

**WE WANT TO BE A BLESSING NOT A BORE. SO PLEASE LET
US KNOW IF YOU WOULD PREFER NOT TO CONTINUE
RECEIVING THIS INFORMATION OF THE "BEG+OE-E-MAIL-NETWORK"!**
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1. Sacrifice

"Thank you for coming; you've sacrificed so much to be here," a sweet-faced, old Chinese woman said to me. Thoughts scurried through my mind: "It isn't hard here. I don't have to live in the bush with hot and cold running snakes. I didn't have to learn another language. I haven't sacrificed at all!" But with a smile, I answered her, "I'm happy I can be here." And I truly am!

Jesus promises blessing for those who follow him to new homes outside their cultures: "Mark my words, no one who sacrifices house, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children, land--whatever--because of me and the Message will lose out. They'll get it all back, but multiplied many times in homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and land--but also in troubles. And then the bonus of eternal life!" (Mark 10:29-30 MSG)

When I ask my friends or family members to come visit me in southeast Asia, they usually say, "It's too far! Twenty-five hours in a plane? I could never make a trip like that. - Others say, "It's so hot there! People like me don't tolerate the heat well." Even when we show them pictures, they still don't get it.

Here's our standard joke with some of our friends: "Were not real co-workers," we explain. "You guys are living in restricted countries or hack your way home through the bush. It takes some of you two days just to drive somewhere for your mail." We all laugh, but deep inside we wonder if we have sacrificed enough to be "real" co-workers..

Some of you really are making difficult sacrifices to serve where you are and do what you are doing. Perhaps there are days when you cry because of those sacrifices. If you are a pioneer in your place, you may not see many results for your service. But be sure! You will not lose any of your reward in the life to come. The writer to the Hebrews said when you persevere and have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised. (Hebrews 10.36)

Comparisons: My Field is Harder Than Your Field

Comparing our sacrifices to what others experience can be a deadly undertaking. We lose joy, and the peace God intends for us to have. We also waste grace, and we really cannot afford to, for by grace we stand. We are only responsible to do what He calls us to do, where He directs us to be. It is obedience that pleases Him, not the degree of sacrifice we think we have or have not made.

Are We Making the Right Sacrifices?

Sacrifices come in two types: necessary and unnecessary. In our experience, God only gives grace for necessary sacrifices. I am sure you know that grace doesn't make anything easy. But grace makes possible what would normally be impossible. For the unnecessary sacrifices we impose on ourselves, there is no grace. Instead, we find ourselves struggling just to keep our heads above the water. The ark floated because it was God's idea, not Noah's invention.

We started our international experience in Africa. Definitely, not our choice. Like my husband says, "Snakes! Bugs! Bad Toilets!" But it was God's choice. Like many first-termers, we were pretty clueless about what the sacrifices would actually look like. We never saw a snake. The bugs and toilets were usually manageable. But we lived in an apartment building with three other western families. We were stacked up like layers of a cake. All the windows and doors lined up, and were open all the time to catch whatever breezes we could. Privacy, our precious western privacy, was hard to come by. (One wife told us that as they lay in bed one night they could hear the couple in the apartment above talking about them. "Do you think we should answer," she asked her husband.)

To serve in that place we had to sacrifice privacy. But our experience could not compare to some friends who lived in a remote village in Thailand. Their house had gaps between the boards in the walls, and the local villagers would look in at them in the night. Better them than us, but they did it, gladly, for the King.

In Africa the other families belonged to a club the British had left behind. (God bless the British!) They played squash in the broiling heat, swam in the pool, and drank ice cold Bitter Lemon or Coke in the canteen. They encouraged us to join too. Coming from middle-class America, joining a club sounded like an extravagance. Shouldn't we sacrifice that kind of leisure for the work? After a while we realized the cost, about \$100 for the year, was nothing compared to the benefits it gave us. It was the only place where we could relax and exercise without our congregation and students watching every move. To abstain from joining that club was an unnecessary sacrifice.

As we all know, our children make many necessary sacrifices to live overseas, too. They will miss so much from their home culture. They go to different types of schools, or home school. They often can't have all the coolest gadgets or clothes. And McDonald's might be at least a thousand miles away! Those are necessary sacrifices, and we can help our children understand why they need to do it.

Even so we must not sacrifice our children needlessly or carelessly. In Africa we had serious concerns about our children's education. What we were doing was not working, so we wondered whether their educational needs should influence our decision to change fields of service. It was a difficult time, really. Some of our colleagues sent their children to a boarding school. Others tried to integrate them in the local schools. And some did home school. None of those choices seemed right to us, or worked for our particular children. We prayed, but we were confused. Thankfully a veteran of international service, a professor from Fuller, visited our city at that time. We told him our concerns. He wisely told us that it was very important to consider our children's educational needs in choosing our field. He said he had sent all four of his children to boarding school. Two of them did very well, but he said two of them never should have gone there. Knowing what he knew after the fact, he would have found other solutions for educating two of them. For two of his kids boarding school was the right sacrifice; for the other two it wasn't. For us, God moved us to the other side of the world to put us in a place where we had a work and our children had a school.

Home schooling, boarding school, video-conference schools, international schools, and local schools are all possibilities. It is an unnecessary sacrifice of our children's future to make the decision based on what other people think we should do. We must know what necessary sacrifices God is calling us to make. He may want your family to sacrifice time together to give your children the kind of education they will need for their future. He may want you to sacrifice money to provide the schooling your children need. Sacrificing mom's time and work with the nationals to teach her children, may be the necessary sacrifice for this time in your lives. The key is, what are the necessary sacrifices to make.

Knowing the difference between necessary and unnecessary sacrifices is not always easy. There is no one-size-fits-all solution to the puzzle. Consider all the pros and cons, discuss with each other, and seek God's will. Agreeing together with your spouse can make a great difference in bearing the weight of necessary sacrifices and avoiding unnecessary ones. Whether your sacrifices seem big or small in your eyes, God knows where you are and will bless you for your obedience.

The Divine Appointment

Divine appointments, scheduled by God, come at some unusual times. Divine assignments often seem stranger than fiction. Beth Moore, a Bible study author, speaker, wife, and mother, wrote her Hairbrush story in her book "Further Still". Hearing others stories can help us tune our ears to the voice of our Father.

April 20, 2005, at the Airport in Knoxville, waiting to board the plane, I had the Bible on my lap and was very intent upon what I was doing. I'd had a marvellous morning with the Lord. I say this because I want to tell you it is a scary thing to have the Spirit of God really working in you. You could end up doing some things you

never would have done otherwise. Life in the Spirit can be dangerous for a thousand reasons not the least of which is your ego.

I tried to keep from staring, but he was such a strange sight. Humped over in a wheelchair, he was skin and bones, dressed in clothes that obviously fit when he was at least twenty pounds heavier. His knees protruded from his trousers, and his shoulders looked like the coat hanger was still in his shirt. His hands looked like tangled masses of veins and bones. The strangest part of him was his hair and nails. Stringy, gray hair hung well over his shoulders and down part of his back. His fingernails were long, clean but strangely out of place on an old man. I looked down at my Bible as fast as I could, discomfort burning my face.

As I tried to imagine what his story might have been, I found myself wondering if I'd just had a Howard Hughes sighting. Then, I remembered that he was dead. So this man in the airport... an impersonator maybe? Was a camera on us somewhere? There I sat; trying to concentrate on the Word to keep from being concerned about a thin slice of humanity served on a wheelchair only a few seats from me.

All the while, my heart was growing more and more overwhelmed with a feeling for him. Let's admit it. Curiosity is a heap more comfortable than true concern, and suddenly I was awash with aching emotion for this bizarre-looking old man. I had walked with God long enough to see the handwriting on the wall. I've learned that when I begin to feel what God feels, something so contrary to my natural feelings, something dramatic is bound to happen. And it may be embarrassing.

I immediately began to resist because I could feel God working on my spirit and I started arguing with God in my mind. "Oh, no, God, please, no." I looked up at the ceiling as if I could stare straight through it into heaven and said, "Don't make me witness to this man. Not right here and now. Please. I'll do anything. Put me on the same plane, but don't make me get up here and witness to this man in front of this gawking audience. Please, Lord!" There I sat in the blue vinyl chair begging His Highness, "Please don't make me witness to this man. Not now. I'll do it on the plane."

Then I heard it..."I don't want you to witness to him. I want you to brush his hair." The words were so clear, my heart leapt into my throat, and my thoughts spun like a top. Do I witness to the man or brush his hair? No-brainer. I looked straight back up at the ceiling and said, "God, as I live and breathe, I want you to know I am ready to witness to this man. I'm on this Lord. I'm your girl! You've never seen a woman witness to a man faster in your life. What difference does it make if his hair is a mess if he is not redeemed? I am going to witness to this man."

Again as clearly as I've ever heard an audible word, God seemed to write this statement across the wall of my mind. "That is not what I said, Beth. I don't want you to witness to him. I want you to go brush his hair."

I looked up at God and quipped, "I don't have a hairbrush. It's in my suitcase on the plane. How am I supposed to brush his hair without a hairbrush?" God was so insistent that I almost involuntarily began to walk toward him as these thoughts came to me from God's word: "I will thoroughly furnish you unto all good works."(2 Timothy 3:17) I stumbled over to the wheelchair thinking I could use one myself.

Even as I retell this story, my pulse quickens and I feel those same butterflies. I knelt down in front of the man and asked as demurely as possible, "Sir, may I have the pleasure of brushing your hair?" He looked back at me and said, "What did you say?" "May I have the pleasure of brushing your hair?" To which he responded in volume ten, "Little lady, if you expect me to hear you, you're going to have to talk louder than that." At this point, I took a deep breath and blurted out, "SIR, MAY I HAVE THE PLEASURE OF BRUSHING YOUR HAIR?" At which point every eye in the place darted right at me. I was the only thing in the room looking more peculiar than old Mr. Longlocks. Face crimson and forehead breaking out in a sweat, I watched him look up at me with absolute shock on his face, and say, "If you really want to."

Are you kidding? Of course I didn't want to. But God didn't seem interested in my personal preference right about then. He pressed on my heart until I could utter the words, "Yes, sir, I would be pleased. But I have one little problem. I don't have a hairbrush." "I have one in my bag," he responded. I went around to the back of that wheelchair, and I got on my hands and knees and unzipped the stranger's old carry-on, hardly believing what I was doing. I stood up and started brushing the old man's hair. It was perfectly clean, but it was tangled and matted. I don't do many things well, but must admit I've had notable experience untangling knotted hair mothering two little girls. Like I'd done with either Amanda or Melissa in such a condition, I began brushing at the very bottom of the strands, remembering to take my time not to pull.

A miraculous thing happened to me as I started brushing that old man's hair. Everybody else in the room disappeared. There was no one alive for those moments except that old man and me. I brushed and I brushed and I brushed until every tangle was out of that hair.

God didn't send me to that old man. He sent that old man to me.

I know this sounds so strange, but I've never felt that kind of love for another soul in my entire life. I believe with all my heart, I -- for that few minutes -- felt a portion of the very love of God. That He had overtaken my heart for a little while like someone renting a room and making Himself at home for a short while. The emotions were so strong and so pure that I knew they had to be God's.

His hair was finally as soft and smooth as an infant's. I slipped the brush back in the bag and went around the chair to face him. I got back down on my knees, put my hands on his knees and said, "Sir, do you know my Jesus?" He said, "Yes, I do." Well, that figures, I thought.

He explained, "I've known Him since I married my bride. She wouldn't marry me until I got to know the Saviour." He said, "You see, the problem is, I haven't seen my bride in months. I've had open-heart surgery, and she's been too ill to come see me. I was sitting here thinking to myself, what a mess I must be for my bride."

"Pour out your heart to Him for God is our refuge." Psalm 64:8

Only God knows how often He allows us to be part of a divine moment when we're completely unaware of the significance. This, on the other hand, was one of those rare encounters when I knew God had intervened in details only He could have known. It was a God moment, and I'll never forget it.

Our time came to board, and we were not on the same plane. I was deeply ashamed of how I'd acted earlier and would have been so proud to have accompanied him on that aircraft. I still had a few minutes, and as I gathered my things to board, the airline hostess returned from the corridor, tears streaming down her cheeks. She said, "That old man's sitting on the plane, sobbing. Why did you do that? What made you do that?" I said, "Do you know Jesus? He can be the bossiest thing!" And we got to share.

I learned something about God that day. He knows if you're exhausted, you're hungry, you're serving in the wrong place or it is time to move on but you feel too responsible to budge. He knows if you're hurting or feeling rejected. He knows if you're sick or drowning under a wave of temptation. Or He knows if you just need your hair brushed. He sees you as an individual. Tell Him your need! I got on my own flight, sobs choking my throat, wondering how many opportunities just like that one had I missed along the way... all because I didn't want people to think I was strange. God didn't send me to that old man. He sent that old man to me. John 1:14 "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." Always strive to be obedient because you never know what divine appointment awaits you today.

You can read more of Beth's stories in *Further Still*, ISBN 080543093-8.

I remember the hard work involved in serving where you are.

Language school is hard work. I don't know how you do it. I am thankful I wasn't required to learn another language, because I am not good at learning languages. Maybe you don't feel like you are good at it either, and yet that is what you need to do to work on your field. You will have your reward for all your effort.

Living in primitive conditions is hard work. Some of us might feel like we are camping out when we stay in a two star hotel! You have none of the modern conveniences, and the activities of daily living take most of your time and strength. You will have your reward for being willing to camp year-round and for the hard physical labor you do.

Home schooling is hard work. 24/7 with your children can be exhausting. It may not be as physically demanding as other lives, but it is mentally and emotionally draining. The responsibility you carry for all your child's education is a heavy load. Being on call all day as either mom or teacher makes it difficult, or even impossible to do much else. You will have your reward for serving your small field in the midst of the larger one.

Working on a team is hard work. Any team is a mixture of cultures and personalities that leave room for friction and misunderstanding. Being willing to play your part and help others succeed in their part is demanding. Refusing grudges and not taking sides: both are easier said than done. You will have your reward for willingly playing your part, and helping the other team members play theirs.

Living in limited access countries is hard. Having the courage to do all you can and the wisdom to avoid unnecessary problems is a challenging balancing act. Knowing your every word and action is observed and recorded--the almost total lack of privacy--is hard. You will have your reward for going where so few would dare to go.

I Am Asking God to Bless You

I don't know what your special needs are today, but I know the One who can meet them. I'm asking for financial provision for those who are in need in these days of rising cost and dwindling supply. He owns the cattle on a thousand hills and knows your need before you ask!

I'm asking for health and healing for those whose bodies hurt today. He is the Great Physician!

I'm asking for hope for those who are discouraged. You may need a fresh vision or a reminder of one you received a long time ago. He doesn't forget His promises.

I'm asking for strength for those who are tired and weak. I pray for times of rest and refreshing and for the grace to take the opportunities when they come.

I'm asking for peace for those whose minds are troubled by many things. He calmed the raging sea and He can calm the storm inside.

I'm asking for reconciliation for those who are at odds within their family or with co-workers or nationals. He reconciled us to the Father and can bring reconciliation between those who ask.

I'm asking for wisdom for those not sure what the next step should be. We are told that wisdom is one thing that will not be refused us when we ask. He longs to lead us, especially when we want to follow.

I'm asking for joy unspeakable! We all need joy to bubble up from our spirit. Like oil, to a machine, it makes our lives work smoothly.

Nothing can replace our close relationship with our Father. The enemy of our souls would do whatever he can to distract us from the goal set before us. Sometimes the slow pace of change and growth seems to make the vision fade from before our eyes. Cluttered minds and exhausted bodies make us more vulnerable to lies. Don't allow yourself to drift away from the One who has the power to accomplish all He has planned.

Help the New Kids

Years ago a sending organization researched why first-termers failed to return and become veteran PWs. They found some causes in the first-termers themselves but, sadly, they traced other causes to the veterans already on the field. Each field is very different. Personalities, chemistry, roles, pressures- they all combine to make the New Kid's (Newks) experience a huge challenge. We have lived through it and heard others tell their stories. The bottom line: it is never easy, but it can be less difficult if we all help each other.

We were the new-kids-on-the-block twice, in very different situations. The first time, we joined a well-established team in a multifaceted indigenous work. Being completely new to living outside our own culture, we needed and appreciated the help we received from the veterans. It was not all positive, but overall, we made a good adjustment to cross cultural work.

The second time, we went to an extremely different culture and work. That time we were more consultants to many different previously-established works. The founding PWs had gone on to other fields. Many ex-pats visited this field briefly, but very few stayed for several terms helping the nationals. The veterans that were leaving as we arrived had discouraging comments about the work we intended to do. Although what they said may have been true for what they had done in the country, much had changed. We were new faces with a different assignment. We have served that field, joyfully, for 25 years.

The Arrival

A Newk family arrives in a storm of activity and excitement. They land exhausted. Always. They have just completed a marathon with many hurdles. They bid farewell to all they love and know, and arrive at their new assignment after hours of travel, often with small children. Smells, sights, and sounds overwhelm their already stressed bodies. Then to top it all off there is a large welcoming committee. And everyone "just can't wait" for them to get up and going. Occasionally it is different. They arrive to find no one to meet them and help them adjust. Promised housing isn't ready and they end up using their meagre reserves to stay in a

hotel temporarily. Somewhere between overwhelming them and ignoring them, we will find the sweet spot—that place of support and help that makes assimilation easier.

All arriving Newks need a bath, some food, and some rest. After that, but not before, you can plan for them to meet the team members, national leaders, and other workers. Veterans, be flexible in your approach. Don't assume they will feel just like you did or even the way the last Newks felt. The key is sensitivity, and ladies, honestly, I wonder if some of us have become so field-hardened that we have lost that sensitivity. It can happen.

Settling In

As important as those first few hours are, the next few days and weeks will go a long way to helping or hindering the Newks find their place of effectiveness on your team or in your community.

To Newks, everything is new, and probably strange. They need to learn how and where to purchase food and supplies, and you will be tempted to tell them everything you know. Resist the urge. Help them through their first shopping trips and introduce them to good shops and good merchants. After that, let them ask you if they have more questions, and let them explore on their own. They may surprise you with some wonderful finds. I remember how thrilled my husband was when he found a little grocery on an unlikely street in our African town that had big blocks of— are you ready?— cheese! The New Kid found CHEESE! It was like he had found undiscovered gold.

Give Newks the time they need to settle into their home. You may need to lend them some furniture, dishes, etc. until their crates arrive. Also, they may need to know workmen that can be trusted to make repairs or adjustments to their home. Women, especially, need to be able to make a home for their family.

Meeting People

While these practical matters are being settled, they need to get to know other team members and local friends. Again, you may be tempted to tell them everything you know about all these people. It is better to make the introductions and provide them opportunities to get to know these key people for themselves. Letting them form their own relationships may help the whole team to come to new understandings. Veterans can poison new recruits by passing on old stories of hurt or failure that should be forgotten, so exercise a little self-restraint.

However, it isn't good to let Newks step into any traps. It's like knowing where a cobra lives, but not telling them. If there are people they will meet who could be dangerous to them or the work, you must give them warning. Our ancient friend Paul told his son Timothy to watch out for Alexander. Also, if there is a current crisis, give them enough information for them to avoid getting sucked into it.

Newks need someone they can speak to with total confidentiality. They will have many things they need to sort through and decisions to make that a confidential prayer partner or pastor could help with. This person should not be required to submit reports to anyone else about the Newks. Member care is not just for the member care pros. It is for everyone.

Although they are on the field to do a "God" job, assure them that they are right to care for their own family, too. Make sure they have time for their family. Their children have been up-rooted from the only life they knew to a totally different life. It will take the family awhile to make adjustments among themselves as well as with the new culture. Depending on the children's ages and personalities, they may act out at first or become excessively shy and fearful. The husband-wife relationship will need some extra care too. Some time and space for family at the beginning of their assignment may pay big dividends later in their flexibility and adaptation.

Holidays and social events can become a time of great joy and refreshment, or a time of stress and bitterness. Invite Newks to holiday gatherings, but try to find some ways to let them incorporate some of their own traditions or recipes. Sometimes the veterans expect everyone to come to their home for all celebrations, since that has been the tradition for years. Newk families need to develop their own traditions as well as joining in the established traditions of the field. Although the home of the veterans may be better suited to social events, many Newks would enjoy hosting some events in their own new home. Make their joy complete and let them be the hosts sometimes.

The Work

Perhaps the hardest area of adjustment for some Newks concerns the work they are on the field to do. When there is a mis-match between what they are able to do and what the field staff need, conflict often results. Misunderstood needs and misunderstood skills are often at the root of these troubles. Some of these

misunderstandings can be fixed by adjusting the job description between the Newks and the field staff. Sometimes the New Kids need to learn new skills and to be able to fulfill the needs of the field. Sometimes the home directors need to be brought into the situation to find a better position for them.

If you need to contact headquarters about a problem with a Newk, it is almost always best to let them know you are doing it. At one time we wanted our home office to advise us of our options before talking to our local leaders. The home office didn't let us know they were going to talk to the field staff. Fortunately our local leadership was understanding, but this could have caused a deep rift in our relationships there.

One last observation. Newks need freedom to refuse some requests. Sometimes we ask something they just don't feel ready to do. One time we were expected to let other staff use our new car to go outstation. The veterans made us feel like we could not refuse without losing face with the local leaders. We did not feel we should be required to do this, but were told we had no choice. They wrecked our new car, and we lost the use of it for several weeks. It would have helped if they had given us the choice, and not hit us with a load of guilt.

Newks sometimes see things in a new light and can show us things we don't know. They come with fresh insights and enthusiasm for the work. Before we pour on the ice water, we need to listen and consider. Their suggestions might have merit. Even one idea met warmly and allowed to be developed may make the difference between New Kids finding their place of effectiveness, or losing heart and leaving after one-term.

The key for helping Newks is always the same. Love the little rascals! Ask yourself, "What can I do to help?" Be creative. Be flexible. Be available. Be thoughtful. Remember: love covers a multitude of adjustment woes.

<http://peterswife.org/>

2. Shocking Youth Message Stuns Hearers – So Shocking & Biblical

This is a Shockingly Powerful & Biblical message preached to about 5,000 youth in a day when youth are appealed to through shallow and worldly means. At one point in this sermon the 5,000 Youth are clapping and yelling BUT THEN the preacher makes a comment that CHANGES THE WHOLE ATMOSPHERE TO WHERE YOU COULD HAVE HEARD A PIN DROP... As you can imagine, the preacher was never invited back:

listen to: <http://www.godtube.com/view_video.php?viewkey=19fd9c84c942a08316e0>

3. Short-Term Ministry Ideas

<www.catalystservices.org/bm~doc/s-t-ideas.pdf>

How could individuals or a team on a short-term ministry trip from a local church make the greatest contribution to the work of field partners? Doubtless hundreds, maybe thousands, of creative ministries have been tried over the years. Perhaps one of the possibilities noted here may be a new avenue of service your short-termers can use to further Kingdom goals.

Why not note which types of expertise you could offer, then share this list with your field hosts to stimulate creative thinking. It is important to defer the final decision to those on site. They are best equipped to define how you can truly serve. Note that some of these ideas are clearly suited exclusively to a Majority World context and others, specifically to a more developed situation. The level of expertise required for any given type of service will also vary from location to location.

On-Field Ministry Possibilities

Assistance to field workers

1. Provide pastoral care, encouragement
2. Pray together, do prayer walking
3. Discuss strategy without trying to influence decisions in areas where you have limited expertise
4. Assist with researching new ministry opportunities, locations, receptivity levels, etc.
5. Fix vehicles or appliances, or do home repairs
6. Paint, renovate home, landscape yard, assist with decorating

7. Help with packing, moving, unpacking
8. Stay with children while workers take some time away
9. Write field stories workers can use in prayer letters
10. Shoot a video workers can use on home assignment
11. Do office work
12. Upgrade computer hardware or software
13. Teach workers computer skills
14. Throw a baby shower or other special celebration
15. Send a skilled counsellor to help individual workers or the team resolve issues
16. Send a person with teambuilding expertise to help team dynamics

Assistance to workers children

1. Give children individual attention as a surrogate grandparent, aunt, or uncle
2. For home schoolers, offer educational modules on site, especially specialized topics for children in higher grades
3. Lead a VBS program for the MKs
4. Establish/Expand a library of English-language children's books
5. Send a specialist to assess children's educational needs
6. Serve as a nanny for children while parents are learning language or ministering
7. If your MKs attend an MK or international school, ask how you can contribute to the overall work of the school

Workers field conferences

1. Provide nursery care
2. Lead a children's and/or youth program
3. Lead worship, provide music
4. Provide inspirational speaker(s)
5. Handle sound, recording, etc.
6. Provide prayer and/or counselling
7. Offer haircuts, massage, manicure/pedicures, chiropractic adjustments
8. Send someone to the field prior to conference to arrange all of the logistics; handle registration on site

Service to the workers entire field

1. Provide bookkeeping services
2. Audit field accounts
3. Relieve field host/hostess for vacation
4. Relieve MK school hostel/dorm parents for vacation
5. Repair equipment

Service to national church leaders and other ministry leaders

1. Come as humble listeners and learners
2. Become prayer partners; prayer walk together
3. Encourage believers vision; fan the flame of what God is already doing there
4. Teach English
5. Teach a professional skill they could use to support their family
6. Share ideas and resources on children's, youth, women's, men's ministry (emphasizing that they can accept, reject, or adapt)
7. Train/Coach preachers and other workers
8. Mentor pastors wives
9. Hold a leaders retreat for their personal renewal
10. Assist in setting up a bookkeeping system-paper or computerized
11. Equip them to deal with crisis situations, epidemics, orphan care, etc., if you have people with expertise
12. Assist in researching a potential new target region or ministry
13. Lead marriage and parenting seminars
14. Help train leaders to launch support groups (addictions, bereavement, cancer survivors, those impacted by AIDS, chronically ill and their families, disabled or parents of disabled children, divorced/widowed)
15. Teach ESL specifically designed for believers who feel called to missions and for whom English will be the common language on international ministry teams

Outreach/Holistic ministry

1. Make friends; share Jesus

2. Provide support for nationals holding an outreach event (prepare and distribute invitations, set up venue and clean up afterward, undergird with prayer support, encourage national team, and/or participate verbally if asked)
3. Hold an evening program or festival featuring your country, i.e. a European Nite with decorations, foods, and activities from different countries (can be reciprocated at another time by the nationals presenting a program featuring their country that also draws outsiders)
4. Teach ESL or hold informal English conversation sessions
5. Lead English camps for youth, adults, families
6. Hold children's clubs or day-camp programs
7. Help run a street fair with clowning, juggling, face painting, illusionists, balloon art, stilt walking, all kinds of games, and family portraits with clothes to dress as Victorians or frontiers people
8. Be tourists with a purpose; hire guides to see their country with the goal of initiating spiritual discussion
9. Take a survey to determine felt needs and initiate conversation
10. Minister to the homeless, street children
11. Minister to those in prison, hospitals
12. Serve orphans or widows
13. Minister to the deaf
14. Minister to expats, especially English speakers
15. Distribute food or water
16. Remove graffiti
17. Clean public venues (where not taking jobs from nationals)
18. Engage in random acts of kindness
19. Team with nationals to do door-to-door visitation
20. Distribute literature, solar radios, the JESUS film, CDs, etc.
21. Show the JESUS video
22. Hang out with teens
23. Visit university classes (with prior permission)

Business

1. Teach sessions and provide individual mentoring on how to launch a small business, develop business plans, etc.
2. Work with nationals to analyze new business opportunities
3. Provide seminars on business marketing
4. Teach team building
5. Provide seminars on management-operational and personnel
6. Teach workplace safety
7. Offer seminars in business ethics
8. Teach bookkeeping/accounting for small businesses
9. Teach farming and animal husbandry
10. Help establish a micro-enterprise bank with training program

Computers

1. Help set up Internet cafes and train staff
2. Provide seminars in basic/advanced computer skills
3. Teach programming
4. Teach computer game development
5. Teach IT business applications
6. Teach AutoCAD

The arts

1. Sponsor an exchange of worship teams
2. Send individuals or a group to perform concerts with at least some lyrics in national language
3. Field a group which uses a musical style particularly popular in that culture
4. Support nationals in presenting drama by helping with set preparation, costumes, invitations
5. Do drama, mime, puppetry, ventriloquism and/or teach same
6. Teach some type of fine art or do art together with nationals
7. Stage an art show
8. Guide nationals to produce the types of art that could be sold in the West (note cards, decorated wooden pieces, etc.)
9. Use art with children, youth, or adults as post trauma therapy

Medical

1. Hold medical and dental clinics

2. Provide community health service/training
3. Provide physical or occupational therapy training
4. Teach basic hygiene, baby care, etc.
5. Distribute prenatal and children's vitamins
6. Give immunizations

7. Provide mosquito nets
8. Test sight and give out eyeglasses, reading glasses, sunglasses
9. Test hearing and provide hearing aids
10. Teach abstinence/HIV/AIDS prevention
11. Equip people for HIV/AIDS ministry
12. Provide prostheses

Sports

1. Staff sports camps
2. Hold sports clinics for youth
3. Bring sports pros to conduct sessions for adults
4. Mentor nationals in how to set up neighbourhood recreational programs
5. Train/Mentor coaches
6. Train sports trainers
7. Hold sports tournaments
8. Sponsor Special Olympics type programs for disabled children or adults
9. Run sports tours that create opportunities to interface with nationals (biking, hiking, kayaking, surfing, snorkeling, etc.)

Education

1. Offer teacher training or mentoring at any level
2. Provide educational administration seminars or individual mentoring
3. Present curriculum development seminars
4. Offer professional-level training for local ESL teachers
5. Train nationals to develop distance learning opportunities

Crafts

1. Hold craft classes as outreaches for children or adults
2. Offer cooking classes or demonstrations
3. Advise national craftspeople in what to make that could be exported and sold in the West
4. Connect with local hobbyists (gardening, whittling, woodworking, making musical instruments, sewing and various types of needlework, pottery making, photography, model trains, genealogy, astronomy, calligraphy, antique cars, etc.) with the purpose of learning from each other and establishing contacts for local follow-up

Construction/Trades/Technical (done in collaboration with nationals, if possible)

1. Dig wells, install irrigation systems
2. Test water quality and provide purification systems
3. Build playgrounds
4. Build/Renovate schools: refurbish desks or benches, put up chalkboards, mend books, etc.
5. Build/Renovate churches, clinics, camps, homes, orphanages
6. Teach construction skills
7. Teach mechanical repair
8. Help develop/expand a landmine clearing program

Peer-to-peer visits for contact development

1. Visit town mayors, other elected officials, city planners, government administrators, judges, police, fire fighters, prison wardens, parole officers, EMTs, etc. as a representative of your city, civic group, or profession
2. Do a peer-to-peer visit with those who share mutual business involvements (restaurant owners, farmers, truck drivers, beauticians, shop owners, factory operations managers, salespeople in a certain trade, marketing specialists, HR managers, IT managers, etc.)
3. Visit professional peers (teachers, educational administrators, health-care professionals of all kinds, veterinarians, attorneys, graphic designers, ecologists, engineers, scientists, accountants, journalists, TV personnel, bankers, librarians, social-service personnel, utilities workers, those in the travel or tourism business, etc.)
4. Connect to alumni from your university living in that city or country
5. Bring together professionals or amateurs in music or arts

6. Set up an exchange program where nationals send a return delegation to visit your town, business, institution
7. Set up a Rotary exchange program
8. Set up a student exchange program

Reciprocal Short-Term Ministry Ideas When Partners Visit

1. Develop prayer partnerships
2. Exchange staff members for two-six months, for example trade worship leaders.
3. Ask your national partners to come and teach you how to minister to people of their cultural or religious background who live in your community or nearby city; hold an outreach to these people while your guests are visiting and utilize their leadership and involvement
4. Invite a national leader to preach, speak at a men's/women's retreat, participate in your staff retreat
5. Invite nationals to share their testimony, vision, and passion with many large and small groups in your church
6. Invite a singing group to present concerts for your church and the community
7. Engage national guests with your children and youth in class interviews or other activities
8. Invite visitors to teach you how to play their musical instruments, create art or crafts, do their native dances, wear national costumes, or cook some national dishes
9. Seek opportunities for peer-to-peer relationships in your community (professional connections, local political leaders, service clubs like the rotary, etc.)
10. Pursue the possibility of a sister city relationship
11. Invite your local newspaper or TV station to interview your visitors
12. Offer to have visitors speak in other churches in your area
13. Ask visitors to speak to your ministerium or other regional fellowships
14. See if your guests can visit high-school or university classes to talk about their country
15. Seek opportunities for your partners to address students or faculty at a nearby Christian college or seminary
16. Expose visitors to all kinds of ministries in your church; ask them for ideas of how you could improve, and give them ideas and resources they could use back in their ministry
17. Introduce your guests to other ministries in your area that might be of mutual benefit (homeless shelter, pregnancy centre, drug rehabilitation program, food bank, prison ministry, etc.)
18. Offer to underwrite visitors attendance at practical seminars such as training in counselling or lay caring ministry, peacemaking, financial management, recovery ministry, computer software use, etc.)

4. God's People 'based' on Hebrews 11:

Noah was a drunk
 Abraham was too old
 Isaac was a daydreamer
 Jacob was a liar
 Leah was ugly
 Joseph was abused
 Moses had a stuttering problem
 Gideon was afraid
 Sampson had long hair and was a womanizer
 Rahab was a prostitute
 Jeremiah and Timothy were too young
 David had an affair and was a murderer
 Elijah was suicidal
 Isaiah preached naked
 Jonah ran from God
 Naomi was a widow
 Job went bankrupt
 John the Baptist ate bugs
 Peter denied Christ
 The Disciples fell asleep while praying
 Martha worried about everything
 Mary Magdalene was....., well you know
 The Samaritan woman was divorced, more than once
 Zaccheus was too small

Paul was too religious
Timothy had an ulcer...AND
Lazarus was dead!

Coal Basket Bible...

The story is told of an old man who lived on a farm in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky with his young grandson. Each morning, Grandpa was up early sitting at the kitchen table reading from his old worn-out Bible. His grandson who wanted to be just like him tried to imitate him in any way he could.

One day the grandson asked, "Papa, I try to read the Bible just like you But I don't understand it, and what I do understand I forget as soon as I Close the book. What good does reading the Bible do?"

The Grandfather quietly turned from putting coal in the stove and said, "Take this coal basket down to the river and bring back a basket of water."

The boy did as he was told, even though all the water leaked out before he

Could get back to the house. The grandfather laughed and said, "You will have to move a little faster next time," and sent him back to the river with the basket to! Try again.

This time the boy ran faster, but again the basket was empty before he Returned home. Out of breath, he told his grandfather that it was "impossible to carry water in a basket," and he went to get a bucket Instead. The old man said, "I don't want a bucket of water; I want a Basket of water. You can do this. You're just not trying hard enough,"

And he went out the door to watch the boy try again.

At this point, the boy knew it was impossible, but he wanted to show his grandfather that even if he ran as fast as he could, the water would leak

Out before he got far at all. The boy scooped the water and ran hard, but

When he reached his grandfather the basket was again empty. Out of breath,

He said, "See Papa, it's useless!"

"So you think it is useless?" The old man said, "Look at the basket." The

Boy looked at the basket and for the first time he realized that the basket

Looked different. Instead of a dirty old coal basket, it was clean. "Son, that's what happens when you read the Bible. You might not understand

Or remember everything, but when you read it, it will change you from the Inside out." That is the work of God in our lives. To change us from the inside out and to slowly transform us into the image of His son. Take time to read a portion of God's word each day, and remind a friend by sharing This story

"Live Simply, Love Generously, Care Deeply, Speak Kindly, Leave The Rest To God."

"Friends are angels who lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble Remembering how to fly."

"LUKE 1 V 37: "For nothing is impossible with GOD"

5. WRITING COURTEOUS EMAILS

Like any communication system, there are basic rules to consider when writing emails.

These days email has become the communication of choice, allowing near-instantaneous communication between people in a society that is fast losing the ability to communicate on a personal level.

Not that long ago, communication was about etiquette, good manners and ceremony while these days there seems to be none of these things. We have all heard the modern stories; people admitting to an affair or being made redundant via email. This was unthinkable a few generations ago. Email is a passive-aggressive medium - you can say what you like without fear of the other person hitting you, or yelling and screaming at you.

Like any communication system, there are basic rules to consider, and, because no-one is really taught how to email, people just copy what their friends or colleagues do. There are dos and don'ts, just like the old school days of learning the correct way to address letters and memos (though back then no-one seemed to know whether to put the address on the left, the middle, or on the right).

In cyberspace, this is called "netiquette", and is vitally important if you want others to think of you as computer literate.

So, for the sake of humankind here is my email guide:

Keep emails brief

As a rule, be brief unless you intend to bore the recipient to tears. Most people use email as a quick means of communication and don't expect to find a message that takes 10 minutes to read. Keep in mind, in cyberspace, people's attention spans are shorter than, um, what was I saying?

Avoid bling

Silly picture backgrounds and smiley faces are out. The last thing people think when they get an email with a sunset background and emoticons blinking all over the place is: "Wow, this person really has their emailing skills together". Most of us think: "How embarrassing".

Not only does unnecessary bling detract from your message, it makes some people physically ill with all that movement.

Clean fonts, please

Avoid coloured text and please, please, please don't use comic sans as your font. This makes people think you just graduated a badly taught community computing class. Users generally don't like reading messages in large, coloured, non-standard fonts. Keep it simple; use standard fonts and colours. [PG - even worse if it's A "handwritten" type!]

Use plain text

If you have the option to send email in plain text, you should do it - not only is it far more readable, there is less chance of a virus or script hiding in there. Your friends (if you still have any) will respect you for it.

Be discreet

If sending emails to multiple recipients, try to use the group (or list) feature, or BCC (blind carbon copy). This prevents recipients getting messages with a zillion addresses listed at the top. Email lists are great because you can have hundreds of addresses in a list, yet send the mail to just one master address - check your help files on how to do this. The BCC feature sends emails to addresses you put in the To field, but prevents each recipient from seeing who else the message went to. Either of these methods works well, though lists are better for larger groups. One advantage of keeping recipients anonymous is obvious - some businesses are always looking for potential clients, and what better (but sad) way to find them than swiping someone else's email database.

No funnies

Forwarding pictures of monkeys doing stupid things might have been funny in 1995. But here's the thing, we've seen them. Sending them around for a zillionth time doesn't make them any funnier.

No heartbreaks

Don't forward those purposely heart-breaking stories of dying kids who can be saved if you forward the message to all your friends because Microsoft will pay a dollar for every email sent. Newsflash - Microsoft, or anyone for that matter, aren't monitoring your emails and, even if they did, they wouldn't be paying money every time you send one.

Do your homework

If you get an email warning you that a new virus is going around, and CNN and Norton say it is the worst one ever - you are part of the problem if you forward it to your friends. Do your homework first; you'll find these messages (like those above) are a hoax.

Clean before forwarding

If you are forwarding a message, clean the text before your message - include only what is necessary to keep the thread going. Sending a message with twenty other messages tagged onto it is seen as lame.

It's common sense, really. If you think something should be on this list, send me an email.

Dave Thompson

E-Mail: <dave@pcanytime.co.nz>

6. Dangling Participles

One of the most humorous and most commonly made grammatical blunders is the plague of "Dangling Participles"... a phrase that really belongs in the middle of a sentence somewhere instead of at the end. Recently, someone sent me this short list. I thought you might enjoy it.

The burglar was about 30 years old, white, 5' 10", with wavy hair weighing about 150 pounds. (That is really a lot of hair!)

The family lawyer will read the will tomorrow at the residence of Mr. Hannon, who died June 19 to accommodate his relatives. (What a terrible reason to die!)

Mrs. Shirley Baxter, who went deer hunting with her husband, is very proud that she was able to shoot a fine buck as well as her husband.

Organ donations from the living reached a record high last year, outnumbering donors who are dead for the first time.

The dog was hungry and made the mistake of nipping a 2-year-old that was trying to force feed it in his ear. (Some parent needs to train that baby!)

We spent most of our time sitting on the back porch watching the cows playing Scrabble and reading. (All my years on the farm, I never saw that!)

Hunting can also be dangerous, as in the case of pygmies hunting elephants armed only with spears. (Oh my, those poor elephants! Give 'em some guns!)

A.A.A.D.D

Recently, I was diagnosed with A.A.A.D.D - Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder.

This is how it manifests:

I decide to water my garden.

As I turn on the hose in the driveway, I look over at my car and decide it needs washing.

As I start toward the garage, I notice mail on the porch table that I brought up from the mail box earlier.

I decide to go through the mail before I wash the car.

I lay my car keys on the table, put the junk mail in the garbage can under the table, and notice that the can is full.

So, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the garbage first.

But then I think, since I'm going to be near the mailbox when I take out the garbage anyway, I may as well pay the bills first.

I take my check book off the table, and see that there is only one check left.

My extra checks are in my desk in the study, so I go inside the house to my desk where I find the can of Coke I'd been drinking.

I'm going to look for my checks, but first I need to push the Coke aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over.

The Coke is getting warm, and I decide to put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold.

As I head toward the kitchen with the Coke, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye--they need water.

I put the Coke on the counter and discover my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning.

I decide I better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers.

I set the glasses back down on the counter, fill a container with water and suddenly spot the TV remote.

Someone left it on the kitchen table.

I realize that tonight when we go to watch TV, I'll be looking for the remote, but I won't remember that it's on the kitchen table, so I decide to put it back in the den where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers.

I pour some water in the flowers, but quite a bit of it spills on the floor.

So, I set the remote back on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill.

Then, I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do.

At the end of the day: the car isn't washed, the bills aren't paid, there is a warm can of Coke sitting on the counter, the flowers don't have enough water, there is still only 1 check in my check book, I can't find the remote, I can't find my glasses, and I don't remember what I did with the car keys.

Then, when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all day, and I'm really tired.

I realize this is a serious problem, and I'll try to get some help for it, but first I'll check my e-mail.

Do me a favor.

Forward this message to everyone you know, because I don't remember who I've sent it to.

Don't laugh -- if this isn't you yet, your day is coming!

7. If you already receive too many e-mails, and would like to stop receiving this "BEG+OE-NETWORK", PLEASE send us a note asking to be removed from the mailing list.

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