

The Center for Medical Missions'

e-Pistle

May 2007

Welcome to this month's e-Pistle! I trust things are going well with you and your ministry. We are busy in Bristol, TN. Everyone is gearing up for this year's CMDA National Convention which will be held in Orlando, FL on June 20 – 24. I'll be attending to promote the ministry of our Center for Medical Missions.

I have good news regarding Dr. Barabas. He has just returned after serving three months in a very difficult place. He had anticipated that he would have access to email but found he did not. Thus there was no way to get his articles to me. I'm very happy to report though, that his work in that place was a tremendous blessing. Dr. Barabas stated that it was some of the best work he's had the opportunity to be a part of in his entire career. Thanks so much for praying for him. He will be spending the summer months in the States, so he will not be continuing his series for a while.

This month Dr. Stevens shares principles for presenting a heart-changing message. I've included the first half of his article in this issue.

Once again we have some thought provoking quotes shared by Rev. Stan Key. I hope you will take a few moments to ponder them and let the Spirit speak to you.

In this month's e-Pistle I've also included news of a recent meeting in Washington, D.C. attended by faith-based organization representatives and the new Executive Director of The Global Fund. Be sure to read through the report to find information on a newly written Primer for working with The Global Fund. The primer can be downloaded.

In case you have not heard of the practical 2-week missionary medicine course offered by Healthserve in the UK, I've included the announcement. I hope at least a couple of people reading this will be able to participate. I know it is rather late notice, but this is an annual conference so you might want to plan to participate next year.

Finally, I close this month's e-Pistle with news of a new solar flashlight that is supposed to be quite good and reasonably priced. It can also be a way to minister and raise funds for your organization. Be sure to check out the article.

Susan Carter

Presenting a Heart-Changing Message Section XVI: Mission Responsibilities
By David Stevens, MD

Some people are natural gifted speakers, but most are not, and you may include yourself among those. But you can learn to communicate effectively. It is worth the effort because as a missionary you need to communicate well with those you lead and of course when you are on home assignment you will need to speak frequently. If you are already serving, you've already learned this the hard way!

Like becoming a great golfer, the best way to learn to speak well is to practice, but first you need to learn the fundamentals. Let's start there by answering a few questions that will help you present a heart-changing message on home assignment.

What is your purpose?

There are five things you want to accomplish when speaking on missions. Let's start with the least important. First, you want to inform the audience by telling them what you are doing or will do. Unfortunately, many missionaries get stuck here and their talk is a boring travelogue or laundry list of daily activities. Though you must inform, more importantly you must make it interesting. I will give you some tips on that later.

Secondly, if you are returning and speaking to supporters of your ministry, you want to report back to them on how their prayers and financial support has made a difference. The key is not just to report activities but to tell how their investment has saved souls and changed lives. You want to let them know they have changed lives for now and for eternity.

You also have the purpose of building relationships. You want those you speak to feeling like they know you and you want them to like you. One of your primary jobs on home assignments is to build friendships. You want individuals to identify with you and stand in your shoes for a while, as if they were walking with you as a missionary.

I remember my first deputation message. The first third of the message was letting people get to know our family by sharing our spiritual journey to serving overseas. I knew people were asking in their minds, "Why would you decide to do this?" It was a great opportunity for them to get to know us, learn about our family background, our call, preparation, struggles, and our mission experience.

When it came to telling them about our ministry, I tried to have them walk in my shoes. I asked them to imagine that we just landed a 747 in the church parking lot so all of us could get on board and travel to Tenwek. I would then have them walk through the gates of the hospital with me and take them on rounds on the ward and introduce them to typical or memorable patients. I wanted them to feel like they had taken a trip to Kenya and that we had experienced something together. So thirdly, shared experiences build relationships. I wanted each individual in the congregation to live our lives and ministry with us so they would want us to be their missionaries.

The fourth purpose is even more important. You want to inspire your listeners. You want to create a passion in them to reach the world for Christ. To do that, they need to understand the need and be moved to do something about it. You want them to internalize the challenges you

face and see them as something they need to do something about through prayer, financial support, or coming alongside and working with you. Often quotations or slogans can be helpful in doing this from those who have encapsulated an inspirational thought better than you can.

“If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.” -- C.T. Studd

“God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supplies.” -- J. Hudson Taylor

“I have found that there are three stages in every great work of God; first, it is impossible, then it is difficult, then it is done.” -- J. Hudson Taylor

The fifth purpose is to challenge them. By challenge them, I mean bring them to an action point of actually doing something about the issues you have raised. Sympathy without action doesn't change a thing. The challenge is often at the end of your message as you use a story or illustration to challenge them to do something.

Once you understand your purpose you need to ask the question, “Who is your audience?” One size message doesn't fit all. Your content, length, points, and challenge will be different for children, teenagers, adults, or senior citizens. Your message will change if you are talking to a medical audience versus a non-medical one. Your illustrations will be different (you may not want to show the slide of the leech on the eyeball to everyone!) if you are speaking to an elderly Sunday school class (one of my first supporting groups was the “Golden Agers” SS class) than to a youth group. Tailoring your message to the right audience is key. When possible, ask whoever invites you to speak about your audience. If you are speaking to a whole church body at a main service, check out their website to learn more about them and what their mission “IQ” is. I remember speaking in a church where I was the first missionary to stand in the pulpit in over 30 years where at another church they had multiple missionary speakers for over 20 years. Tailor your message to your audience so you can take them from where they are to where they need to be.

Your next job is to plan your message.

This could be writing it word for word, but most people sound more personal and unscripted with an outline. I start with an introduction using a quip, joke, or humorous story to build rapport with the audience. Make sure the humor is appropriate and transitions well into your message. I often then pause for prayer to set the tone for the message, but not always, depending on how I start the main body of the message.

Grab the audience's attention early. The best way is with a gripping story, quandary, or question. My first missionary message started out with the question, “What does it mean to deny yourself? Is it saying, ‘No!’ to a second piece of pie or does Christ mean something else when He said, ‘Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me?’” I then added, “I remember the first time He asked me if I was willing to deny myself,” and then launched into my testimony.

It is also important to theme your message. You probably still remember Tony Compolo's famous message, "It is Friday but Sunday's Coming." Why? Because it had a memorable theme. I heard a great missionary message with the provoking theme, "The Doctor Must Die," a couple of years ago that still sticks in my mind. I use a military analogy when I preach one particular message with the theme, "God's Special Forces."

Your theme and/or major points should have scriptural support. Your message can be built around one scripture or you can have a number sprinkled throughout around your key points. Most messages can be built around one to five key supporting points that establish your theme. For example in my "God's Special Forces" message, I talk about the five characteristics necessary to "go behind enemy lines" to carry the gospel – commitment, loyalty, training, compassion, and boldness.

It is illustrative to understand how Christ so effectively spoke His message. He stated a principle and then shared a story (parable) to drive His point home. People learn best through stories. That is why a good illustration is worth its weight in gold. When sharing a story, carry the people there by painting a picture with words. There is a difference in impact between saying, "I was trying to send a message on our satellite fax machine" and saying, "It was a sultry night with gunshots and grenade explosions punctuating the night sky of Mogadishu as I crouched to escape observation below the low parapet of our roof to send an important message on our satellite fax machine."

Hear the difference? One sentence transports you to the situation and the other does not.

Another way to make your point in is with an analogy – a comparison between two things that are similar in some respects that is used to help explain something to make it easier to understand. I use an analogy of how God can make and mold us into what is useful for His service by describing how unattractive crude oil is, but once it is purified and molded it can make an artificial lens used to replace the one removed in a cataract operation. We like the oil have to be purified under pressure and molded into something useful by Christ.

To be continued...

Cura Animarum

By Rev. Stan Key

There is a rumor going around that you do not have to be totally surrendered to be a follower of Jesus Christ. Many seem to think that if one is just a "believer," "partly dedicated," maybe even "mostly committed" ...well... Isn't that enough?

Listen to the voices of some of those who have spoken most clearly to this issue:

- I will tell you the secret. God has had all there was of me to have... all the adoration of my heart, all the power of my will, and all the influence of my life.” (General William Booth, The Salvation Army)
- If Jesus Christ be God and died for me then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.” (C. T. Studd, Worldwide Evangelization Crusade)
- He is no fool to give what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose. (Jim Elliot, missionary martyr)
- When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die. (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)
- My heaven is to please God and glorify Him, and to give all to Him, and to be wholly devoted to Him today; that is the heaven I long for; that is my religion, and that is my happiness... (David Brainerd, missionary pioneer)
- My son, you cannot possess perfect liberty unless you wholly renounce yourself... Let go all and you shall find all. (Thomas A. Kempis)
- There was a day when I died, utterly died, died to George Muller – his opinions, preferences, tastes and will; died to the world. (George Muller)
- In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple. (Jesus - Luke 14:33)

As we worship, let us not neglect to offer to God what He wants more than anything else – our very selves.

Faith Based Organizations & The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

On May 9th a meeting was held in Washington, D.C. to introduce the new Executive Director of The Global Fund to leaders of Faith Based Organizations. One of the goals of this meeting was to share with the new Executive Director some of the issues faith based organizations have to deal with when trying to access Global Fund monies. Presenters of the issues included Ray Martin, Executive Director of Christian Connections for International Health; Karen Sichinga, Deputy Director, Churches Health Associations of Zambia; and Milton B. Amayun, Senior Technical Advisor World Vision – Hope Initiative.

Our CMDA Vice President for Government Relations, Jonathan Imbody was able to attend this meeting and he has shared some of the documents he collected. A few of the suggestions presented at the meeting include: 1) The Global Fund needs to specifically track FBO funding in their various country programs to ensure there is intentional inclusion because of the significant role FBOs play in service delivery in developing countries. 2) Health networks, e.g. Christian

Health Associations, can be well organized and strong partners of Ministries of Health. Their capacity to manage large grants and programs will be developed if they are given the opportunity. 3) The church's strength is nurturing and expanding local response. Local empowerment drives expansion. There is need to emphasize the strengths of local response and learning without neutralizing the faith-based identity. Churches can do it without funds, but they could do it better with funds. 4) Global Fund leaders need to move beyond thinking about FBOs in terms of scattered, uncoordinated service providers and realize that they could tap into whole networks by working through national faith-based networks. The strengths of this are increased speed of the disbursement of funds and the capacity building of national groups. 5) Many AIDS activists who have succeeded in obtaining positions in The Global Fund, in the Technical Review Panels and on CCMs, exhibit an inherent animosity toward the faith community. This needs to be accurately assessed and corrected.

There is good news for organizations wanting to access the Global Fund. Friends of the Global Fight, World Vision and Christian Connections for International Health have collaborated and produced a Primer for Faith-Based Organizations: Engaging with The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

The primer was designed to serve as a preliminary guide for FBOs to learn about the Global Fund's history, structure and policies. It also aims to increase both the level of understanding and participation among FBOs in The Global Fund grant process. The primer is composed of three chapters.

Chapter 1. Provides a general overview of the Global Fund including its history, founding principles and operating structures.

Chapter 2. Suggests different ways to engage with the Global Fund including engaging with members of the Global Fund Board or serving as a member of the Country Coordinating Mechanism or as Principal or Sub-recipient.

Chapter 3. Focuses on the program design and proposal process as well as offers key recommendations to support a successful proposal. Also highlighted are the importance of carefully assessing whether or not to apply, organizational capacity, and the pros and cons of pre- versus post-proposal submission.

You can access the primer at <http://www.theglobalfight.org/FBO.htm>. (Scroll to the bottom to download.)

Announcement

Developing Health for the Developing World Course

Location – OakHill College, Southgate, North London

Date – 1st July – 13th July

Time – To be confirmed

Event run by – CMF Healthserve

This two-week course is designed to impart appropriate knowledge and skills to healthcare professionals working in resource poor countries or intending to do so. I'm told this is a very practical course with helpful hints of what to do when common resources are not available.

For further information about the course and the course program for 2007 visit www.healthserve.org/developing_health/.

Do you have new colleagues coming to the field soon? This would be a good course to recommend to them! Another way to use the course is as a reward or encouragement for a national colleague. The course is held annually so put it in your mind for next year if you don't have time to organize for this year.

Opportunity – Solar Flashlight

Two billion people worldwide are without access to affordable, safe light. Helping them access a light source positively impacts education, health, security, and the quality of life. We have recently learned of a program that has been established to make solar flashlights available to many who have no access to light.

The solar flashlight is built to last. The solar panel lasts 20 years. It charges in 8 hours and provides 4 – 5 hours of illumination. It has 6 super bright LED bulbs. The body measure 8 ½ inches by 2 ½ inches. The head is a little bigger.

BoGo is Buy One Give One. Someone in the developed world can buy a light for \$25 through the website. At this price, he/she will receive the solar flashlight and the company will send a separate but identical second light, at no additional cost, to a charity of the purchaser's choice that operates in the developing world. In addition, the company will donate \$1 to the charity. So in reality, the \$25 covers the cost of two solar flashlights, plus the cost of shipping the light to a group in the developing world that can distribute it to people who could not otherwise afford light at night. See www.bogolight.com.

Your mission sending agency may choose to be one of the charities that helps distribute these lights. As a BoGo partner, your agency can put the BoGoLight logo and story on its website to inform its constituents. When someone clicks on the logo and buys a light or selects your organization on the shopping cart page, your organization will receive the donated light and a \$1 rebate of the purchase price. This can be an excellent fundraiser and a way to get lights to the developing world. To check out the BoGo Partner Program go to www.bogolight.com/bogoPartner.php.

I'll tell you more next month after I've purchased a light. I know that one mission agency is already a BoGo partner, so I'll donate to that one.

Until next month.....Susan

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