been developed as a result of 50 years of actual classroom experience in Pensacola Christian Academy, one of America's largest and most respected Christian day schools.

Accelerated Christian Education (A.C.E.) www.aceministries.com

Children work through paces. ACE has other options including an accredited program given on their Lighthouse Christian Academy page. (lcaed@aceministries.com) Here is what they say on this particular site: "When you choose Accelerated Christian Education[®], you get more than an organization that just sells curriculum. You get a Christian team of professionals who are committed to support all your educational needs. Home educators can begin their home school adventures with competence and confidence by enrolling their children in A.C.E.'s Lighthouse Christian Academy. After diagnostic testing, children are assigned courses that each consist of 12 workbooks called PACEs. Each PACE presents interesting lessons, new vocabulary, challenging quizzes, and mastery tests. The unique format of the curriculum allows students to advance from unit to unit as they demonstrate mastery. Students advance through the curriculum under parental supervision. Parents provide tutoring at the optimum moment of learning. Lighthouse Christian Academy (LCA) is a full-service home school academy that utilizes the A.C.E. curriculum. We are pleased to inform you that LCA has received full accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), an accredited division of AdvancEd. In LCA, parents serve as home school teachers with the distinct advantage of being able to call experienced academic advisors who prescribe and order curriculum and assist in implementing the A.C.E. program.

Alpha Omega Publications: <http://www.aophomeschooling.com>. Here's what they have to say about themselves: Headquartered in Rock Rapids, Iowa, with offices in Chandler, Arizona, AOP has revolutionized Christian education with over 30 years of experience in offering affordable curriculum, educational books and games, support services, and family entertainment to home school customers worldwide. As a leading home school curriculum publisher, AOP's award-winning educational products have enabled thousands of families to discover the amazing benefits of a Christian home education. From electronic-based and print-based curriculum to hands-on unit studies, Alpha Omega Publications has just what you need to home school successfully. For over 30 years, Alpha Omega Publications has listened to the needs of homeschooling parents. Designing quality home school curriculum that works, AOP has been recognized by the homeschooling industry with many prestigious awards.

Apologia: Science from a Christian standpoint. Stresses creation over evolution. <http://www.apologia.com>.

Bob Jones University: <http://www.bjupresshomeschool.com>. BJU Press claims it is "your place for Christian home school curriculum and distance learning options that seamlessly integrate biblical truth with academic excellence in order to help your child develop critical thinking skills and a love of learning."

The Calvert Homeschool Curriculum: <http://www.Calvertschool.org>.

An Introduction from the website: A Fully Accredited Homeschool Program: The Calvert homeschool curriculum is the fundamental platform that supports your home instruction and serves as the educational foundation your child will build on for life. For over one hundred years, Calvert School has helped families guide their children toward excellence and achievement through an **integrated, classical curriculum** developed by our expert Curriculum staff and proven in the Calvert Day School. The Calvert Pre-Kindergarten through Eighth Grade home school curriculum is built on a rich foundation of reading, writing, and arithmetic. That foundation is then layered with history, science, music, geography, and the arts to ensure no gaps in instruction. Our Curriculum Development Specialists, all former classroom teachers, work on your behalf to find the finest curriculum material for your child. We research major textbook offerings from major educational publishers to find material that is most effective for home schooling parents. If we do not find material that meets our high standards, we develop our own.

The Charlotte Mason Method: <http://simplycharlottesmason.com>

Uses “living books” (as opposed to textbooks) to introduce new facts and concepts.

www.queenhomeschool.com also provides some materials based on this method.

My Father’s World: <http://www.mfwbooks.com/index.htm>

From the website: Raising up generations of families who see the world through God’s eyes and live according to that knowledge.

- Recognizes **the Bible**, God's truth, to be the foundation of wisdom and education. Utilizes **hands-on, unit studies** with daily lesson plans that are **easy-to-teach**. Enables families and **multi-age** groups to learn together. Many of our programs may be taught to a range of ages simultaneously.
- Combines the best of **Charlotte Mason's ideas and classical education** with a **Biblical worldview**, an **international focus** and our own observations of how children learn.
- Uses a **comprehensive, sequenced learning program** beginning with preschool **learning toys** to develop readiness skills. Our complete unit-based curriculum includes a **phonics-based learning-to-read program** and focuses on God's amazing creation (kindergarten), the world of the Bible (first grade), and U.S. history (second or third grade). Then a year of **geography** sets the foundation for four years of **chronological world and U.S. history** (through eighth grade). Our high school curriculum provides a **Biblical framework** for English, history, and other subjects.
- Provides **easy-to-teach**, integrated curriculum that is enjoyable, academically strong, and focused on character development.
- Is committed to the Lord of All, who tenderly searches for people from every tribe and language. A portion of our profits helps support mission work overseas, especially Bible translation projects. **Our heart's desire** is that someday soon all people would be able to read of God's love in their own language.

Konos: www.konos.com For those who want to use unit studies.

Rod & Staff: http://www.rodandstaffbooks.com/list/Rod_and_Staff_Curriculum/

The publisher’s introduction quotes, “These Bible-based textbooks by Rod & Staff Publishers are designed to make the child God-conscious. This curriculum not only teaches the Bible but uses many illustrations of how Bible principles can be applied in everyday life”.

Saxon: <http://saxonthomeschool.hmhco.com>. Public school curriculum available for homeschoolers. Many homeschooling moms and even Christian schools have used their math program.

Sonlight: <http://www.sonlight.com/>

What they have to say for themselves: “Sonlight Curriculum is a Christian company specializing in literature-based homeschool curriculum programs. We provide complete curriculum packages and individual resources and materials so you can build the preschool or K-12 homeschool curriculum that best meets your family's needs. Sonlight is based in Littleton, Colorado and serves customers in over 150 countries worldwide. Instill in your children a life-long love to learn. Prepare them to engage new ideas. Challenge them to impact the world. We're here to provide you with the tools you need to inspire your children to learn and grow. These articles are available for you to explore and learn more about how we seek to serve you.”

Winter Promise: <http://winterpromise.com>

What the publisher says: **Have you ever wished for a curriculum that brings the best of all approaches together?** You've just found it — literature and activities, family projects, note-booking, student worksheets, and best of all, family memories! Winter Promise pulls together a variety of resources so you can tailor the program to meet the needs of your family members' individual learning styles. You can count on activities that are exciting for kids and realistic for parents. We're a great choice if you want a “wake up and go” curriculum that will also build a family culture all your own.

Take a look at our basic package choices — whether you choose to visit animal habitats around the world, journey through the American story, dig into ancient history or voyage with sailors on tempestuous seas — we've got something that will be just right for your family! Choosing can be difficult, so we recommend reading through our introductory material designed to help you along the way.

Online Academy: Various online academies are also available. When you sign your child up, it is like you are actually enrolling them in a “real” school. One claims to be an “Accredited online public school.” Others are private institutions. If you desire to go that route, please check with someone who has done it before. They would know the pros and cons. There are several websites listing such institutions, but it would be best to make sure you know of a sound organization before enrolling. Also, remember that just because a school claims to be “accredited” does not mean that it is.

Other Tips for Success

1. Start the day with your own personal quiet time with the Lord.
2. Have a devotional time with your children. Spiritual instruction is not all you will cover, but it should be top priority.
3. Get up early and get started on your school day. Do not wait until halfway through the morning. Your children will be fresh and ready to learn.
4. Do not put off difficult or less favored tasks.
5. Establish a schedule and try to stick to it, but be willing to be flexible. Many curriculums will give you a suggested schedule, including a schedule for teaching more than one child.
6. Be enthusiastic! Encourage a love of learning. Have FUN!
7. Keep grades.
8. Follow all state guidelines for homeschoolers.
9. Get involved in a home school support/co-op group if possible. If there is not one in your area, establish a plan for letting your children socialize with other children, through field trips, special unit studies or something similar. For those living overseas, it is important that your children learn to relate to children from your homeland. Make an effort to have outings with other American children from time to time.
10. Check out other resources beyond your specific curriculum. There is a wealth of information online. Do NOT hesitate to communicate with other homeschooling moms. Research methods and materials that fit your children's particular needs, such as how to challenge the gifted child, how to teach the ADD child, etc.

11. Be willing to give and accept help from others. Some homeschooling moms living near one another share instruction. You may want to share certain expensive supplies.
12. Make sure you have all of the materials you need ahead of time. This is especially important for those homeschooling overseas. You may have to order your curriculum a few years in advance if there is no one to bring it to you. Before you go to the field, take a look at your curriculum and make sure you have all you need. For example, US money or measuring utensils.
13. For those homeschooling in non-English speaking countries, consider taking extra reading material on your child's level if you have the space.
14. Have a classroom if possible with adequate tables and desks for children to write easily.
15. Have organized materials and supplies ready and within your child's reach.
16. Check out the core curriculum objectives for your state from time to time just to see if you are on track.
17. Do your best and encourage your child's best in all subject matter. (It doesn't have to be all A's, but their BEST!) We want them to be spiritually strong but also equipped academically to succeed.
18. Teach your child to THINK, and not just memorize. Yes, memorization has its place, but they also need to be good decision makers and problem solvers.
19. Consider your child's learning style and needs and be willing to adjust your instructional methods. Some moms change curriculums or use a combination of curriculums to address the needs of their children. You can also supplement your curriculum with freebies from the internet.

Learning styles:

Traditional—Textbook/workbook approach, emphasizing reading, writing, grammar, and spelling through drill and practice.

Classical—Following the medieval “trivium,” a child's education progresses from fundamental facts and skills to logic and advanced language abilities. Students study the great works of Western literature.

Unit studies (instructor-designed thematic studies)—Progress in several disciplines is woven around a particular theme.

Un-schooling / Child-directed / Delight-directed—Allowing a child to learn by encouraging and equipping him to pursue his own interests (guided or unguided exploration).

***One of the great things about homeschooling is that you do not have to be limited to just one approach—you can mix and match, taking what you like from each approach, to maximize your child's learning.

What about Graduation?

There are many options available. You will need to research them all and find out what is best for you. Here are some recommendations...

1. Start thinking and praying about your child's graduation during the upper elementary years because you will need to tailor their courses based on the program you want to follow. Plans will not be set in stone. Just begin to think about the courses and programs you want them to follow in high school in order to be where they need to be at the end of twelfth grade.
2. Decide if you want to follow an accredited program and whether you desire accreditation from a Christian or public organization.
3. Start looking at college entrance requirements so you can have an idea of what you need to accomplish during your child's high school years in order to prepare them.
4. Look up your state requirements for graduation. Make sure you cover all subjects required. Some states require certain tests in order to graduate as well.
5. Keep accurate grades and keep up with your child's transcript. Your child will need it for college entrance.
6. Consider having a standardized testing done such as the SAT (sat.collegeboard.org) or ACT

- (act.org). Colleges may require the test scores.
7. Make graduation a special time. Many homeschooling groups have an actual ceremony for those in the group that graduate. Other homeschoolers prefer a reception with church and family friends to honor their hard work.
 8. You can use a template online to make your own diploma. If you are in a home school group, they may also provide a diploma. Some accredited study programs may provide a diploma.
 9. You may need to consider having your child take the GED.

Websites of interest to the homeschooling mom

<http://www.homeschoolfreebie.wholesomechildhood.com/>. Offers free excerpts from various curriculums. One new thing is posted each day.

<http://homeschooling.gomilpitas.com>. A2Z Home's Cool website. Gives tons of helpful articles and information to help you get started, teach the gifted or special needs child, find the right curriculum, and much more.

<http://homeschoolmomtips.blogspot.com/> tips from a homeschooling mom. There are many similar websites. Just go through your search engine and you will find them.

http://www.homeschoolmath.net/homeschool_resources.php. Provides a list of links to other helpful resources and articles.

<http://www.christianhomeschoolers.com>. Gives resources, advice, laws and regulations and to standardized testing sites.

<http://www.heav.org/testing/resources.html>. Home Educator's Association of Virginia. Lots of helpful information even for those who don't live in VA.

<http://www.homeschool-curriculum-savings.com/info-on-homeschooling.html>

<http://www.youcanhomeschool.org>

<http://www.homeschoolfoundation.org>

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HCHE_Homeschool_Starter. Home school support group for Hall County. You will be asked to sign up by using a yahoo account to access some pages. If you don't have a Yahoo account, you can create one for free. The moderator of the group must first approve of your membership. There is advice for new homeschoolers as well as a link to a "New Homeschooler Packet."

<http://www.homesciencetools.com>. Find curriculum science kits and hard to find science supplies

<http://www.hsdl.org>. Home School Defense Legal Association. Gives information about laws in each state and has other articles about homeschooling. **You can consider joining the organization to help protect your rights as a homeschooling mom.**

<http://www.learningthings.com>. Has helpful resources including math manipulatives.

<http://www.homeschoolreviews.com>. You can look here to find out what parents have to say about various curriculums.

<http://www.schoolbox.com>. Offers various school supplies

<http://hshangout.com>. Find home school curriculums here.

<http://www.ghea.org>. Georgia Home Education Association

<http://homeschooltracker.com>. Home school planner and record keeping software. (for keeping grades.)
A free version is available.

<http://www.christianadhd.com/adhomeschool.html>. Homeschooling the ADHD Child

<http://www.waymarks.com/homeschool>. Look here to find a wealth of information including teaching the ADHD child, homeschooling the gifted child, the transition from home school to college, vendors, how to start homeschooling, getting support, learning styles, curriculum choices and many other resources.

www.homeschoolteenscollege.net. Getting a diploma and free GED practice testing.

<http://www.homeschooltranscripts.com>. Get help putting together a transcript.

<http://public.doe.k12.ga.us/>. Georgia Department of Education. Get information. Find state objectives and lesson plans to help achieve them.

<http://www.ghea.org/pages/resources/stateLaw.php> state homeschool laws for GA

<http://www.thehomeschoolmom.com>

Standardized Testing Materials

Please note: If you know that you are going to be giving a standardized test during a certain school year, start looking into your options at the beginning of the year. You have to order early. The test will be sent, generally towards the end of the school year, but is basically “rented.” You will have to return it for scoring within a certain amount of time. Also, there are different requirements for giving the test, depending on which test you choose. Some require that the administrator hold a bachelor’s degree of some sort. Some high school standardized tests must be administered by someone other than the parent, etc. You can get all necessary information from the publisher. Be sure, again, to check the website for your states laws. In some cases, if you are in the states, you can possibly have your child take the test with a local school. Do not forget that the home school coordinator for your county can help you as well. You may want to put some time into preparing your child for the test as well. Below, you will find the contact information so that you can check out or order various preparation materials, practice tests and actual standardized tests.

Preparation (Information on getting ready for a test, practice tests, etc.)

Scoring High: To prepare for tests such as CAT, ITBS, and SAT. Comes in a variety of versions.

SRA

250 Old Wilson Bridge Road, Suite 310

Worthington, OH 43085

<http://sra4kids.com>

Debra Bell's Home School Resource Center: www.hsrb.com

Test for Success: To help prepare for any test; designed to teach testing strategies and reasoning skills. Available for grades K-8.

Bob Jones University Press
Greenville, SC 29614
800-845-5731
800-845-5731
www.bjupress.com/services/testing

Triangle Education Assessments
Apex, NC 27539
877-843-8837
877-843-8837
www.HomeSchoolerTests.com

Better Test Scores

Helps prepare for any test; designed to teach testing strategies and to review material in order to discover any weaknesses.

Bob Jones University Press
Greenville, SC 29614
800-845-5731
800-845-5731
www.bjupress.com/services/testing

The Essential Guide to Test Taking For Kids by James Gruber
www.amazon.com

How to Get Better Test Scores on Elementary School Standardized Tests

Published by Random House

This resource is out of print, so it is difficult to find. It contains many helpful suggestions and practical ideas and includes practice tests. You might try [eBay](#), [Half](#), [AAABookSearch](#), or other used books resources.

Practice Tests

Previews or practice tests are also available for many tests. These tests, unlike other test preparation materials, focus mainly on introducing a particular test's format rather than on general strategies/content. These are not complete tests, but rather provide samples of the type/format of questions on the test. Many places that sell the test will also sell a preview or practice test. (See the following information.)

Tests

BASIC ACHIEVEMENT SKILLS INVENTORY (BASI)

Family Learning Organization

PO Box 1750
Mead, WA 99021
800-405-TEST
509-467-2552
www.familylearning.org
homeschool@familylearning.org

BRIGANCE DIAGNOSTIC INVENTORIES

HSLDA

540-338-5600

(ask for Betty Statnick or Faith Berens)

P.O. Box 3000

Purcellville, VA 20134-9000

www.hslda.org/strugglinglearner/BriganceRental.asp

You must be a member of HSLDA to rent the Brigance from them.

CALIFORNIA ACHIEVEMENT TEST (CAT)

Bayside School Services

137 Clipper Court

P.O. Box 250

Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

800-723-3057

www.BaysideSchoolServices.com

To Order: Call 800-723-3057 or e-mail orders@baysideschoolservices.com.

Family Learning Organization

PO Box 7247

Spokane, WA 99207-0247

800-405-TEST

509-467-2552

www.familylearning.org

homeschool@familylearning.org

Piedmont Education Service

1629 Turfwood Drive

336-924-2494

Fax: 336-924-2494

www.pesdirect.com

www.pesdirect.com/cat5.html

service@pesdirect.com

Seton Home Study School

1350 Progress Drive

Front Royal, VA 22630

540-636-9990

www.Setonhome.org

COMPREHENSIVE TEST OF BASIC SKILLS (CTBS)

The Sycamore Tree

2179 Meyer Place

Costa Mesa, CA 92627

800-779-6750

info@sycamoretree.com

www.sycamoretree.com

IOWA TEST OF BASIC SKILLS (ITBS; High School Version - ITED)

Bob Jones University Press
Greenville, SC 29614
800-845-5731
800-845-5731
www.bjup.com.

Summit Christian Academy
P.O. Box 2769
Cedar Hill, TX 75106
800-362-9180
www.SCAHomeschool.com
info@SCAHomeschool.com

Triangle Education Assessments
5512 Merion Station Drive
Apex, NC 27539
919-387-7004 (M-F, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. EST)
877-843-8837
877-843-8837
www.HomeSchoolerTests.com

Iowa Tests Offered: ITBS, ITED, CogAT, and Interest Explorer. Practice tests also available.
Grade Levels: Available for grades K-12.

STANFORD ACHIEVEMENT TEST (SAT)

Bob Jones University Press
Greenville, SC 29614
800-845-5731
800-845-5731
www.bjupress.com/services/testing

WIDE RANGE ACHEIVEMENT TEST (WRAT)

Summit Christian Academy
P.O. Box 2769
Cedar Hill, TX 75106
800-362-9180
800-362-9180
www.SCAHomeschool.com
info@SCA.com

Personalized Assessment Summary System (PASS; High School Version - ITED)

Hewitt Homeschooling Resources
Washougal, WA 98671
www.hewitthomeschooling.com
800-890-4097
360-835-8708

About This Test: Hewitt Research Foundation offers a special test that is accepted in some areas. (Superintendents must accept ANY nationally normed test, but since this test is not nationally normed, it is subject to approval. Check with your county superintendent to see if is an acceptable method of evaluation before ordering.) According to the publishers, the test was “developed specifically for homeschoolers.” It is not timed, can be administered by parents at home, and includes a placement

test, allowing children to be tested at their actual level instead of forcing them to take a test with problems both above and below their level.

Visit www.heav.org/testing for more information on testing.

This list was compiled by the Home Educators Association of Virginia and the Bayith Educator.

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CHRISTIAN ETHICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Proverbs 25:28, “He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.”

Introduction: Missionary Character and Ethics

- 1) “Ethics” means “a set of principles of right conduct.”
- 2) The higher the elevation, the greater the sphere of influence. The greater the sphere of influence, the greater the target one becomes. “Those at the top get shot at the most.”

Peter’s Instructions to the “Shepherds of the Flock”

In 1 Peter 5, Peter seeks to instruct “shepherds of the flock” by dealing with three important issues:

I. The Will of God for the Man of God- Vs.2-3

“Feed the flock of God...willingly...with a ready mind...being ensamples to the flock.”

A. The will of God is for the Man of God to feed the flock of God willingly with a ready mind (with your whole heart) as examples to the flock.

B. To Feed the Flock of God implies: Nourishing to Maturity

II. The Weakness of the Flesh of the Man of God- Vs.2-3

Genesis 3:6, “And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”

A. V.2b- Lust of the Flesh- “...not by constraint...”

B. V.2c- Lust of the Eyes- “...not for filthy lucre...”

C. Vs.3a,6-7- Pride of Life- “Neither as being lords over God heritage...”

III. The Wiles of Satan against the Man of God- Vs.8-9

Note: Satan’s goal is to destroy the work of God and to condemn souls to hell. To accomplish this, he wants to:

A. To Destroy our Testimony.

B. To Destroy our Influence.

Problem Areas for the Missionary

Problems which cause those in the ministry (including missionaries) to be defeated (and even at times

be disqualified from the ministry) can be divided into Five Groups:

I. Moral

- A. **Adultery** (with nationals or other missionaries)
- B. **Homosexuality**
- C. **Pornography**
- D. **Desertion** (family or field)
- E. **Deception** (laziness, exaggeration, dishonesty)

II. Mental (Depression and Breakdowns)

Depression very often comes from:

- A. **Language**
- B. **Culture**
- C. **Climate**
- D. **Opposition** (Governmental and Religious)
- E. **Isolation** (from Civilization and/or other Americans)
- F. **Separation** (from Family and Friends)
- G. **Fear** (Disease, Natural Disasters, Welfare of the family, the Nationals)

III. Physical

Note: The physical problems can range from minor intestinal viruses (which in many cases missionaries use as an excuse to leave the field) to terminal illnesses.

IV. Financial

A. **The LACK of money.**

Note: Some missionaries are so pressed to get to the field that they neglect to raise sufficient support and consequentially suffer financially on the field.

B. **The LOVE of money.**

Note: Some missionaries are so obsessed with money that he uses his position as a missionary to financially “bleed” and “fleece” churches.

V. Doctrinal

1 Timothy 1:18-20, “*This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; 19 Holding faith, and a*

good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: 20 Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.”

2 Timothy 2:16-18, “But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. 17 And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; 18 Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.”

Situational Ethics

Introduction:

- 1) “It is not great talent God blesses so much as great likeness to Jesus.” - Robert Murray McCheyne.
- 2) What is “Ethics?”
“Ethics” = a set of principles of right conduct; the rules or standards governing the conduct of a person.
- 3) Situational Ethics = A set of principles governed by particular situations or circumstances.
- 4) Situational Ethics can be phrased as “The end justifies the means.”
Example: Many parents justified the Harry Potter books because it caused their children to read.
- 5) “Some will argue that as long as we are catching fish, what difference does it make what kind of hook or bait we use?” - Warren Wiersbe
- 6) “Numbers are important to God, but **how** we get them and **who** gets the credit for them is most important.” - Warren Wiersbe
- 7) Verses used to justify Situational Ethics:
1 Corinthians 9:19-22, “For though I be free from all men, **yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.** 20 And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; 21 To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. 22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.”
1 Corinthians 10:32-33, “**Give none offence,** neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: 33 Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.”
Example: Rahab the Harlot
Joshua 2:3-5, “And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house: for they be come to search out all the country. 4 **And the woman took the two men, and hid them, and said thus,** There came men unto me, but I wist not whence they were: 5 And it came to pass about the time of shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out: whither the men went I wot not: pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them.”
Hebrews 11:31, “By faith the **harlot Rahab perished not** with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.”
- 8) God’s Immutability: Though men change, God does not!
Malachi 3:5-6, “And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts. 6 **For I am the LORD, I change not;** therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.”
Hebrews 6:13-20, “For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself, 14 Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. 15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. 16 For men

verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. 17 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise **the immutability of his counsel**, confirmed it by an oath: 18 That **by two immutable things**, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us.”

Hebrews 13:8, “Jesus Christ the same **yesterday, and today, and forever.**”

Ethics and Your Name

Introduction:

- 1) God’s Name is great because his Word is true.
Psalm 138:2, “I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for **thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.**”
- 2) Our name can only be good as our word!
Proverbs 22:1, “A **good name** is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.”
Ecclesiastes 7:1, “A **good name** is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one’s birth.”
Proverbs 20:11, “**Even a child is known by his doings**, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.”

I. Our HONESTY

A. Honesty in our SPEECH.

Note: What affects our honesty of speech? Fear—Fear of God or Fear of Men.

1. Be Careful WHAT You Say.

Colossians 3:9, “**Lie not one to another**, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;”

Psalm 15:1-4, “LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill? 2 He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and **speaketh the truth in his heart**. 3 He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. 4 In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. **He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.**”

Proverbs 8:7-8, “For **my mouth shall speak truth**; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips. 8 All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.”

Ephesians 4:25, “Wherefore **putting away lying, speak every man truth** with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.”

James 5:12, “But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: **but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.**”

a. Honesty in our PRESENTATIONS

Acts 14:27, “And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, **they rehearsed all that God had done with them**, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.”

Our Counsel:

- (1) When Presenting your Burden give Honest STATISTICS.
- (2) When Writing Prayer Letters give Honest REPORTS.
- (3) When Raising Funds, give Honest REASONS.

b. Honesty in our DECISIONS

Note: Do Not use the Lord's Name to Persuade Men to do your **own** will.

2 Corinthians 4:1-2, *"Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; 2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."*

2. Be Careful HOW You Speak.

Colossians 4:6, *"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man."*

a. "Grace" speaks of the MOTIVATION for our Speech.

Note: The motivation of my speech should be to help someone.

b. "Salt" speaks of the MANNER of our Speech.

Note: The manner of my speech should never be antagonistic or degrading, but easy to the ears and the heart.

Ephesians 4:15, *"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ."*

Note:

1) "Love" keep's our flesh in check in dealing with people.

2) "Truth" keeps "love" in check.

(1) When Preaching the Word of God .

(2) When Discipling new Converts.

(3) When Dealing with Problems.

Galatians 6:1, *"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."*

B. Honesty in our COMMITMENTS.

1. To Our Home Church.

2. To Our Supporters.

3. To the Mission Board.

Note: We sign a requirements page, and should do our best to live up to it.

4. To Our Creditors and our Financial Obligations.

C. Honesty in our FINANCES.

1. The Temptation of MONEY.

Note: Satan and the world says that we all have our price. The question is, "Do we?"

a. Their can be a Craving to Merchandise your ministry for:

(1) PRAISE

(2) POSITION

(3) POSSESSIONS

b. The Hireling's Similarities to a Shepherd:

John 10:11-14, *"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. 12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. 13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine."*

(1) LOOKS like a Shepherd

(2) LIVES like a Shepherd

Note: The Hireling's Difference from a Shepherd: **The Heart!**

Jude 11,16, *"Woe unto them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of*

Core.” 16 “These are murmurers, complainers, **walking after their own lusts**; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men’s persons in admiration because of advantage.”

1 Timothy 6:8-10, “And **having food and raiment let us be therewith content**. 9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For **the love of money is the root of all evil**: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

Ephesians 4:17-20, “This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, 18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: 19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness **with greediness**. 20 But ye have not so learned Christ;”

Example: Gehazi the Servant of Elisha. 2 Kings 5

- 1) What he did: Merchandized the Gift of God- Vs.20-27
- 2) What he could have been: A great Man of God

2. The Danger of **COVETOUSNESS**.

Exodus 20:17, “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour’s.”

Note:

- 1) Covetousness
 - a) Dictionary Definition: “Excessively and culpably (evilly) desirous of the possessions of another.”
 - b) Dean Hamby’s Definition: “Desiring to have what God did not give you—Good or Bad.”

2 Peter 2:3,14-15, “And through **covetousness** shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. 14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with **covetous practices**; cursed children: 15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, **who loved the wages of unrighteousness**.”
- 2) “The greatest judgment God can send on His people is letting them have their own way.” - Warren Wiersbe
Psalms 106:15, “And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.”
- 3) **Warning: You cannot keep what God did not give you.**

3. Our **COUNSEL**.

- a. Always pay Debts on Time.
- b. Always be faithful to tithe and give to God’s work.
- c. Never get yourself into a financial situation in which you are not free to serve the Lord.
- d. Once you have people trained, you should be very careful about handling the money or writing checks.
- e. Always have Financial Statements available for the church.
- f. Never spend large amounts of money without church approval.
- g. Never look at churches and supporters as your personal “bank.”
- h. Do not expect churches to pay for everything you need.

g. Always use money for what it is designated.

II. Our MORALS.

Note: God's people must always exercise moral self-control!

1 Thessalonians 4:1-7, "Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us **how ye ought to walk** and **to please God**, so ye would abound more and more. 2 For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. 3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should **abstain from fornication**: 4 That every one of you should **know how to possess his vessel** in sanctification and honour; 5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: 6 That no man go beyond and **defraud his brother** in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. 7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness."

Key Words:

A. "Abstain"

1 Thessalonians 4:3, "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should **abstain from fornication**:"

1 Thessalonians 5:22, "Abstain from all appearance of evil."

1 Peter 2:11, "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;"

B. "Flee"

1 Corinthians 6:18, "**Flee fornication**. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body."

1 Corinthians 10:14, "Wherefore, my dearly beloved, **flee from idolatry**."

2 Timothy 2:22, "**Flee also youthful lusts**: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

C. "Put Off"

Ephesians 4:17-22, "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, 18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: 19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. 20 But ye have not so learned Christ; 21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 That ye **put off** concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;"

Colossians 3:8-9, "But now ye also **put off** all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. 9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have **put off** the old man with his deeds;"

D. "Put On"

Ephesians 4:22-24, "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24 And that ye **put on** the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

Colossians 3:9-12, "Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10 And have **put on** the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: 11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. 12 **Put on** therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. 14 And above all these things

put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.”

Some Advice

The first qualification of a “*Bishop*” is very often the most overlooked... “*A bishop then must be blameless,..*” (1 Timothy 3:2) The word “*blameless*” means “unrebukeable.” We cannot stop accusations from coming our way, but we must live so that an accusation would never have merit. Let us mention two areas only two areas:

1. Stay above reproach in your **Finances**.

- Things can happen beyond your control, i.e. sickness, repairs, etc., BUT do not spend foolishly above your means. Pay you debts on time!

2. Stay above reproach with your **Computer/Internet**.

• **Your Computer**

- The Computer makes temptation and sin easily *Accessible*.
- More than 1 in 8 Web searches are for erotic content.
- 67% of children admit to clearing their Internet history to hide their online activity.
- 79% of accidental exposures to Internet porn among kids take place in the home.
- 56% of divorce cases involve one party having an obsessive interest in online porn.
- 29% of working adults accessed explicit websites on work computers.
(Note: Stats obtained from www.covenanteyes.com.)

• **FaceBook**

- Be extremely careful with the comments and pictures you post on FaceBook. You should also monitor what your children post on FaceBook. We have received phone calls from pastors because of what some missionaries have posted. It is difficult for us to defend you if you do something which lacks intelligence, i.e. stupid.

• **Covenant Eyes**

- Covenant Eyes is an excellent internet filter and accountability service. It is an inexpensive way to give you accountability and credibility. It helps you avoid temptation and vicious accusations. You can visit their website for details and pricing at www.covenanteyes.com.

SETTING THE SPIRIT IN THE HOME

A Moment for Quiet Reflection:

1. When was the last time you felt like BELLOWING out for a break? Is the thing that was frustrating you something that you find yourself complaining about often?
2. On a scale of one to ten, how “whiny” do you consider yourself to be? How do you think your spouse/children/best friend would rate you on the same scale?
3. At times what “blessing” do you find it most difficult to be thankful for? Is it your job? Your kids? Your pocketbook? How many times a week would you guess it interferes with your experience of joy?

Knowing God’s Heart

1. On the road to Canaan, the children of Israel had one adventure after another. And they obviously got bored with one of them. What were the Israelites complaining about now? Numbers 11:1-20
 - They were complaining about only having manna.
2. Why were the people so dissatisfied with God’s daily provisions of “bread from heaven?”
 - They were dissatisfied because they were not content.
3. In verse 5, the people exposed a pretty crazy quirk in their thinking. What was it?
 - They were remembering every thing from when they were in bondage in Egypt.
 - They thought they had it made in Egypt having all that they wanted to eat, but forgot the price that it cost them. They didn’t appreciate what the Lord had done for them.
4. Can you relate to the Israelites? How do your thoughts and behavior resemble theirs, reflecting on your responses to the specific areas of your life that frustrate you or about which you regularly complain.
5. How do you suppose God feels about your whining? Why do you think He feels this way?
6. Try filling in the blank in this sentence: If only _____, I would be content.
7. How much stock do you put in this belief, now that you have stated it clearly? Do you think it is valid? (**You have to be honest!**) Why or why not?
8. Why was God so angry with His people when they demanded meat instead of manna?
 - He was angry because they were not content.
9. Have you ever given a gift to someone who seemed ungrateful, or who complained about it outright? Our children can be especially good at this. How did it make you feel?
10. How do you feel about the way God responded to His people? (verse 19-20) Why?
11. What do you think was the Israelites’ most serious offense? Ungratefulness

12. Have you ever had your prayers answered, only to wish you could take them back? If so, you have something else in common with God's original chosen ones!

Hitting close to Home

We criticize the Israelites for their discontentment hundreds of years ago, but let us think about our own homes. Sometimes, when our husbands are out front serving the Lord, and we are “holding down the fort” behind the scenes on the home front, we can become disgruntled and feel unappreciated. Maybe we do not feel like our jobs are very important, but God speaks VERY specifically to us as wives and mothers in Titus 2:3-5.

“The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.”

When our jobs are not done at home with a good attitude, the Word of God is blasphemed! The best Sunday School teacher or children's choir leader is not a success if she isn't a loving example at home.

As “keepers of the home” our words, actions and attitudes affect our husbands and children. We can hide a lot of things from other people that we can't hide from them. Can you think of a time when you wanted to scold a child for something they said but you couldn't because the very words came from your own mouth first? How have you seen your positive and negative traits reflected in your children's or husband's lives?

Learn together as a family! Here are some simple examples; times of no electricity can be turned into adventures with a list of fun things to do during that time. Remind yourselves that people who typically annoy you as they tap your car window begging you to buy items from them in certain foreign countries are only trying to make enough to get by from day to day. When Daddy is late, talk about how he is doing an important job serving God, and what a blessing it is to be a part of this ministry. When someone hurts you or your family, remember that God is on your side. Forgive and move on. Thank God for those believers who stand by you if someone else does not. Is something bothering you today? It could be something huge or something seemingly insignificant to others that you can not seem to get over. Can you find a reason to rejoice in that situation?

It is not our particular situation that makes us unhappy whether in the US or on the foreign field. Tasks that we consider unpleasant are usually only unpleasant because that is how we choose to look at them. We really CAN choose to enjoy life in any and all circumstances. Here are a few keys to keeping a positive attitude.

1. **Think positive thoughts.** Too many times we focus on the ONE thing that is going wrong instead of the 100 things that are running smoothly. How many times do we neglect to see God's hand working because we are consumed with the problems going on? *“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” (Philippians 4:8)*
2. **Speak only positive words.** Dismiss negative thoughts before they hit the tongue. Talking about doubts, fears, or frustrations, only multiplies the negative feelings. We will not get them out of our minds and hearts as long as we keep them on our tongues. Our household can be easily affected. As wives and mothers, we are shaping the very way our family thinks by the words that come out

of my our mouths.

3. **Pretend you are happy even if you do not feel it.** We women are entitled to have those “blah” days, right? We can still choose to put a smile on our face and act happy. Pretty soon our heart is affected. Pretend you are having fun doing something you do not like and you might just find yourself enjoying it. Pretend you are NOT in a bad mood and you no longer will be.
4. **Be content with what you have.** If we think we will be happy when we get a certain item, better salary, a bigger church or anything else, we are wrong. The person who is not content where they are, with what they have, will not be content anywhere. We need to practice turning our gripes into praises by changing our focus from what we want to what we have. For example, instead of wishing your husband was more attentive, or empathetic, (and criticizing him for his shortcomings), be grateful if he is gentle, or fun-loving.
“But godliness with contentment is great gain.” (I Timothy 6:6)
“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.” (Philippians 4:11,12)
5. **Have an “attitude of gratitude.”** When we thank God for what we have, we soon forget all that we do not have. It is amazing that the apostles rejoiced for being allowed to suffer for Jesus. We can ALWAYS find a reason to THANK him. *“In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” (I Thessalonians 5:18)*
6. **Do not complain!** Just do not let yourself do it!
7. **Think of others in worse circumstances.** My husband’s aunt was dying of cancer. She was between 80 and 90 pounds, and was very weak. She could barely eat. Nothing else could be done for her; yet, she was always smiling, happy, and concerned for others. I asked her how she could be so positive and she said, “You know, I look around me and there are so many people who are worse than me.”
8. **See the best in people.** Do not try to judge their motives. Do not get mad and assume you know why someone said something to hurt your feelings. You could easily develop a bad attitude towards that person who probably did not even realize they hurt you. They might not have meant it like you took it or they might be hurting themselves. *“Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.” (Matthew 7:1,2)* There are cultural things missionaries on a foreign field may never understand. What is culturally offensive to the missionary might be their way of showing respect. If someone offends us, we must assume that they did not mean to. In trying to communicate with someone who does not speak our native tongue, there can be so many miscommunications. It is easy to get offended simply because we misunderstood someone. We can very quickly begin to think the worst of someone when we have no idea what is in their heart. Without an attitude of love we cannot win others nor help them grow. This attitude towards others will quickly spill over into our homes, and our children can come to resent the ministry and the people with whom we are called to work with.
9. **Do everything for the Lord.** We all like to be appreciated and thanked, but that’s not why we serve. Dwelling on how unappreciative others are may cause resentment to build up in our hearts. We may grumble, complain and even cry in frustration. This is not the attitude our Lord wants. How does our service look to the Lord when we do it to receive man’s applause? *“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;” (Colossians 3:23)*

10. **Strive to be like Jesus.** *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. (Philippians 2:5-8)*

Life can be a joyful adventure serving the King of Kings and Lord of Lords for us and our family! It's all in your attitude! The most immaculate, elaborate, and well-furnished home in the world can still be a miserable place if the keeper of this home is a discontented and mean-spirited woman. On the other hand, I have a friend living in a mud brick home and struggling to get by every day. She has faced major trials in life, but she is happy. Her husband and children are content because the keeper of the home is always joyful and smiling! May God help us all to "build" our homes with loving, sweet attitudes so that our husband and children will have no need to go "dwell on the rooftop."

Making It Real in Your Own Life

1. Begin each day this week with a prayer of gratitude. No matter what is going on in your life, find something to thank God for and make expressing your gratitude your morning habit. Have a "Gratitude Book" in which to record your praises in.
2. Before you go to sleep each night, add at least one more thing to your gratitude book. Notice the ways in which "book ending" your days with praise helps shift your perspective and increases your joys.

LADIES' RESPONSIBILITY IN THE CHURCH

Church Responsibilities:

1. Sunday School

Bring teaching materials including flannel graph, flash cards, songs, memory verse posters or plan on making them. Other helpful items include: Bible puzzle books, construction paper, scissors, hot glue gun and glue sticks, contact paper, game books, skit books, and coloring books and crayons. (If you are in a hot climate the cheap crayons melt.) Saving calendars and old Christmas cards can be used for crafts.

- a. Plan activities that creatively teach the Word of God. Many times children from other countries have never experienced fun items like books, puzzles, bubbles, balloons, or Play-dough.
- b. Plan "outings" for the children, Christmas programs, and craft times.
- c. Sunday school attendance charts with stickers are a hit.

2. Ladies Meetings

Bring teaching materials to use in ladies meetings. Invest in godly books that will guide you in preparing for teaching the ladies in your church. If you have a favorite hobby such as sewing, take extra patterns so you can teach them to sew. If you do crafts, take some craft items to do at Christmas or other special times. Occasionally have ladies meetings in your home. Break the "ice" by playing a silly game before settling down to the lesson. Opening your home shows both love and hospitality. Of course, always have something to eat!

3. Discipleship classes

Be sure to have some material for a discipleship class. True discipleship is more than a few lessons from a book. As a missionary, it should be second nature to disciple others. After leading someone to the Lord, the real work begins as you teach the new Christian to walk with the Lord.

- a. It is most effective when taught on a one on one basis.
- b. It is loving that new Christian as your own family.
- c. It is investing your time in another person's life in order to aid in spiritual growth.

4. Bible Institute

If you have women in your institute, there will come a time when your husband will be teaching subjects that are geared just for the men and you will need to have some resources for teaching the ladies.

5. Other Responsibilities

Teen outings, Men's Prayer Breakfast, premarital counseling for brides, Christmas dinners, Christmas plays, and other holiday celebrations.

- While visiting churches on deputation, ask pastors' wives or Sunday school teachers about materials they use or any suggestions that they might have. Take pictures of bulletin boards, pick up church bulletins, and glean all you can while you have the opportunity. If you are in a church that has an institute, find out what they use for the ladies classes. Also, ask other missionaries what they will be using. Take notes along the way, and get all the ideas and materials you can. Once you get to the field, it will be too late.
- On the field, you will have many different jobs to do: wife, mother, pastor's wife, Sunday school teacher, ladies visitation, ladies meetings, and so on. All of these will not happen at the same time, so don't panic yet! Remember to just take it one day at a time. Don't jump into all of it right when

you get there but go slowly and get to know your people first. Also, get comfortable with your surroundings, food, and culture and allow your body to adjust to everything. Be flexible and laugh a lot. Both of these will help you so much as you settle in. Remember Mary in Mark 14:8, Jesus said, "*She hath done what she could.*" That is all that the Lord expects of us.

My Responsibilities:

1. Be Supportive

Priscilla — Acts 18:2,18,26; Romans 16:3; 1 Corinthians 16:19

2. Be Hospitable

Lydia — Acts 16:14

Shunammite Women — 2 Kings 4:8-11

3. Be Reachable

Elizabeth — Luke 1:39-45

4. Be a Servant

Anna — Luke 2:36-37

5. Be a Teacher

Titus 2:3-5

6. Be Teachable

Mary — Luke 10:39,42, "*And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. 42 But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.*"

7. Be a Woman of Faith

Lois & Eunice — 2 Timothy 1:5, "*When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.*"

8. Be Happy & Content

Proverbs 17:22, "*A merry heart doeth good [like] a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.*"

Proverbs 15:13, Philippians 4:4, Philippians 4:11, John 16:33

BIBLICAL COUNSELING

Introduction: As a missionary lady, whether single or a married, you have a responsibility to God to be a vessel fit for the Master's use. You will be involved with ministry for children and ladies of all ages and all walks of life. There will be formal and informal opportunities to share the Word of God, for salvation, for discipleship, and for counseling people with problems. The key to Biblical counseling is the Word of God. The Bible is sufficient for all the answers to the questions and problems of mankind.

2 Timothy 3:16-17, *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."*

I. Definition of Biblical Counseling

A. Biblical counseling is more than confronting sinful behavior and attitudes.

It involves instructing and encouraging the child of God to become more like Christ.

"Biblical counseling involves defining a problem in biblical terms, constructing a solution in the form of a plan so a counselee can accomplish a goal. The goal of all counseling is change. The goal of all change is to be Christ-like—in essence to love God and to love my neighbor." (Debi Pryde, *Guiding Principles for the Biblical Counselor*, page 22)

"The biblical counselor recognizes that change can take place only when the Holy Spirit is given the opportunity to work in the counseling process. The Word of God is that instrument of change as a person responds to it in faith." (Elyse Fitzpatrick, *Women Helping Women*, page 18)

B. Biblical counseling depends upon God's divine power.

2 Peter 1:3-4, *"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."*

C. Biblical counseling is not the same as Christian psychology.

A word of caution: there are many books, authors, and Christian speakers who incorporate the methods and solutions of secular psychology to address the problems of mankind. It will take careful study and prayer for discernment from the Lord in your preparation to help people.

Proverbs 14:12, *"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."*

Psalms 1:1-2, *"Blessed is the man who walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."*

Quote by A.W. Tozer, "Listen to no man who fails to listen to God...No man has any right to offer advice who has not first heard God speak. No man has any right to counsel others who is not ready to hear and follow the counsel of the Lord. True moral

wisdom must always be an echo of God's voice. The only safe light for our path is the light which is reflected from Christ, the Light of the World." *The Root of the Righteous*, (Camp Hill, PA: Christian Publications, 1955) pp. 17-18.

II. Scriptural Principles:

- A. Colossians 3:16 Teach one another**
- B. Romans 15:14 Admonish**
- C. Hebrews 3:13 Exhort (Encourage)**
- D. 1 Thessalonians 4:18 Comfort (also 2 Corinthians 1:3-4)**
- E. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 Edify (also Romans 14:19)**
- F. James 5:16 Confess faults to one another**
- G. Romans 15:1 Bear one another's infirmities (weaknesses)**
- H. Galatians 6:1-2 Bear one another's burdens**

III. Being a Titus 2 Woman: Titus 2:3-5

Debi Pryde, Handouts, debipryde.com, "Who is Counseling our Women?" Nov 22, 2010:
"In Titus 2:4-5, Paul instructed Pastor Titus to assign the responsibility of teaching and counseling the younger Christian women to the older and more spiritually mature women. God never commanded women to preach or teach the Bible in the same way the pastor is to do... Rather, older, more mature women are commanded to teach, counsel, and encourage the younger to apply Biblical principles in their personal lives and, in particular, to their responsibilities in the home. God has a specific ministry for all mature Christian women, and specific topics vital to Christian womanhood that they are to teach to the younger Christian women in particular. For the most part, the Scriptures seem to indicate that this teaching and counseling ministry should be one-on-one, but certainly, it also includes teaching groups of women who meet together for encouragement and instruction...
Pastoral counseling behind a closed door with only the pastor and female counselee present was actually not common until after the practice was made acceptable by psychologists and therapists. Today, women have been so conditioned to accept the psychologist/counselee model that they no longer question the propriety or consider the dangers of confiding highly personal information to a man."

There is danger in the practice of men counseling women alone. (This would also apply with children.) You should be present with your husband if a woman is being counseled (unless her husband is also in the counseling session). There are some issues that concern women that are inappropriate to share with the pastor. As the pastor's wife, being available and prepared to counsel such issues would be a tremendous help to your husband and the ministry.

IV. Characteristics of an Effective Counselor

A. Have a settled personal testimony of salvation and Christian growth.

B. Know the doctrines and truths of the Word of God.

Proverbs 22:20-21, “*Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?*” Colossians 3:16 “*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord.*”

C. Have the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 3:20, “*Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,*”

D. Pray fervently.

James 5:16, “*Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*”

E. Have a prepared heart.

Ezra 7:10, “*For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.*”

F. Have a love for people.

(See Paul’s Example, Philippians 1:7-11)

G. Study and prepare yourself to address the needs of others.

Consider attending seminars or taking academic courses (from Christian colleges and on-line sources) on biblical counseling. Highly recommended is the training materials and seminars by Debi Pryde, Women Counseling Women Basics and Specifics. Mrs. Pryde is an independent Baptist and uses the KJV Bible. She has written counseling manuals and several books on issues such as anger, depression, abuse, and assurance of salvation. These are available from the bookstore at Camp Ironwood, Newberry Springs, CA. www.ironwood.org. Consult Mrs. Pryde’s website, www.debipryde.com, for information on the WCW seminars and free printable counseling handouts on a variety of topics.

V. Learning from the Example of Jesus Christ

(Taken from the handout by Debi Pryde, “Perfect Counselor - Jesus Christ our Example.” November 20, 2010)

- **Jesus was a master at asking questions in order to provoke conviction or bring enlightenment.**
- **Jesus knew when to end a counseling session and how to direct a confrontation to the real heart issues.**
- **Jesus never lost His temper or became impatient.**
- **Jesus never acted apart from the Father or inconsistent with the Scriptures.**
- **Jesus never minimized a problem.**

- **Jesus never overwhelmed people. He never quenched the smoking flax.**
- **Jesus was patient, kind, direct and to the point.**
- **Jesus gently led people toward increased faith and growth and never condemned those who looked to him for help.**
- **Jesus goal was always to increase the understanding of his listeners and enlighten them with truth.**
- **Jesus used the Scriptures masterfully and applied them appropriately.**
- **Jesus utilized examples and illustrations the people could relate to.**

VI. Some Specifics of Counseling

A. Counseling is confidential.

What is discussed is not to be repeated to others. If it is a matter that needs to be mentioned to your husband (or the pastor), you need to inform her about this. Sometimes you will need to encourage her to go with you to speak to the pastor. You should inform the counselee that issues such as child abuse must be reported to civil authorities. You may need to encourage the woman to seek safety and legal protection if there is abuse.

B. Listen!

Gather data. Ask good questions. Look for root problems which are being manifested in the fruit issues. Avoid the tendency to “correct along the way” as the counselee is sharing information and concerns. (Resource: Webinar by Bruce Meyer, Maranatha Baptist University, “*Getting to the Heart of Counseling: Root v Fruit.*”)

C. Always offer hope.

D. Present the Gospel.

If the person is unsaved, change can only come by a relationship with Jesus Christ.

E. Encourage the believer’s Christian growth.

Supernatural change must come by abiding in Christ.

John 15:4-5, “*Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*”

F. Redefine common problems in Biblical terms.

Society uses terms such as “depression,” “inferiority,” “self-esteem,” “insecurity,” “having an affair,” “alternative life-style.” For example, for Biblical counsel, the issue of “depression” would be a sorrow which the person sees as without hope, or what Psalms 41:11 describes as being “cast down.” (Resource: Webinar by Bruce Meyer, Maranatha Baptist University, *Depression: Living in Chronic Darkness.*)

G. Identify how the counselee is thinking that is contrary to the Word of God.

Proverbs 4:23, “*Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*”
“A person will act consistent with what they believe.” (Debi Pryde)

H. Apply the Word of God.

Hebrews 4:12, “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword; piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

I. Apply the Biblical principle of “put off/put on”.

Ephesians 4:22-24, “That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

J. Develop a sequence of Bible references for various problems.

For example, when leading a person to salvation, you may begin with Romans 3:23. In the margin of that verse, write the reference to the next verse in the sequence, Romans 6:23. Continue through each verse in a “plan of salvation” indicating the next reference at the end of the verse. In the back of your Bible, list the first reference under the topic of “salvation.”

VII. The Case of Miriam

Micah 6:4; Exodus 15:1,2; Numbers 12

God placed Miriam in an important position among the Hebrew women during the time of Exodus. Yet, even this godly woman became discontent in the ministry.

How to avoid being a casualty in the work of God:

A. Keep your focus on God.

This will involve a continual devotion to Bible study and prayer in your private life. Remember that people, including yourself, are sinful. You will be disappointed if you focus on men and ministry.

B. Communicate with your husband.

Agree together to have an accountability in your marriage for your spiritual walk with God.

C. If you are single, develop an accountability with your pastor’s wife or other godly mentor associated with your ministry.

D. Get adequate rest, nutrition, and medical evaluation as needed.

E. Seek godly counsel before you are overwhelmed with family and/or ministry problems.

Concluding Prayer: Ephesians 4:14-21

Resources

(Inclusion of these references does not necessarily indicate agreement with all positions presented within these materials.)

Debi Pryde, *Guiding Principles for the Biblical Counselor* (Newberry Springs, CA: Iron Sharpeneth Iron Publications, 2001)

Women Counseling Women Basics and Specifics, Biblical counseling seminars given by Debi Pryde. www.debipryde.com

Jay Adams, *Competent to Counsel* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1970) Dr. Adams has written many books on biblical counseling.

Jim Berg, *Changed Into His Image* (Greenville, SC: BJU Press, 2006)

Elyse Fitzpatrick and Carol Cornish, ed, *Women Helping Women* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1997)

John MacArthur, Jr. and Wayne Mack and the Master's College Faculty. *Introduction to Biblical Counseling*. (Dallas, TX: Word Publishing, 1994)

Bruce Meyer. (Maranatha Baptist University - biblical counseling lectures) <http://www.mbu.edu/seminary/thestudy/webinars/>

PREPARING TO LEAVE AND THE FIRST 30 DAYS

I. RAISE SUFFICIENT SUPPORT

- A. The advantages of being fully supported-
- B. Potential consequences of being under supported-

II. FINDING A SUITABLE HOUSE IN A SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD

- A. Established missionaries are a valuable source of information.
- B. Considerations for choosing the right house for your family.
- C. Adjusting to a smaller home. Accepting a larger home.
- D. Security considerations. The security of your home heavily influences the atmosphere of your home.

III. SETTING UP YOUR HOME

- A. Family needs should be considered before ministry needs. A family that can feel at home is much more likely to stay on the field.
- B. Part of your ministry is helping your wife setup housekeeping (picture hanging, curtains, light fixtures, etc.)
- C. Where should we buy our furniture?
- D. Make your home as comfortable as possible.
- E. You do not have to lose your identity to be a faithful missionary! You should not flaunt it but you do not have to be ashamed either.
- F. Involve the children as much as possible during the setup process. **You have one chance!**
- G. Strive to make your home a place where you can relax not place of misery and discontentedness.
- H. When inquiring about the types of homes available and what is available to buy, communicate with as many different missionaries as possible.

IV. FINDING WHERE TO SHOP

- A. Good grocery stores, meat markets, gas stations (quality of gas), clothing stores, and restaurants may have to be chosen by trial and error. (Consult with other Americans, expats or missionaries on a frequent basis.)

- B. Larger cities offer more conveniences and a larger variety of imported items.
- C. Write detailed list of what your furniture and food needs are and consult with people living in the area about those needs.

V. SETTING UP BANK ACCOUNTS

- A. Confirm that the bank can work with American banks
- B. Find out the requirements for opening an account
- C. Prepare other verification documents
- D. Choose a currency for your overseas bank
- E. Inquire about transaction fees, (ATM withdrawals, wire transfers)
- F. Consider having 2 banking accounts at different banks for emergencies
- G. Be very cautious if you choose to exchange money (USD) on the black market
- H. You are a foreigner in a strange land of which many do not want you there. Be careful.
- I. Visit <http://exchanges.state.gov/non-us/money-and-banks>

VI. GETTING AROUND TOWN SAFELY. USING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

- A. Taxis, Buses and bicycles are commonly used in many places. Trains are more commonly used outside of the U.S. Cars are luxuries in some countries.
- B. Public transportation is usually very inexpensive.
- C. Safety precautions for children.
- D. Inquire about which areas of the city are considered dangerous.

VII. FINDING A VEHICLE / TAKING A VEHICLE WITH YOU / LICENSING

- A. Consider raising funds for a vehicle before you leave.
- B. Some countries do not have vehicles for you to buy, and you may be able to ship a vehicle into the country.
- C. Some countries do not allow you to ship unless it is new. You could be subject to international charges (some up to 300% of what they think it cost)
- D. Insurance is not available or affordable in many countries. Research insurance as much as possible.

- E. Some countries take your state-side license and translate it to give you a national license. They keep your state-side on file. You may have to have two copies of your state-side one before you leave.
- F. Some countries make you do everything from the beginning, as if you did not have a license.

VIII. DOCTORS AND HOSPITALS

- A. VERY IMPORTANT! Your health is your ministry.
- B. Medical facilities may be a determining factor for where you decide to live. (This is especially true for children with special needs.)
- C. Be willing to ask questions while at the hospital, and be willing to leave if you feel uncomfortable.
- D. Another missionary can help you to know which doctors are good for you and your children.
- E. Inquire about payment methods beforehand. For example, you may have to pay everything up front and then send the claim to the insurance company. It can be stressful.

IX. CONTAINERS / BAGGAGE / CUSTOMS

- A. Research will be vital in determining the answers to these needs.
- B. It is getting harder and more expensive to ship.
- C. Most airlines have changed the weight to 50 lbs. per bag and are charging for extra bags. Visit the airline website for detailed information about baggage costs.
- D. In many countries it is beneficial to work with a Custom's Broker to handle your container. The broker charges you, and you pay all the charges of the government plus storage, while you are waiting. Try to find out before you send anything. Get all the Broker's fees in writing and consider signing a contract to avoid being charged for services for which you did not ask.

X. U.S. EMBASSY / CONSULATE

- A. You will need to make an appointment for most American citizen services and needs.
- B. Register each family member at the nearest consulate or main embassy as soon as you arrive on the field.
- C. Order (Vital records) additional copies of birth certificates, marriage certificates, immunizations records Social Security Cards. Make copies of any relevant medical records.
- D. Visit www.state.gov for country specific information.

REVERSE CULTURE SHOCK

Top Ten Re-Entry Frustrations

1. Boredom
2. "No one wants to hear about this"
3. It's hard to explain
4. Reverse homesickness
5. Previous relationships have changed
6. People see the "wrong" changes
7. People misunderstand if I adopt elements of my host culture; they misinterpret my behavior
8. Feelings of alienation; seeing home with critical eyes
9. Inability to apply new knowledge and skills
10. Fear of losing the experience, like storing it away in a souvenir box that we look at only occasionally.

Stages of Reverse Culture Shock

STAGE 1: DISENGAGEMENT / DEPARTURE

- While you are still overseas, you begin to start thinking about moving back home and moving away from your experience and friends abroad.

STAGE 2: EUPHORIA / THE HONEYMOON

- You may be very excited to be back home and others may be equally delighted to have you back. You have the opportunity to do, eat, see, smell and visit with all of those things that you missed while you were away from home. After people express their pleasure at seeing you again, and listen politely to your stories for a few minutes, you may suddenly and/or painfully realize that they are not particularly interested in what happened to you and would much rather prefer to talk about their own affairs.

STAGE 3: ALIENATION

- In this stage, you experience dampened euphoria with feelings of alienation, frustration and anger. You may even feel like an outsider - a foreigner in your own country. Suddenly you feel irritated with others and impatient with your own inability to do things as well or as quickly as you hoped. Resentment, loneliness, disorientation and even a sense of helplessness may pervade.

STAGE 4: GRADUAL READJUSTMENT

- The fourth stage of reentry includes a gradual readjustment to life at home. It is important to remember that the shock of returning home will eventually dissipate.

Reverse Culture Shock

This basically consists of feeling out of place in your own country, or experiencing a sense of disorientation. While everything is familiar, *you* feel different. Even walking through the airport and hearing American English spoken can be a very surreal experience.

Re-Establishing Relationships

People you were close with when you left, even those you kept in good contact with, will be separated from you by the unique experiences you have had in each other's absence. However, this separation is certainly not permanent, and new experiences can make for some very interesting conversation. Just keep in mind that since both of you have changed, you will not necessarily interact in the same way.

Sharing Your Experience

Since you only have had your experience, there is no possible way that anyone can fully understand what you have gone through. While people will be interested in what you did abroad, nobody will be quite as interested as you — despite your amazing storytelling skills.

Readjusting

Fitting your new life into your old one can be frustrating. Since every country has a unique approach to life, it can be difficult if you are accustomed to operating within cultural mode, or have made that approach to life a part of you, to return to the U.S. where the rules are different. It's easy to become frustrated with aspects of U.S. culture that no longer make sense to you. Try to keep things in perspective.

Leaving the Field Well

One of the things that may increase your re-entry stress is not leaving your mission field correctly. The last part of Acts 20 gives us a good example of missionaries leaving well. Paul had spent three years in Ephesus and was headed back to Jerusalem.

- **Reconciliation.** When leaving, you may try to deal with tensions in relationships by ignoring them, hoping they will just disappear. However, they do not. We carry them inside, and they interfere with new relationships. If we ever spend time with the other party again, the tensions will still be there and even harder to settle. Paul reminded the Ephesian elders how he had lived among them the whole time he was there and that he never even took support from them but was always giving.
- **Affirmation.** Let others know how you respect and appreciate them by telling them how important their friendship has been and how you enjoyed working with them. As you acknowledge how people have blessed you, you will become aware of what you have gained. Paul commits the Ephesians to God's grace and warns them of potential difficulties.
- **Farewells.** Say good-bye to people, pets, places, and possessions. Take pictures and small reminders of the good things that have happened to you. After Paul was done speaking, they all prayed, wept, embraced, kissed, went to the ship, and tore themselves away.
- **Think destination.** While saying your good-byes, begin thinking realistically about where you are going. Think of it as a visit to the place you used to call home and imagine realistically what it will be like there. Paul wanted to be in Jerusalem by the day of Pentecost, but he also realized that there

were hardships facing him there.

One thing that is particularly difficult is being **forced to leave the field before you really want to**. This can be because of health problems, difficulty with a teenager, and a host of other things. In such cases you may have feelings of failure, depression, discouragement, resentment, and guilt. In such cases it helps to acknowledge your grief, face present realities, draw a healthy line on the past, and commit yourself to the present task. **David encouraged himself in the Lord – Sometimes you have to pick yourself up by your boot strings and just face what is ahead.**

Traveling

- Airplanes are wonderful for getting home in a hurry, but they provide little time to "leave" your host country in your thinking. There is little time to grieve your losses and anticipate your arrival as you fly home, and sometimes you are still "traveling" in your thinking even when your body has arrived back home. In one sense many people are still transitioning for several days or weeks after they arrive home. They unpack their suitcases long before they unpack their minds.
- Although Paul was in a hurry to leave to get home in time, he had time to think as he traveled. Remember that he was covering more than 600 miles by ship at the mercy of the winds, and he had to make a "connection" after the first 200 miles.

Re-Entering Well

- Give yourself some time to transition. Find out if your expectations are realistic or not. Your expectations form the basis for evaluating everything back home, and everyone has expectations even if they deny them.
- Expectations may be based on what was true one, two or four years ago. During that time everything has changed - you, your friends and family, your church, and your culture.
 - You have changed. Before you left, you drove your car to the corner store, threw away food, and discarded plastic bags without thinking. Now you walk half a mile, take food home from the restaurant, and hoard bags. Paul had changed, and he told the people about persecuting followers of the Way, being struck blind on the road, and then being sent to the Gentiles. (Acts 22)
 - Your friends and family have changed. You once belonged to the group, knew where you fit with everyone, and friends confided in you and listened to you. While you were gone, new people came into the group, and your friends are involved in different activities. You now feel like a marginal person, do not understand the jokes at which others laugh, and misinterpret some of the things they say and do.
 - Your church has changed. When you left, it may have seemed to be such a mission-minded church, but now no one seems very interested in missions. When you try to talk about your mission experience, people may listen politely for a few minutes, then launch into an excited conversation about how the local football team is doing. When Paul came home from his first term (Acts 15) of missionary service, people from the church maintained that his converts were not saved. At the end of Paul's third term (Acts 22) people in his own denomination were excited. However, when he went to the big church in town, the people basically listened politely until he mentioned his missionary call; then they called for his death.

- Your culture has changed. Cultures now change so fast that even the people living in them can barely keep up with the changes. People gone for several years often return to a culture quite different from the one they left. Something as simple as walking into a store to buy something can be overwhelming.

Pitfalls to Avoid

You will face many difficult situations. Here are some of the most common.

- **Frustration** - Things will be different, and some of those differences will be very frustrating. For example, while overseas, your family may have been closer because there was no TV and you home-schooled your children. Back home TV, school activities, many church activities, sporting events, club activities, etc. will separate family members.
- **Disillusionment** - You return home all excited about what you have been doing, but everyone at home seems so apathetic. "They are comatose and don't even know it."
- **Judgmental** - It is very easy to become critical, condemning others in the face of their apparent apathy.
- **Bitterness and Hostility** - If you let these things progress far enough, you may become bitter inside and let that express itself in hostility toward the very people who supported you financially and with prayer.

Suggestions for Avoiding Pitfalls

Pitfalls can be avoided, or at least made less disruptive to your life and witness. Here are some suggestions.

- **Grieve your losses** - If you have not taken time to grieve during leaving or traveling, take time to do so after you arrive. Although time will be at a premium, set aside a few minutes each day (perhaps during your devotional time) to fully grieve what you have left behind.
- **Be honest** - Do not let your spirituality pride keep you from sharing your struggle with someone. Find someone (another missionary, a close friend **WHO WILL KEEP A CONFIDENCE**, a counselor who understands missionaries, etc.) who will mentor you in adjusting to life back home.
- **Adjust to changes in ministry** - You will have a different type of ministry than you had while on the field. What you do may seem quite mundane in comparison. All avenues of service are pleasing to God, and you can find a way to be a servant in any local church.
- **Thank your supporters** - Even if you are not given the chance to speak to all the people in your church during a service, find some way to thank those who have helped you. Perhaps you can invite them over for a meal that you learned to prepare while in another culture and share what God did in and through you.
- **Reach out to people** - Whatever you do, continue to reach out to people as you did on the field. As you reach out, people will see how you have changed and perhaps want to experience the same changes in their lives.

BIBLICAL STANDARDS AND YOUR WALK WITH GOD

I. Maintaining Biblical Standards

- A. Precepts:** (God’s Word) David said in Psalm 119:128, “*Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right.*”
1. **Convictions?**
 - a. Personal Standards and Separation
 - b. Ecclesiastical Separation
 2. **Convenience?**
 - a. Impressing others
 - b. Insincere in heart
- B. Principles:** (Ethics: a moral code) It will take unyielding tenacity to maintain Biblical Standards. We can get help from the Holy Spirit.

II. Maintaining Your Walk With God

A. Practice

Titus 3:8,14, “*This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men. 14 And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.*”

There is a criteria given to maintain this walk, and it is found only in the Bible. I call it Bible Arithmetic.

1. There is Subtraction

Ephesians 4:22-24, “*That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 3 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*”

We cannot maintain our walk with God and carry around the baggage of our Old life (“old man”).

Hebrews 12:1, “*Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*”

2. There is Addition

2 Peter 1:5-10, “*And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall. We notice that He said to add to your Faith. We must have a foundation to build on.*”

3. There is Division

1 Timothy 2:15, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly **dividing** the word of truth.”

- a. We are often admonished in the Bible to walk even as He walked: “He that saith he abideth in **him** ought himself also so to **walk even as he walked.**” 1 John 2:6
- b. When we think of rightly dividing the Word of Truth, we think of the Dispensations, and the Covenants and the Doctrines of the Bible. Of course, this is truth, and we should because the life of Christ is one of those doctrines called “**Christology.**” Therefore, when we study the life of Christ, we discover how He walked. He walked in **obedience** to the Father. (John 8:29) He walked in **humility.** (Mark10:25) He walked in the will of The Father. “Then said I Lo I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.” Hebrews 10:7

4. There is Multiplication

1 Peter 1:2b, “Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.”

Acts 6:7, “And the word of God increased and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.”

In the following references, we see the need we have in multiplication:

- a. Mercy, Jude 1:2
- b. Grace, 2 Peter 1:2
- c. Peace, 2 Peter 1:2
- d. Power, Acts 12:24
- c. People, Acts 6:7

B. Pursue

1. Try

“The two greatest words in the English language are **Try and Trust.**” John Williams, missionary to the Erromanga Island, South Pacific.

When looking at the definition of the word TRY, we can readily see why it is one of the greatest words in the English Language. It means to:

- a. Aim (Focus)— Acts 3:4
- b. Attempt (“labour,”) (Fight) — Colossians 1:29
- c. Endeavor— Acts 16:10
- d. Dare (“hazarded”)— Acts 15:26
- e. Contend (“fight”)— 1 Timothy 6:12, Jude 1:3; Jude 1:3

2. Trust

“Attempt great things for God; Expect great things from God.” William Carey, Missionary to India.

- When we look at the definition of the word “Trust,” we see it is one of the greatest words in the English language.
- The definition of the word Trust is “Have faith in.” In our case, it is “have faith in God.” (Mark 11:22) We should never trust in ourselves. “... that we should not trust in ourselves but in God which raiseth the dead:” 2 Corinthians 1:9
- Our walk is only as effective as our faith in Him. Someone asked Adoniram Judson this question: “How bright is the prospect of missions?” He answered, “As bright as the promises of God.” I am sure that we will agree that our walk with God must be a **steady walk.**

Philippians 4:6-7, “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

To be able to start right, stand right, stay right, and stay steady, we need these four things:

- a. **Obtain fresh strength for each new length.**
- b. **Attain new heights for lofty flights.**
- c. **Maintain the pace throughout the race.**
- d. **Sustain the load along the road.**

Now let us look at these points:

First, how do we **obtain** this strength?

- Of course, we first go to God’s word. Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”
- This is true, however, Paul is in prison for his faith and God’s Glory.
- Samson needed strength: Judges 15:18,19
- Jonathan needed strength. 1 Samuel 14:1-30

Secondly, we **attain** new **heights** by having a goal to reach **higher**.

- Paul says, “I press toward the mark for the prize of the **high** calling of God in Christ Jesus.” He also said “If There first be a willing mind...” 2 Corinthians 8:12

Thirdly, we **maintain** the **pace** throughout the race.

- How do we do this? Paul says, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, “Know ye not that they which run in a **race** run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run that ye may obtain And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. 25 I therefore so run not as uncertainly; so fight I not as one that beateth the air: 26 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”
- We are admonished to run the **race** set before us. Hebrews 12:1, “... let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the **race** that is set before us,”
- There are 9 things we must do to maintain the **race**.
 1. Continue in His **Word**. John 8:31
 2. Continue in His **Love**. John 15:9
 3. Continue in His **Grace** Acts 13:43
 4. Continue in the **Faith** Acts 14:22
 5. Continue by the **Help** of God Acts 26:22
 6. Continue in His **Goodness** Romans 11:22
 7. Continue in **Prayer** Colossians 4:2
 8. Continue in His **Doctrine** 1 Timothy 4:16
 9. Continue in The **Son** and The **Father** 1 John 2:24

Fourthly, we are to **Sustain** the **Load** along the road.

- Again we are admonished to carry a load.

Galatians 6:2, “Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.” But, he also says in Proverbs 18:14, “The spirit of a man will **sustain his infirmity**;”

- The Lord does not want us to bear the load alone.
Psalms 55:22, “**Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.**”
- When we are **Trying**, we **Practice** and when we **Trust**, we **Pursue**.
- This will work every time, “...if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son **cleanseth** us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7

“The man God Uses”

“I want, dear Lord, a heart that’s true and clean,
A sunlit heart, without a cloud between:
A heart like thine, a heart divine, a heart as white as snow—
On me, dear Lord, a heart like this bestow.”
—By Oswald J. Smith

Additional Notes

Introduction:

- 1) Bible Standards Is Our Criteria by which we operate **Victoriously**.
- 2) Bible Separation Is Our Credentials by which we obtain **Viability**.

Saints — Personal — Relationship — Christian Ethics (2 Corinthians 6:14-18)

- The Scriptural study of right and wrong based on Biblical principles (Matthew 5-7) are opposed to the societal science of today which teaches that right and wrong are based on “relativism.” Satan could be laying a TRAP for us.
- As Saints of God, we must be careful here not only as Saints, but as:

Servants — Preachers — Responsible — Commitment Ecclesiastically.

- As Saints, Servants and Preachers, we commit ourselves to God’s Ekklesia (the Church). We uphold It is Biblical purpose for existence: It’s Origin, It’s Divine Nature, It’s Mission, It’s Government, It’s Offices, It’s Ordinances, It’s Destiny. Jesus said “*and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*” Matthew 16:18.
- The ability to fulfill our responsibility and commitment to Biblical standards and Biblical separation depends entirely on our “walk with God.”
- Genesis 5:22, “*And Enoch **walked** with God.*” Enoch was 65 years old when Methuselah was born. He walked with God three hundred years after Methuselah was born, and Enoch acknowledged the Lord in all his ways, and studied in all his life to **approve** himself to God, having his affections (mind) and conversation above. Colossians 3:2, “*Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*” 2 Timothy 2:15, “*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*”

- Then in Genesis 5:24, “*And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.*” Enoch was a prophet and a preacher. (Jude 1:14,15)
- Genesis 6:9, “*Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah **walked** with God.*” (To keep apace with God.) This means that he lives in a **perpetual** sense of the **Divine Presence**, regards himself as acting in the whole course of his existence. (British Family Bible)

Proverbs 29:18, “*Where there is no vision, the people perish.*”

John 12:35, “*Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. **Walk** while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you.*”

Romans 6:4, “*Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should **walk** in **newness of life.**”*

Romans 8:1, “*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who **walk** not after the flesh, but **after the Spirit.**”*

Romans 13:13, “*Let us **walk honestly**, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness,*”

1 Corinthians 7:17, “*But as God hath distributed to every man, as the **Lord hath called every one**, so let him **walk. (Prove oneself)** and so ordain I in all churches.*”

Galatians 5:16, “*This I say then, **walk** in the **Spirit**, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*”

Colossians 1:10, “*That ye might **walk worthy** of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;*”

Colossians 2:6, “*As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so **walk ye in him:**”*

Colossians 4:5, “***Walk** in **wisdom** toward them that are without, redeeming the time.*”

1 Thessalonians 2:12, “*That ye would **walk worthy** of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.*”

1 Thessalonians 4:12, “*That ye may **walk** honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.*”

1 John 1:7, “*But if we **walk in the light**, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*”

3 John 1:4, “*I have no greater joy than to hear that my children **walk in truth.**”*

THE ACCOUNTABILITY FACTOR

Introduction: “Accountability” - responsibility to someone or for some activity; the state of being accountable, liable, or answerable.

I. Accountability TO GOD-

Romans 14:12, “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”

- A. Whether we like it or not, we are **accountable**. We show we have it, or that we have a lack of it.
- B. Accountability and character go hand in hand. Some lack in these areas, but you **should** have both.
- C. We know we are accountable to God, but because of His mercies, patience, and longsuffering we often become lax.
- D. Accountability is not about how much we have or do, nor if we are faithful in doing it. It is about a **willingness** to give an account for what and how we do it.

1 Corinthians 6:19, “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”

- E. When God saved us, He “bought” us. When He sent us, we did not become our own!

II. Accountability to YOUR CHURCH/YOUR MISSION BOARD

Hebrews 13:17, “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”

- A. We know this verse is dealing with our relationship with the church and we must maintain that.
- B. Give an account to your **Pastor and Church**, above that which other churches know about you.
- C. When you came with Macedonia, your Pastor and church **delegated** to us the watch care and well being of you, your family, and your work.
- D. This is totally **impossible** if you are not accountable to Macedonia.
- E. We certainly do not have all the answers, but please, ask us the questions!
- F. Macedonia will never try to lord over you and your work, but we want to be **involved** and we want to **help** you.
- G. If some of our missionaries did not call for money, they would seldom call or write at all.
- H. How faithful are we in:

1. Prayer letters
2. Quarterly Activity Reports
3. Quarterly Expense Reports
4. Sharing with us your prayer requests and your victories
5. Letting Macedonia know when you are leaving your field and for how long
6. Responding to emails with questions from the Home Office
7. Updating the Home Office of address and phone changes
8. Reading the good morning. (Some might say that is asking too much.)
9. What about when you are the missionary of the day?
(We may not have time to read every one, but what is our attitude about it?)

III. Accountability to YOUR SUPPORTING CHURCHES/OTHERS

1 Corinthians 4:1, “Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.”

- A. Our accountability is directly related to our **testimony**.
It’s what they see, hear, and know about us.
- B. The greater our accountability, the **greater** our testimony will be.
 1. To our supporting churches
 2. To the church(es) we are **starting**.
If we are not accountable to them, how will they **learn** accountability?
- C. This should be very noticeable from the moment we apply with Macedonia, and should continue and even **grow stronger** as we work together for the Lord.
- D. If you ask *me* if *I* am being accountable, I would probably tell you yes. But what if you ask others about me?
- E. Accountability will strengthen our love for each other, our work will prosper more, and **God** will get the glory.

LADIES WORKING WITH NATIONALS

James 4:14, “For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanished away.”

1. We only have one life to live . . . and only what is given for Christ will last.
2. We need to be a willing vessel that God can use and one that He can work through.

1 Chronicles 28:9,20, “. . . know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.” 20 “. . . Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the Lord God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord.”

1 Chronicles 29:5,9,14,17, “. . . And who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord? 9 Then the people rejoiced for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the Lord: . . . 14 But who am I, . . .? 17 . . . As for me . . . of mine heart I have willingly offered. . . and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee.”

Jude 22, “And of some have compassion, making a difference.”

3. Remember you are the missionary, which means you are in one place for a while and then on to another area. Heartaches, heartbreaks, and heavenly treasures, are common factors in our lives. “WORK” is the common denominator and when you “WORK TOGETHER,” the load is much lighter and more joyful.
4. Our attitudes speak louder than our works. You can do good works, but if it is done with a bad attitude, what have you accomplished?
5. The day you set foot on your mission field, you automatically start making a difference, whether good or bad, in the lives of the people. You are on display, whether you like it or not. That is why we have to keep our attitudes in check.
6. God has called you to a people you do not know, so how can you say you love them? **You go in obedience to God!** Doing what God has called you to do. You will learn to love them! They will become your friends and family!
7. They will know if you are there willingly . . . especially the younger generation.
8. **Learn** the language and their culture. It is better when you go to language school. You are better equipped to teach. The people are more open when the communication lines are open between you and them and not through an interpreter. Being able to communicate one-on-one shows you really care about them. How many times have I heard, “Well, if they were really concerned about us, they would learn our language.”
9. You need to live an average life among the people. If you try to live like the poor, you will be limited in your outreach. They know you are an American. If you try to live in the richest areas, you can not reach the poor. But, when you live in the middle class, you can reach all areas. They

expect you to live better.

10. **Invite** them to your home. Do not be afraid of going into their homes. (Share recipes.)
11. Do not criticize their country. Help them to love and show patriotism to their own country. Maybe their ways and customs are weird, but work around them. At the same time, try to find out why they do the things they do. Do not fall into the TRAP of comparing.
12. If their customs are against God and His Word, then teach them from the Bible “WAY.”
13. **Teach** them faithfulness about God’s house; being on time; RESPECT for the things of God’s house and God’s man. If you are not faithful and on time, you can not expect them to be on time.
14. They will watch you in different situations. How you respond. Will it challenge them to follow in your footsteps or push them away?
15. **Learn** to be perspective. Watch for the needs of the people: emotionally, physically, and spiritually. There will be times you need to step in under the leadership of God and permission of your husband to help: (furnish clothing, food, counsel, etc).
16. Most want to better their lives. Be willing to help and lead them in the right direction. In the area of dress, they will follow you (whether worldly or in godly dress).
17. **In the realm of teaching classes:**
 - Sunday School, ladies meetings, prayer meetings are great areas for learning, as well as communication. We learn from each other. As they explain some of their struggles, they get help and see that they are not alone and get encouragement to know we serve a great big God when He hears and answers prayers!
 - Have more intense classes for those who want to teach.
 - For preachers’ wives and pastors’ wives, have special classes, teaching salvation; pros and cons of ministry; the do’s and don’ts; what to expect in certain situations; confidentiality of their position; the “blistering” and the blessings; practice in teaching kids, youth, and ladies; working (cleaning church, youth meeting/cooking, etc. getting your hands dirty alongside the ladies).
 - There comes a time when we step aside and let them go. But that is the goal of our mission, to work ourselves out of a job. Give them the reins. Let them put into practice what they have been taught.
18. **AND OH THE JOYS . . . !**
 - Even for years to come, you will watch them going strong for the Lord in the churches you were allowed to help start. They each have grown, some have passed you by, developed more the studies you did, and even talents have developed in areas that lacked when you were there. **Isn’t it amazing how God used you to motivate others!**
 - Ladies in your ministry will find that as they faithfully study, they become stronger IN THE LORD, more faithful to their husbands and family, and to their church, and to the work God has placed them! TO GOD BE THE GLORY! What a joy! Souls are being saved, trained . . . the

circle goes on! For those who did not participate, they are struggling with problems in the home and even the church. A rebellious heart and life can only cause confusion and destruction.

CULTURE SHOCK AND THE MISSIONARY LADY

Introduction:

- 1) What is it?
 - 2) Must I get it?
 - 3) What might my symptoms be?
 - 4) Can any good thing come out of it?
 - 5) Is it catching?
 - 6) Is it permanent?
 - 7) What should I do if I get it?
-
1. What is culture shock? Culture Shock is a state of bewilderment and distress experienced by an individual who is exposed to a new, strange, or foreign society.
 2. Must I get it? Yes, any place outside of our comfort zone can bring culture shock. You have been through it to some degree if you have been on deputation for any length of time. Ever thought, “Wonder why that church does it that way?”
 3. What might my symptoms be?
 - Withdrawal or continual offering of excuses for staying indoors
 - Checking out mentally
 - Refusal to learn the language
 - Inability to cope
 - Attempting to ‘right the cultural problems’
 - Unwarranted criticism of the culture and people
 - Utopian ideas concerning one’s previous culture
 - Pressing desire to talk with people who ‘really make sense’
 - Anger or rebellion
 - Heightened irritability
 - Constant complaining about the weather
 - Continuous concern about the purity of water or food
 - Fear of touching local people
 - Preoccupation about being robbed or cheated
 - Preoccupation with returning home
 4. Can any good thing come out of it?
 - A stepping stone for spiritual growth. Romans 8:28
 - Makes us more useful in the harvest and wiser. Philippians 4:11-13
 - Points out ‘blind spots’ or weaknesses in our own personality, attitude, or spiritual life. 1 Corinthians 1:26-29
 5. Is it catching?
 - Yes, it spreads from veteran missionary to new appointee; from parent to child.
 6. Is it permanent?
 - Yes and no, that will depend on you. It may come and go depending on what you are facing at

that time. There may be times when you think, “I’ve seen it all.” or “I’ve heard it all.” and then something new is there to deal with.

7. What should I do if I experience it?

- Pray – Hebrews 4:16
- Learn all you can about your new land. Start this while on deputation so you will be better prepared. This can also include finding out about the foods and introduce them to your family before you get there. In spite of the cost, carry with you some of their favorite foods you can not get there with you. Use them sparingly at special times and for treats.
- Meditate on God’s Word – especially the verses that God has used to confirm your salvation and your call to missions, even to confirm the place to where you were called. If you do not have these, ask God to give them to you before going to the field.
- Record in a journal your thoughts and frustrations – not on a blog for the world but in a journal for your private referral. You might even include how God brought you through it and any verse He gave you for the situation.
- Remember to include some “ME” time in your schedule. Time for your private devotions in the morning before your regular routine. Time for a nap, if needed. Time for relaxing reading a book, taking a long soaking bath – anything that helps you relax. Get your husband’s help and make sure the kids know it is your time.
- Lighten up –find something funny – laugh at yourself. Proverbs 17:22, “*A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.*” Revelation 4:11, “*Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*”
- Carry CD’s of music and preaching with you. New ones that you have not worn out while traveling.
- Do not lose sight of why you are there. Remember Who sent you. Remember the eternal rewards. Remember your children are watching your example.
- Isaiah 26:3-4 and 41:10

BIBLICAL COUNSELING

Introduction: As a missionary lady, whether single or a married, you have a responsibility to God to be a vessel fit for the Master's use. You will be involved with ministry for children and ladies of all ages and all walks of life. There will be formal and informal opportunities to share the Word of God, for salvation, for discipleship, and for counseling people with problems. The key to Biblical counseling is the Word of God. The Bible is sufficient for all the answers to the questions and problems of mankind.

2 Timothy 3:16-17, *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."*

I. Definition of Biblical Counseling

Biblical counseling is more than confronting sinful behavior and attitudes. It involves instructing and encouraging the child of God to become more like Christ.

"Biblical counseling involves defining a problem in biblical terms, constructing a solution in the form of a plan so a counselee can accomplish a goal. The goal of all counseling is change. The goal of all change is to be Christ-like—in essence to love God and to love my neighbor." (Debi Pryde, *Guiding Principles for the Biblical Counselor*, page 22)

"The biblical counselor recognizes that change can take place only when the Holy Spirit is given the opportunity to work in the counseling process. The Word of God is that instrument of change as a person responds to it in faith." (Elyse Fitzpatrick, *Women Helping Women*, page 18)

Biblical counseling depends upon God's divine power.

2 Peter 1:3-4, *"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."*

Biblical counseling is not the same as Christian psychology. A word of caution: there are many books, authors, and Christian speakers who incorporate the methods and solutions of secular psychology to address the problems of mankind. It will take careful study and prayer for discernment from the Lord in your preparation to help people.

Proverbs 14:12, *"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."*

Psalms 1:1-2, *"Blessed is the man who walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."*

Quote by A.W. Tozer, "Listen to no man who fails to listen to God...No man has any right to offer advice who has not first heard God speak. No man has any right to counsel others who is not ready to hear and follow the counsel of the Lord. True moral wisdom must always be an echo of God's voice. The only safe light for our path is the light which is reflected from Christ, the Light of the World." *The Root of the Righteous*, (Camp Hill, PA: Christian Publications, 1955) p. 17-18.

II. Scriptural Principles:

Colossians 3:16	Teach one another
Romans 15:14	Admonish
Hebrews 3:13	Exhort (Encourage)
1 Thess. 4:18	Comfort (also 2 Cor. 1:3-4)
1 Thess. 5:11	Edify (also Romans 14:19)
James 5:16	Confess faults to one another
Romans 15:1	Bear one another's infirmities (weaknesses)
Galatians 6:1-2	Bear one another's burdens

III. Being a Titus 2 Woman: Titus 2:3-5

Debi Pryde, Handouts, debipryde.com "Who is Counseling our Women?" Nov 22, 2010

"In Titus 2:4-5, Paul instructed Pastor Titus to assign the responsibility of teaching and counseling the younger Christian women to the older and more spiritually mature women. God never commanded women to preach or teach the Bible in the same way the pastor is to do... Rather, older, more mature women are commanded to teach, counsel, and encourage the younger to apply Biblical principles in their personal lives and, in particular, to their responsibilities in the home. God has a specific ministry for all mature Christian women, and specific topics vital to Christian womanhood that they are to teach to the younger Christian women in particular. For the most part, the Scriptures seem to indicate that this teaching and counseling ministry should be one-on-one, but certainly, it also includes teaching groups of women who meet together for encouragement and instruction...

Pastoral counseling behind a closed door with only the pastor and female counselee present was actually not common until after the practice was made acceptable by psychologists and therapists. Today, women have been so conditioned to accept the psychologist/counselee model that they no longer question the propriety or consider the dangers of confiding highly personal information to a man."

There is danger in the practice of men counseling women alone. (This would also apply with children.) You should be present with your husband if a woman is being counseled (unless her husband is also in the counseling session). There are some issues that concern women that are inappropriate to share with the pastor. As the pastor's wife, being available and prepared to counsel such issues would be a tremendous help to your husband and the ministry.

IV. Characteristics of an Effective Counselor

1. First, have a settled personal testimony of salvation and Christian growth.
2. Know the doctrines and truths of the Word of God. Proverbs 22:20-21, "Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?" Colossians 3:16, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord."
3. Have the power of the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 3:20, "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,"
4. Pray fervently. James 5:16, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

5. Have a prepared heart. Ezra 7:10, “For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.”
6. Have a love for people. (See Paul’s example, Philippians 1:7-11)
7. Study and prepare yourself to address the needs of others. Consider attending seminars or taking academic courses (from Christian colleges and on-line sources) on biblical counseling. Highly recommended is the training materials and seminars by Debi Pryde, Women Counseling Women Basics and Specifics. Mrs. Pryde is an independent Baptist and uses the KJV Bible. She has written counseling manuals and several books on issues such as anger, depression, abuse, and assurance of salvation. These are available from the bookstore at Camp Ironwood, Newberry Springs, CA. www.ironwood.org. Consult Mrs. Pryde’s website, www.debipryde.com, for information on the WCW seminars and free printable counseling handouts on a variety of topics.

V. Learning from the Example of Jesus Christ

(Taken from the handout by Debi Pryde, “Perfect Counselor - Jesus Christ our Example.” November 20, 2010)

- Jesus was a master at asking questions in order to provoke conviction or bring enlightenment.
- Jesus knew when to end a counseling session and how to direct a confrontation to the real heart issues.
- Jesus never lost His temper or became impatient.
- Jesus never acted apart from the Father or inconsistent with the Scriptures.
- Jesus never minimized a problem.
- Jesus never overwhelmed people. He never quenched the smoking flax.
- Jesus was patient, kind, direct and to the point.
- Jesus gently led people toward increased faith and growth and never condemned those who looked to him for help.
- Jesus goal was always to increase the understanding of his listeners and enlighten them with truth.
- Jesus used the Scriptures masterfully and applied them appropriately.
- Jesus utilized examples and illustrations the people could relate to.

VI. Some specifics of counseling

1. Counseling is confidential. What is discussed is not to be repeated to others. If it is a matter that needs to be mentioned to your husband (or the pastor), you need to inform her about this. Sometimes you will need to encourage her to go with you to speak to the pastor. You should inform the counselee that issues such as child abuse must be reported to civil authorities. You may need to encourage the woman to seek safety and legal protection if there is abuse. Listen! Gather data. Ask good questions. Look for root problems which are being manifested in the fruit issues. Avoid the tendency to “correct along the way” as the counselee is sharing information and concerns. (Resource: webinar by Bruce Meyer, Maranatha Baptist University, “Getting to the Heart of Counseling: Root v Fruit.”)
2. Always offer hope.
3. Present the Gospel. If the person is unsaved, change can only come by a relationship with Jesus Christ.
4. Encourage the believer’s Christian growth. Supernatural change must come by abiding in Christ. John 15:4-5, “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the

branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”

5. Redefine common problems in Biblical terms. Society uses terms such as “depression”, “inferiority”, “self-esteem”, “insecurity”, “having an affair”, “alternative life-style”. For example, for Biblical counsel, the issue of “depression” would be a sorrow which the person sees as without hope, or what Psalm 42:11 describes as being “cast down.” (resource: webinar by Bruce Meyer, Maranatha Baptist University, “Depression: Living in Chronic Darkness”)
6. Identify how the counselee is thinking that is contrary to the Word of God. Proverbs 4:23, “*Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*” “A person will act consistent with what they believe.” (Debi Pryde)
7. Apply the Word of God. Hebrews 4:12, “*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword; piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*”
8. Apply the Biblical principle of “put off/put on.” Ephesians 4:22-24, “*That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*”
9. Develop a sequence of Bible references for various problems. For example, when leading a person to salvation, you may begin with Romans 3:23. In the margin of that verse, write the reference to the next verse in the sequence, Romans 6:23. Continue through each verse in a “plan of salvation” indicating the next reference at the end of the verse. In the back of your Bible, list the first reference under the topic of “salvation.”

VII. The Case of Miriam

Micah 6:4; Exodus 15:20-21; Numbers 12:1-15

God placed Miriam in an important position among the Hebrew women during the time of Exodus. Yet, even this godly woman became discontent in the ministry.

1. How to avoid being a casualty in the work of God:
2. Keep your focus on God. This will involve a continual devotion to Bible study and prayer in your private life. Remember that people, including yourself, are sinful. You will be disappointed if you focus on men and ministry.
3. Communicate with your husband. Agree together to have an accountability in your marriage for your spiritual walk with God.
4. If you are single, develop an accountability with your pastor’s wife or other godly mentor associated with your ministry.
5. Get adequate rest, nutrition, and medical evaluation as needed.
6. Seek godly counsel before you are overwhelmed with family and/or ministry problems.

Prayer: Ephesians 4:14-16

Conclusion: Biblical counseling seeks to lead people out of darkness and into the light by showing them how to follow Christ, how to define problems in Biblical terms, how to construct solutions that are in harmony with the Word of God, and how to reach goals that will yield the practical fruit of spiritual maturity.

RESOURCES (Inclusion of these references does not necessarily indicate agreement with all positions presented within these materials.)

Debi Pryde, *Guiding Principles for the Biblical Counselor* (Newberry Springs, CA: Iron Sharpeneth Iron Publications, 2001)

Women Counseling Women Basics and Specifics, Biblical counseling seminars given by Debi Pryde. www.debipryde.com

Jay Adams, *Competent to Counsel* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1970) Dr. Adams has written many books on biblical counseling.

Jim Berg, *Changed Into His Image* (Greenville, SC: BJU Press, 2006)

Elyse Fitzpatrick and Carol Cornish, ed, *Women Helping Women* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1997)

John MacArthur, Jr. and Wayne Mack and the Master's College Faculty. *Introduction to Biblical Counseling*. (Dallas, TX: Word Publishing, 1994)

Bruce Meyer. (Maranatha Baptist University - biblical counseling lectures) <http://www.mbu.edu/seminary/thestudy/webinars/>

PREPARING FOR THE UNEXPECTED

2 Kings 20:1, “*In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, **Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.***”

I. Talking about the Unexpected.

Note: There are some important, tough questions that need to be discussed.

A. Do you have a Will?

B. Do you have Advance Directives or Living Wills?

C. Where do you want to be buried—you, your spouse, your children?

D. Do you have enough Life Insurance?

E. What will you do when your spouse is gone—stay on the field or go back home?

II. Preparing for the Unexpected.

A. Have a Will.

Reasons for a will:

1. A will allows you to specify your wishes concerning your estate.
2. A will allows you to name an Executor for your estate.
3. A will allows you to name a Trustee for your children’s estate.
4. A will allows you to name a Guardian for your children.

Note:

- 1) Talk to each person (i.e. executor, guardian, etc.) before you make out your will.
Example: If you own property and your spouse is not named as a joint owner, the wife will not be able to take immediate possession of the property.
- 2) Life insurance is paid to the person named as “beneficiary” on the insurance policy and not the person(s) named in the will.

B. Know about Advance Directives and End of Life Orders.

Important:

- 1) These terms and definitions are typical but may vary from state to state.
- 2) This is not legal advice. [You should do your own research and/or seek the advice of an expert for any of the topics listed below.]

1. Advance Directives

- a. “Advance Directives” are legal documents which allow a person to plan and make his or her own end-of-life wishes known in the event that he or she is unable to communicate.
- b. Advance Directives consist of:
 - (1) **Living Will**

(2) Medical (healthcare) Power of Attorney**2. Living Will**

- a. A Living Will allows you to give directives to physicians, hospitals, and family members concerning:
 - (1) Your wishes for medical care and artificial life support (including nutrition, hydration, and respiration) in the event that you are unable to communicate, are in a persistent vegetative state, or your condition is terminal.
 - (2) Your wishes for being resuscitated in the event that you succumb to a life threatening injury or terminal illness.
 - (3) The mother's wishes concerning her unborn child—to keep her alive until her child is born, otherwise, the unborn child will die when the mother dies.
- b. A Living Will saves your family from the hardship of making these types of decisions during the most difficult time of their lives and can protect your spouse from possible confrontations with your family.
- c. According to each state's living will law, this document is considered legal as soon as it is signed by the person putting into force along with the signature of a witness, if it is required.
- d. A living will goes into effect when a person is no longer able to make his or her own decisions.
- e. One can have a living will without a Medical Power of Attorney.

Note: See Sample of a Living Will on Pages 124-125

3. Medical Power of Attorney (Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare)

- a. A medical power of attorney is the advance directive that allows you to select a person you trust to make decisions about your medical care if you are temporarily or permanently unable to communicate and make decisions for yourself.
- b. This includes not only decisions at the end of your life, but also in other medical situations.
- c. This document goes into effect when your physician declares that you are unable to make your own medical decisions.

4. DNR (Do Not Resuscitate)

- a. The DNR order is a written physician's order that prevents the healthcare team from initiating CPR when a person experiences acute cardiopulmonary arrest.
- b. The physician writes and signs a DNR at the patient's request or at the request of the patient's family or appointed healthcare agent.
- c. The DNR can be cancelled at any time by informing the physician who signed the DNR know that the decision has been reversed.

5. DNI (Do Not Intubate)

- a. DNI is an order meaning that no breathing tube will be placed in the mouth or nose to enter the windpipe to help a person who cannot breathe adequately.
- b. The DNI order does not prevent chest compressions and cardiac drugs from being used.

6. CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation)

- CPR is an emergency lifesaving procedure, combining rescue breathing and chest compressions, that is done when someone's breathing or heartbeat has stopped.

Reference Materials Used:

- * [Www.caringInfo.org](http://www.caringInfo.org) [National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization]
- * [Www.Mayoclinic.org](http://www.Mayoclinic.org) [Mayo Clinic]
- * [Www.christianliferesouce.com](http://www.christianliferesouce.com) (Christian Life Resources)
- * [Www.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.nlm.nih.gov) [National Library of Medicine]

C. Have Ample Life Insurance.

1. Things that affect how much life insurance is needed for each parent and each child:
 - a. Number of Children in the family
 - b. Age of Children
 - c. Debts (Mortgage, credit cards, car, etc.)
 - d. Burial location of each family member
2. Many life insurance companies will not honor a life insurance policy if one resides overseas. Check with your insurance company's underwriter (not agent) to see about the status of your life insurance.
3. Macedonia has a group life insurance plan with Reliance Standard Life which will insure our missionaries and family members no matter where they live. Because it is a group plan, you can receive a minimum of \$20,000.00 worth of coverage regardless of your physical condition.

Note:

- Reliance Standard life is 5 year term. If you leave Macedonia and you keep the insurance, it reverts to "whole life," which is very expensive.
 - Jim Butler at BIMI has an insurance company which covers missionaries living overseas as well as the States and is 20 term.
4. Macedonia's group health insurance provides some life insurance for overseas missionaries.

D. Have a Retirement Plan.

Note: Use an honest, reliable person or company to help you with a retirement plan. Unfortunately, people who advertise themselves as "Christian" are not always honest or reliable.

E. Decide where to be buried—you, your spouse, your children.

1. You should take your parents' feeling into consideration, but in the end, this is your decision!
2. Write down your wishes and inform your family in order to save your spouse the burden and grief of having to deal with your family members.
3. Your grown children living in the U.S. need to have a valid passport. If you or your spouse are buried overseas, your children may not be able to attend the funeral if they do not have a valid passport.

Note: In the United States, you can make and prepay your own funeral arrangements with the funeral home. These arrangements include the preacher(s), songs, pallbearers, etc. You can also purchase your burial plot and tombstone. This helps the family when planning your funeral. The price paid of the funeral cannot be changed once payment has been made no matter how long in advance the payment was made. Be sure to keep all of these documents in a safe place and in a location where your family can quickly get to them. (Make copies and give to your grown children.) Should the funeral home you have made these arrangement with be sold, you need to be sure that the new funeral home owners understand and honor this payment!

F. Know some of the issues involved in staying on the field should your spouse die.

1. It may be easier for the husband to stay on the field rather than the wife, but this is very difficult for either especially if there are small children involved. If the wife is determined to stay on the field, the husband should do everything possible to make sure that the wife is able to stay on the field.
2. In most foreign countries, the husband pays the bills, does most of the shopping, etc. If the wife is to stay on the field, she will need to know what bills need to be paid and where to pay them.
 - a. If she does not drive much, let her get used to driving, especially in a foreign country.
 - b. Let her go with you when you do the errands. (Example: Paying rent, water, phone, car insurance, going to the bank, etc.)
 - c. The wife needs to know who you use for a mechanic, plumber, electrician, etc. and how to contact them.

G. Keep Good Records and Have a Good Filing System.

1. Tax Returns

- a. Make sure your spouse knows where tax records are kept.
- b. Make sure your spouse knows your tax preparer's name and contact numbers.

2. Life Insurance Policies

Have a list of your life insurance policies with the company name, policy number, and amount.

3. Other Important Documents

Keep all important documents, i.e. will, life insurance policies, etc. in a safe place (safe deposit box, fireproof box, etc.).

4. Paying Bills

Write down each bill owed and how they are paid, i.e. Online Bill Pay, Bank draft, Check, Monthly Credit Card (Vonage bill, etc.).

H. Keep a list:

1. Passwords for e-mails, on-line accounts
2. Account Numbers, bank names
3. CD's with amounts, maturity dates, name of bank

I. Have a Credit Card in each name.

J. Have a Power of Attorney (POA).

1. Have someone you trust.
2. Have someone who is willing to do it.

K. Keep Records and Documents in a safe, accessible place.

Note: Use a safe deposit box in a bank, fireproof box at home, etc.

L. Know how to keep up with Ministry expenses and how to use an accounting program such as Quicken.

III. The Problem of Identity Theft.

A. Ways to Help Prevent Identity Theft.

1. Sign the back of your credit cards, but include "CID" (this stands for "see ID").
2. When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the

complete account number on the “For” line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels will not have access to it.

3. Never use your Social Security as your drivers license number. Never have your Social Security number printed on your checks. You can add it if it is necessary. But if you have it printed, anyone can get it.
4. Photocopy the contents of your wallet. Do both sides of your license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. It is also a good idea to carry a photocopy of your passport when you travel either here or abroad.

B. Critical information to limit the damage in case your identity is stolen.

1. Cancel credit cards immediately. The key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep them where you can find them.
2. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc., were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step in the event of an investigation (if there ever is one).
3. **Extremely Important:** Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and also call the Social Security fraud line number. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.
4. Numbers you always need to contact if your credit cards, wallet, etc., has been stolen:
 - a. Equifax: 800-525-6285
 - b. Experian (formerly TRW): 888-397-3742
 - c. Trans Union: 800-6807289
 - d. Social Security Administration (fraud line):800-269-0271

(SAMPLE) LIVING WILL

Living Will (declaration) made this _____ day of _____, 20____.

I, _____, being of sound mind, willfully and voluntarily make known my desires that my dying shall not be artificially prolonged under the circumstances set forth below, do hereby declare:

If at any time I should have a terminal condition, become in a coma with no reasonable expectation of regaining consciousness, or become in a persistent vegetative state with no reasonable expectation of regaining significant cognitive function, as defined in and established in accordance with the procedures set forth in paragraphs (2), (9), and (13) of Code Section 31-32-2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, I direct that life prolonging procedures to my body (check the desired option)

- _____ including nourishment and hydration,
- _____ including nourishment but not hydration, or
- _____ excluding nourishment and hydration,

be withheld or withdrawn when the application of such procedures would serve only to prolong artificially the process of dying, and that I be permitted to die naturally with only the administration of medication or the performance of any medical procedure deemed necessary to provide me with comfort care or to alleviate pain.

In the absence of my ability to give directions regarding the use of such life-sustaining procedures, it is my intention that this declaration shall be honored by my family and physician(s) as the final expression of my legal right to refuse medical or surgical treatment and accept the consequences from such refusal.

I understand that I may revoke this living will at any time.

If I am a female and I have been diagnosed as pregnant, this living will shall have no force and effect unless my unborn child is not viable and I indicate by initialing after this sentence that I want this living will to be carried out. _____ (initial)

I understand the full import of this declaration and I am emotionally and mentally competent to make this declaration.

Signed on this _____ day of _____, 20____, in the City of _____, County of _____, State of _____.

(Signature)

I hereby witness this living will and attest that: _____ is personally known to me and voluntarily signed this writing in my presence. I believe the declarant to be at least 18 years of age. I am at least 18 years of age. I did not sign the declarant's signature above for or at the direction of the declarant. I am not related to the declarant by blood or marriage, and to the best of my

knowledge am not entitled to any portion of the estate of the declarant according to the laws of intestate succession or under any will of declarant or codicil thereto, or directly financially responsible for declarant's medical care, and I have no present or inchoate claim against any portion of the estate of declarant. I am not the attending physician, and I am not an employee of a hospital, skilled nursing facility, or other health care facility in which the declarant is a patient.

First Witness: _____
(Print Name)

_____, residing at _____
(Signature)

Second Witness: _____
(Print Name)

_____, residing at _____
(Signature)

EXPENSE REPORTING AND ONLINE FORMS

Expense Reporting

1. Mileage Rates and Per Diem

a. Mileage Rates

- **Passenger Car:** \$ _____ per mile
- **15 Passenger Van:** \$0.60 per mile
- **RV / Motor Home:** \$1.00 per mile

Note: The passenger car mileage allowance is set by the government and changes periodically. The mission office tries to stay on top of this change and notifies the missionaries. You can check the rate yourself by going to www.gsa.gov. Click on “POV Mileage Reimbursement Rates.”

b. Domestic Per Diem Rates

- **Standard Rates (CONUS):**
 - **Meals:** \$ _____ Per Day
 - **Lodging:** \$ _____ Per Day
 - **Wife’s Per Diem Rate:** \$ _____ Per Day (The wife cannot count lodging.)
- **Specific City and County Rates:**
 - Website for Domestic Per Diem Rates: <http://gsa.gov>
 - If you would like the rate for a particular city, click on “Per Diem Rates” on the left-hand side of the page.
 - Click on the state in which you were traveling.
 - If the name of the city in which you were staying is not listed, use the per diem rates for “Other.”

c. Foreign Per Diem Rates:

- **Website for Foreign Per Diem Rates:** <http://aoprals.state.gov>
 - You must use this website to obtain the foreign per diem rate.
 - Click on “Foreign Per Diem Rates” on the left-hand side of the page.
 - Click on “Foreign Per Diem Rates by Location.”
 - Click on the arrow in the “Country” box. The list of countries will appear. Each country has different per diem rates as well as each city in each country.)
 - Scroll down to the country to which you traveled.
 - Select your country and click “Go.”
- **Wife’s Per Diem Rate for Foreign Travel:**
 - Use the same as the husband excluding lodging.

2. Online Forms and Reports

a. Online Forms Available that can be submitted:

- Annual Conference Attendance Form
- Orientation Attendance Form
- 1099 Information Form

- Field Departure Approval Form
- Quarterly Expense Report
- Monthly Activity Report (Deputation Missionaries)
- Quarterly Activity Field Report (Missionaries on the Field)
- Quarterly Activity Furlough Report (Missionaries on Furlough)
- Separation Form

b. Accessing Online Expense Report Forms:

- Step 1: Go to www.mwbm.org.
- Step 2: Click on “Missionary Corner.”
- Step 3: Click on “Private Area for Macedonia Missionaries.”
- Step 4: Type in Login: macedonia
- Step 5: Type in Password: 1626
- Step 6: Click “Enter.”
- Step 7: Click on “New Forms to Fill Out and Submit online.”

3. Expense Report Due Dates

- **1st Quarter:** April 30
- **2nd Quarter:** July 31
- **3rd Quarter:** October 31
- **4th Quarter:** January 10

Online Forms

1. Accessing the Online Forms

- Go to www.mwbm.org
- Click on the “Missionary Corner” tab at the top right-hand corner of the page.
- Click on the line “Private area for Macedonia Missionaries...” in the middle of the page.
- Enter the User Name: **macedonia** (All small case. Accents over the letters appear automatically)
- Enter the Password: **1626**
- Click on “Login.”
- Click “Enter.”
- Click on the line “New Forms to Fill out and submit Online.”

2. List of Online Forms:

- **Annual Conference Attendance Form**
- **Orientation Attendance Form**

- **Housing Requisition Form**
- **1099 Information Form**
- **Field Departure Approval Form**
- **Quarterly Expense Report**
- **Monthly Activity Field Report (Missionaries on Deputation)**
- **Quarterly Activity Field Report (Missionaries on the Field)**
- **Quarterly Activity Furlough Report (Missionaries on Furlough)**
- **Separation Form**

Using Quicken 2010®

I. How to Set Up Quicken Files and Accounts—First Time Users

Note:

- 1) What is the difference between a File and an Account?
 - a) A file contains the account applications.
 - b) An account is the application into which the financial data is entered.
- 2) The Default Quicken File is called “Qdata.”
- 3) You can set up different files with different names. This must be done if you use Quicken for both your Minister Expense Reporting and your personal check book.
- 4) You should not run your personal checking account in the same file as your Ministry accounts.

Step 1: When you click on the Quicken 2010 you may be asked to install any updates which are available. You must click “yes” or “no” before it allows you access Quicken for the first time. Once Quicken comes up, the “Welcome to Quicken” screen will appear. You will have three options:

- 1) **“Open a data file located on this computer”** (Choose this option if you replaced an older version of Quicken with 2010 and the Quicken files were on this computer.)
- 2) **“Restore a data file I’ve backup up to a CD, to a disk, or online.”** (Choose this option if you replaced an older version of Quicken with 2010 and the Quicken files were backed up on a CD or a thumb drive.
- 3) **“Start over and create a new file.”** (Choose this option if you have never used Quicken or you want to create a new file.)

*If you choose this option, a new screen will appear asking you to provide a name for the new Quicken file. Use a unique name such as your name. Example: “John Doe Ministry Expenses.” Click **Save**.

Step 2: The Product Registration screen is next. You can choose to **“Register Later”** or

“Register Now.” (If you chose to register now, follow the on-screen instructions.)

Step 3: At the top, left-hand side of the screen click on the **“Accounts”** tab.

Step 4: At the bottom, left-hand side of the screen click on the **“Add Accounts”** button.

Step 5: On the setup screen select **“Cash”** and click **“Next.”**

Step 6: Enter the Account Name:

Note: There will be 3 different accounts with 3 Identifying Names:

- 1) Work Fund
- 2) Housing Allowance
- 3) Love Offerings

(You do not need to enter a description.)

Step 7: Click **“Next.”**

Step 8: Enter the Date to Start Tracking. (It is best to enter **01/01/(Year)**.)

Step 9: For “The amount of cash you have” enter is **0.00**.

Step 10: Click **“Next.”**

Step 11: Click **“Done.”** (This will take you back to the screen from which you can add accounts.”

Step 12: Repeat Steps 4 to 11 in order to set accounts for “Housing Allowance” and “Love Offerings.”

Step 13: To begin using Quicken 2010, click on one of your 3 accounts listed on the left-hand side of the screen. This will open the **“Banking”** screen in which you post your transactions.

II. Deleting and Setting up a new Category List

Note: Quicken comes with pre-defined categories listed in alphabetical order. This list often causes problems when entering expenses. The Category Field must be used for expense entry, but new categories need to be created. To delete the Category list, follow these steps:

A. Deleting the Quicken Category List

Step 1: Click on **“Tools”** on the Menu Bar at the top of the screen and select **“Category List.”** This gives the list of pre-defined categories.

Step 2: Highlight the entire list down to category list down to the three accounts which are list at the bottom. (To highlight the list, click on the first line of the list. Hold down the “Shift” key. Scroll down and click on the last category line.)

Step 3: Click the **“Delete”** button to the left on the last line on the Category List. A warning screen will ask you if you want to permanently delete categories. Click **“yes.”**

B. Setting up a new Category List

Note: There will be 14 new “categories” you will need to enter. These correspond to the categories on the Quarterly Expense Report form.

- Insurance
- Medical
- Office
- Printing
- Church Planting
- Educational
- Evangelism
- Ministry

- Equipment
- Vehicle
- Travel
- Miscellaneous
- Housing
- Utilities

Step 1: Click the “New” button near the top right-hand side of the Category List screen.

Step 2: Type in the first category name, “Insurance.”

Step 3: Click the “Ok” button. (Ignore the other fields.)

Step 4: Continue entering the other Category names.

Step 4: Click the “Done” button when all 14 categories have been entered.

III. Entering Expenses

A. Entering Ministry and Housing Allowance Expenses

IMPORTANT!!!

- Be sure to enter expenses in the proper account.
- Remember to include any deductions that appear on your monthly statement from Macedonia such as postage, home office support, support you give to other missionaries, etc.
- **NEVER** include personal expenses such as food, wife’s or children’s clothing, etc. as a Ministry Expense!

Step 1: Begin by opening the account to which you wish to post transactions. (To do this, simply click on the name of the account on the left-hand side of the screen.)

Step 2: Enter the **Date** from the receipt.
(Because transactions are listed by date order, you can post transactions in any order at any time. It will be automatically sorted in the proper sequence.) (Skip the “Ref” (Reference) Column.)

Note: Each time you enter transactions, Quicken creates a “Memorized Payee List.” When you enter a payee name for the second time the list will pop up showing the list.

Note: Use your Tab or Enter key to move through the fields.

Step 3: Enter the **Payee**. (The Payee is the name of the company, store, person etc. where or with whom the expense occurred. On one receipt you can have expenses that go to the Work Fund Account and to Housing Allowance and some that cannot be deducted. Highlight the items on the receipt that are deductible and enter each in the proper account.)

Step 4: The next field is the **Category Field**. The Category Field must correspond to our Quarterly Expense Report form which you would send to the office if you did not use Quicken. In order for your Quicken report to be correct, these categories must be used. Simply type in the name of the category under which the expense is to fall.

Step 5: Enter the **amount** of the expense under the “Spend” column. (Ignore the “Clr” [Clear] Column.)

Note: When you tab from the “Category” field to the Memo field, a screen will

pop up asking if you want to create this Category. Click **Yes**. Another screen will then pop up called “Set Up Category.” Just click **OK** without filling in any information.

Step 6: Enter a descriptive note.

Note: Previous versions of Quicken had a place in the transaction for a memo. Quicken 10 allows you post a note. Notes are very necessary (in the event you were audited) as a reminder such as know the mileage rate used for that particular enter or to explain a particular expense. Simply click on the “paper clip” icon at the end of the entry line. A memo window will pop up for you to type the memo. You can check the “Flag” notice so that you will know if that transaction has a note.

Step 7: Click the **Enter** button and the transaction is now posted.

Note: You can edit any transaction at any time by simply clicking on the transaction line you wish to edit and then click the “Edit” button. You can also delete a posted transaction at any time by “right-clicking your mouse and then clicking on “**Delete**.” Should you make any changes to a transaction after your reports have been sent to the office, you will need to notify the office and resubmit the report.

IMPORTANT!!! Your Work Expense Account and Housing Allowance Accounts will always show a negative (red) balance. **NEVER** post deposits to these two accounts.

B. Entering Love Offerings

IMPORTANT!!!

- The IRS requires that missionaries keep a record of all love offerings given to them by churches.
- **DO NOT** include in this report any love offerings which you have reported directly to the office.
- **DO NOT** include your monthly support that comes from Macedonia.
- **INCLUDE** in this report all love offerings you receive from churches and any monthly support that comes to you from churches that do not wish to send the support through Macedonia.
- You do not have to report gifts from individuals unless the individual wants a receipt. In that case, you must report that love offering directly to the Macedonia office so that a receipt can be issued. Do not include that love offering in this since it will appear on your statement.
- Do not include love offerings from a church which will be issuing you a 1099 for that love offering at end of the year. (Churches do not have to issue a 1099 for love offerings and gifts which are less than \$599.00 in a calendar year.)

Step 1: Begin by clicking on the “**Love Offering**” account at the left-hand side of the screen.

Step 1: Enter the **Date** which you received the love offering. (Skip the “Ref” column.)

Step 3: Under Payee, enter the name of the Church, City and State.

Step 3: Enter the Amount of the love offering under the “Receive” column.

Step 4: You do not need to fill in the Category. If you do, it should be “Love Offering.”

Step 5: Under Memo, enter the city and state of the church.

Step 6: Tab to Enter and press Return. The love offering is posted.

IMPORTANT!!! Your Love Offering Account will always show a plus balance. **NEVER** post expenses to this account.

D. Memorized Payee List

Quicken memorizes each transaction including the Payee, Amount, and Category as they are entered. They are sorted alphabetically by **Payee** name.

1. Using the Memorized Payee List

Step 1: After entering the date and tabbing to the Payee field, a pop up screen will appear containing a list of all the payees which you have previously entered.

Step 2: You can either scroll down the list or begin typing the payee name. As you begin to type the name of the payee, the list will go to names beginning with the letters which you have typed. If the payee has been previously entered, it will appear. When this happens, you simply tab to the next field without needing to type further.

Step 3: If this is a reoccurring expense or love offering that never needs editing, simply tab through all of the fields until you come to the “Enter” button click with your mouse. The transaction is then posted.

2. Editing a Memorized Payee

Note: Sometimes it is necessary to change a Memorized Payee when a reoccurring expense amount changes or a monthly supporter changes the amount which is sent.

Step 1: Click on “**Tools**” on the Menu Bar at the top of the screen.

Step 2: Click on “**Memorized Payee List.**” The Memorized Payee List will appear.

Step 3: Click on the Memorized Transaction which you wish to edit, and then click on the “**EDIT**” button at the bottom of the screen. The “**Edit Memorized Payee**” screen will appear.

Step 4: Make the necessary corrections on the edit screen.

IV. How to Set Up and Print Reports**A. Setting up and Customizing Reports**

Step 1: Click on the **Home** tab at the top of the screen.

Step 2: Click on the **All Reports & Graphs** button.

Step 3: Click on “**Reports and Graphs Center.**”

Step 4: On the next **Reports & Graphs** screen, click on “**Spending**” then “**Itemized Categories.**”

Step 5: Click on the **Customize** button.

Step 6: Begin by clicking the arrow on the “**Date Range**” at the top of this screen. Enter the beginning and ending dates for the quarter in which you are working. (Example for 1st Quarter enter: 1/1/10 to 3/31/10.)

Step 7: Next, tab go to **Title** field and enter the title for the report. The Title should be your name, the quarter, name of account on report and year. (Example title: John Doe 1st Qtr Work Fund 2010)

Step 8: On the **Sort By** field, be sure that it is set to “**Category.**”

Step 9: Under the **Column** field, click on “**Don’t Subtotal.**”

Step 10: Under the **Organization** field, click on “**Income & Expense.**”

Step 11: Under the Column field on the right side of the screen, un-check the “Account,” “Num,” “Memo,” and “Clr” columns.

Step 11: Click on the **Accounts** Tab at the top of the Customize Itemized Categories screen. All of the accounts in this file will appear with a check. (This check

means that the account will be included in the account.) Click on each account to remove the check so that only the appropriate account is selected.

Step 12: Click the **OK** button at the bottom of the screen. The Customized Report will appear on the screen.

Step 13: If there are no details showing on the report, click the “**Expand All**” button.

B. Printing Reports

Step 1: Click on “**Print**” icon on the upper portion of the Report screen.

Step 2: Click on the **Print** button.

IMPORTANT!!! Following these steps, print a report for each account: Work Fund, Housing Allowance, and Love Offerings. To get out of this screen, click on the X in the upper right-hand corner of the report screen.

DYNAMICS OF DEPUTATION

Introduction: What is deputation? “ The act of appointing a person or persons to represent or act for another or others”¹ is the definition you will be given in a dictionary. An individual church chooses you to act on their behalf to achieve the great commission . Over the past 50 years, This has become the conventional method of mission related ministry for many Baptist churches. Countless Christians have trod the path of deputation to ultimately have the financial standing to be able to live and minister to people both near and far. How does an individual or family learn to enjoy deputation? Why do some people raise their support faster than others? How does one maintain spiritual focus during the process? These are several of the questions we will discuss during the class. To help us establish our focus, and learn to view deputation appropriately we need to realize:

FOCUS #1 — WHILE FINANCIAL NEEDS ARE IMPORTANT—DEPUTATION HAS A BROADER SIGNIFICANCE — LEARNING BALANCE

- Please remember it is not just about Money but Ministry. Paul warns us in 1Timothy 6:10, “***For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.***”
- The financial needs will be supplied as we devote ourselves to faithfully serving Christ
- Please keep a soft heart and look for ways to minister while you are in different churches. You can:
 - **Help in various capacities.** Have a servant’s heart and attitude
 - **Be friendly** as you meet and greet people in a new church. Do not wait for them to come to you, go to them.
 - **Be a blessing to the pastor.** It may be that God wants to use you to give an offering to the Pastor or Church that you are in. By no means are we trying to bribe for support but as you allow the Holy Spirit to guide your life and stop thinking about yourself, you may be surprised what He would have you do.
 - **Be available and willing** to do what you can. Do not be annoying but put yourself in a position that the pastor knows you would be glad to help.
 - **Love the people.** Ask God to give you a genuine love for all the people with whom you come in contact. Learn to respond positively to every church and every individual in the church in the same way.

FOCUS #2 — MAKING EXCUSES OR COMPARING MYSELF WITH OTHERS IS DETRIMENTAL — OPERATING WITH INTEGRITY

Proverbs 26:16, “***The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.***” While we are saying that it can not be done....someone else is doing it.

- Your circumstances will differ from that of others. We all have various strengths and weaknesses. Deputation can help us gain strength in areas, and help us learn to serve with humility.

- Age, ministry experience, personality and education are all factors that can influence the deputation experience.
- Commit in your heart not to make excuses but look for solutions.

FOCUS #3 — LIVING BY FAITH IS NOT OPTIONAL — ISSUES OF THE HEART

- I will realize that I have a choice in how I view my service to the Lord. God does not make us serve Him, but rather, we are given the honor to serve. It still amazes me that I have the privilege of serving God. May we love God like Mark 12:30 tell us. *“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.”*
 - Our faith brings opportunities to:
 - Serve as missionaries
 - Continually learn through Bible study, teaching and preaching
 - Pray to a God who cares about us deeply about us
 - Impact the lives of people.
- That which motivates our life is not guilt or force, but love. God loved us and out of our love for Him we want to do His good pleasure. Some say that this life is a sacrifice; I say that it is a privilege.
- Focus on the joy of calling pastors, going to church, meeting other Christians, getting to the field...and getting paid for it! What an honor we have to represent the God of heaven and local churches in the areas to which God has called us. May our hearts overflow with gratitude.

FOCUS #4 – THE LEGACY FACTOR - ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES

- I will ask God to raise up more laborers through my time on deputation. Mat 9:38 *Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest.*
- One of the great blessings of being on deputation is seeing other individuals surrender to God’s will for their life. Remember that you and your family are instruments that God can use to impact those who whom God is calling.
- How exciting it would be for world evangelism if every missionary on deputation would be used of God to raise up one other missionary for the field each year, how many other countries could be reached.
- The possibilities of how God could use you on deputation are endless! Please pray that God would use you to see others called up for His glory.
- Notice how these different men were effected by other men:

David Livingston – He influenced Robert Moffat. Moffat took one furlough in 53 years. While preaching in England he said, *“Sometimes seen, in the morning sun, the smoke of a thousand villages where no missionary had ever been.”*

William Carey – He was influenced by Jonathan Edwards who wrote the book, *The Life and Diary of David Brainerd*. It is very evident he was greatly influenced by the missionary David Brainerd.

¹www.dictionary.com, 2013.

PRESENTING YOUR FIELD WITH A PASSION

1 Thessalonians 5:23, “*And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole **spirit** and **soul** and **body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

Introduction:

- We must understand that a person is made up of Body, Soul and Spirit. If we do not connect with the congregation, we have failed in our objective. Notice that the Bible gives three parts to man that must be remembered when presenting your ministry in a church.
- “*You are the man of the hour, if you were not, God would have had someone else preach. Act like the man for the hour or sit down.*” — Grant Rice

I. Body -

- A. We must make sure that our dress is not distracting. Do not dress in such a way that you will take away from the message. Please take note of your shoes.
- B. Make sure your appearance is not distracting. Comb your hair, brush your teeth, and clean your nose. Sounds silly but the devil will use whatever he can to distract people from what you are to say.
- C. The appearance of your family is also very important. How they present themselves will affect peoples ability to connect with them. One pastor said that he pretty well knew whether he would take the missionary for support by just seeing the family get out of their vehicle and walk into the church! Whether we like it or not, these things are very important to others.
- D. Be careful of how animated you are in the pulpit based on the type of church you are in. A “camp meeting” church gives much liberty but a “high brow” church will not afford you that luxury.

II. Soul - the soul is made up of three basic parts: *mind, will and emotions*.

- A. **The Mind** – we are to reason with people from the scriptures and involve the mental process. You want them to “see” and “understand” what is being said.
 1. Are your thoughts logical?
 2. Do they make sense?
 3. Can they be grasped by the people? We are not trying to impress them with our mental prowess or think we are “brainy”.
 4. It is imperative that we connect with their mind. Do they understand what you want to do when you reach the field? Do you understand what you want to do when you get to the field?
 5. When you finish the message, do the people understand what step of action you want them to take?
 6. Do you know what step of action you want them to take?
 7. Help them to understand as you understand the importance of getting the Gospel to these people.

- B. *The Will*** - There are many factors fighting against people surrendering and being obedient to God in their life.
1. Help them to connect with the process you went through in surrendering and doing what God wanted.
 2. Help them to see you also are human and have gone through what they are going through.
 3. Be sensitive to their struggles. This is not the time for the, *“I have surrendered and am wonderful but you are a low down, good for nothing, selfish pig for not even giving to faith promise.”* They are dealing with:
 - a. Fear
 - b. Anxiety
 - c. Flesh
 - d. Mates
 - e. Children
 - f. Procrastination
 - g. Insecurity
 - h. And a thousand other things.
 4. If you can connect with the things that battle against their will, you will be able to connect in a powerful way no matter how long the preacher gives you.

- C. *The Emotions*** – This is the seat of sadness, joy, etc. You need to connect on this level as well. We tend to shy away from this fearing the Pentecostal movement and the arm of the flesh. It is true we do not want this to be a flesh work but we must also understand humanity.
1. Let them see your country.
 2. Let them smell your country.
 3. Let them hear your country.
 4. Walk them down the streets.
 5. Take them into the churches.
 6. Visit a nationals home with them.
 7. Present it in such a way that they will be burdened the people of your field.
 8. Would it be so bad for them to weep over the condition of a lost world? It is o.k. if Lassie gets shot but not acceptable for a world going to hell.
 9. If you have no emotional ties to your field, can you really expect the congregation you are with to have a vision of reaching the lost?

III. The Spirit – That part of us that communes with God. John 4:23 ***“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.”*** Ours is not a work of the flesh but of the spirit. There must be a spiritual connection developed.

- A. Do you do your devotions?
- B. Do you have an active prayer life?
- C. There is no replacing the power of God on a man’s life.
- D. Have you confessed sin? (you know the fight you had with your wife when you were driving down the road or the angry spirit toward your children because they got ketchup on their white shirt at lunch!)
- E. Are you prideful?

F. Are you bitter?

G. Will the Holy Spirit have freedom and liberty to work through you and in them?

Romans 6

“*Know*” — I know I am nothing but God you are everything and want to work in my life and through my life. God loves me and has called me. You have opened the door for me to be here. I am your man for this hour.

“*Reckon*” — I make the truth a reality in my life. I am the man for this hour. Regardless of how I feel or what emotional state I am I reckon the truth to be so.

“*Yield*” — Let God take your study, gifts He has given you, and your life during that time to accomplish His will.

Principles for presenting your burden

1. You must be in the message and the message must be in you.
Haggai 1:13, *Then spoke Haggai the LORD's messenger in the LORD's message unto the people, saying, I am with you, saith the LORD.*
2. Remember that your first thirty seconds will set the precedent for your whole presentation. This becomes more and more important, the shorter amount of time you have.
3. If the pastor has stopped talking when you are coming forward, begin to speak when you are walking toward the pulpit.
4. Be organized. Know where you are going and how you are going to get there. (In your presentation)
5. Smile. Show a joyful excited spirit about being in that church. It does not matter how much time you have been given, what your accommodations are like or what kind of love offering you think they might give. If you are tired, fighting with your wife or discouraged....smile by faith!
6. Be energetic. You will be tired at times. You may have just driven for hours to be at a church. I know you may have been away from home for two months. It is not the fault of the people you stand before. Give them your best and all. Be tired driving home but do not be tired at the church.
7. Be confident, but not prideful. Exude a confidence in the God that has called you, the Bible that you preach and that you are His man for the particular field you represent. This point will be taken wrong and abused, do not be arrogant.
8. Be loving. Love God with all your heart and love these dear people. People can tell if you are there just for a love offering. Be there first for the Lord and then for them.
9. Connect with the people. Help them to identify with your life, field and family. Help them to see the need and feel the pain. Do not preach at them but to them. Take them to the field with you in your presentation and help them say, “*We have got to reach these people.*”
10. Be spiritual. If God does not do the work it will not get done. Walk with God and ask Him to

work in you so that He may work through you.

11. Be positive. Negative missionary - "Things are not moving as fast as we had expected. We have not seen very many new churches lately. Pastor, I sure hope we'll get to the field sometime next year"
 - Positive Missionary - "God is blessing us in an incredible way. The support is really coming in lately. We ARE making all the plans to leave for the field, God willing, in (month), (year)."
 - Presentations, prayer letters, and conversations should all show positive, confidence in the Lord and His calling.
 - The point: Everyone wants to get on board with a winner, not with a loser!

Sample outline for your presentation

1. **State your name, family, church, Mission Board and Field. (if the pastor has not stated it already)**
Hello my name is with Macedonia World Baptist Mission. This is my wife (Family stands while being introduced) name children when applicable Our pastor iswith the Baptist Church in Thank you so much for allowing us to share our burden for
2. **Ask a question to draw them into the presentation.**
Do you think Christians want people to die and go to hell? (pause for just a second and await the response) You are right! That would be ridiculous. If a Christian wanted someone to die and go to hell I would really have to question whether they are a Christians. Amen! But let me ask this, If we do not want to see people die and go to hell why is it so difficult to hand a tract to the drive thru lady at Wendys?
3. **Bring it to yourself and your testimony.**
I know in my life I have fought (fear, shyness, etc...) I really wanted to serve God and see people saved just like you but I fought with _____. I remember...(give a humorous or serious illustration that applies and keep drawing them in closer and closer and closer.)
4. **Share the Scripture.**
Make sure the scripture addresses what you are talking about.
5. **Tie the Scripture to your field and how your going is not an option. You must get there and tell them about Jesus.**
I am glad God gives us grace that is sufficient. I am thankful for fine people like you and the great church you have to attend; but have you ever thought of what it would be like to not have this? To not have a good pastor? To not have a good church? To not have Hope? At each of these steps we are connecting with them.
6. **Bring it back to them. Help the pastor in a loving way help his people serving God there. Love them.**
Tonight I know you deal with fear. I know you want to serve God and do great things for him. Tonight would you be like Peter? Will you step over your fear and out into the opportunity of a lifetime? Would you help in Sunday School? Childrens Church? Visitation? You have to admit it would be pretty awesome to walk on water! Will you be willing to get out of the boat?

7. Leave them “hanging.”

Make them want more. Connect in such a way that they do not care about time or the game after church. Bring them with you. Connect with them in a powerful way. Have it where they wished you were given more time.

8. Close with...*please pray our family as we go to our field*

When you finish, you want them thinking, *“Pray nothing! We need to support this guy!”*

9. Ask the Pastor about the invitation. It is better to turn the invitation over to the Pastor. Let him know what is coming so that he never looks bad.**When You Leave The Pulpit:**

1. Keep your mouth closed. A fool is counted wise when he keeps his mouth shut!
2. Do not ask questions that will make him feel bad or threatened.
 - a. Yes — How did you meet your wife?
 - b. Yes — What kind of hobbies
 - c. No — what kind of discipleship program do you have?
 - d. No — How is your church doing? Most of them are not doing well.
 - e. He may not want to talk. Do not force him.
3. Make sure your wife responds to the Pastor’s wife. She is not to be the dominate one. You are the man of the house. She needs to have connection with the pastor’s wife.
4. When you go out to eat be careful how you handle yourself.
 - a. Open the door for the pastor and walk behind him so that you can pay the bill.
 - b. If he pushes you up front, allow him to pay.