

The Center for Medical Missions'

e-Pistle

November 2010

We have just taken time to reflect on our many blessings. I'm hoping you had a special time of counting your blessings as well.

Among the many things I am thankful for this Thanksgiving time is the opportunity to serve you. One of the ways I do that is recruiting during the annual Global Mission Health Conference in Louisville. We had a wonderful time this year and were kept busier than ever. My overall impression was that they are much closer to getting to the field than those I have talked to in previous years. We will continue to do our best to help prepare them for successful service and trust they will be a blessing to many.

I hope the following are helpful to you.

[A Good Leader is Like ...](#) by David Stevens, MD

[Cura Animarum](#) by Rev. Stan Key

[Invitation to help care for those suffering from cholera in Haiti](#)

[Resource](#) International Aid

[Anger](#) by Dr. Ron Koteskey

A Good Leader is Like...

by David Stevens, MD, MA (Ethics)

My baby is about to be delivered!

No, we are not having a child in our fifties. (Now, that would be a surprise!!)

I'm talking about my new book *Leadership Proverbs* that is scheduled to be available for sale in the next month. I have already held the prototype in my hands; a rich saddle brown leatherette cover with the title embossed that comes in a beautiful gift box. If you want to get it as a gift, the cover can be embossed with a name and it even has a bookmark ribbon for marking your place.

It has over 900 leadership proverbs packed with wisdom and wit in small memorable bites perfect for remembering or sharing.

There is a website to go with the book that has downloadable "10 Minutes for Leadership" one-page downloads. Each has a proverb and a short insight on applying it. There are three questions

for discussion that will cause everyone to think more deeply about the principle. Each sheet is designed to be copied and given to your team or small group. Little bits of education given during your routine meetings will quickly add up to great leadership mentoring.

The book has lots of “extras” in its appendices. I really enjoyed writing “Appendix D” which is entitled “A Good Leader is Like...” Thought you might find some new insights and some humor in this section so this month I’ve included a few of the sixty or so I wrote. Hope they help you to be a better leader!

A good leader is like a great orchestra conductor. He can draw a virtuoso performance out of every player and still maintain harmony.

A good leader is like a policeman. They regularly patrol the premises to make sure people are obeying the rules.

A good leader is like a window washer. They are not afraid of being in a high position and know their job is to help everyone see the situation better.

A good leader is like a surgeon. He knows sometimes you have to sacrifice a part to insure the health of the whole.

A good leader is like an umpire. Everyone needs to know if they give him too much grief, he will throw them out of the game.

A good leader is like a traffic engineer. They how know to keep things orderly; the signs they issue must be clear and easily read.

A good leader is like a submarine commander. There are times when the wisest course is to operate below the surface till the opportune time.

A good leader is like a quarterback. He knows that if he doesn’t hand off or pass well, others can’t contribute their talents to the game.

A good leader is like a garbage man. They are willing to step up and take care of the stinky stuff no one else wants to handle.

A good leader is like a dogcatcher. If anyone strays, he applies a leash.

The good leader is like cowboy. He knows how to keep the herd together and heading in the same direction.

A good leader is like a golf-pro. They know the key to winning the game is to avoid the hazards.

A good leader is like a great chef. Half of the mastery of their art is what they cook up, and the other half is how well it is presented.

A good leader is like a tennis-pro. If they serve well, they will win the game every time.

A good leader is like an electrician. They know they may design and install a great system but unless they are connected to the Power Source nothing really happens.

A good leader is like a marathon runner. They know how to pace themselves so they can still sprint when necessary.

A good leader is like a stiff breeze. They exert enough force to move the boat at a good clip while avoiding tearing the sails.

A good leader is like a bellhop. They help their team carry the heavy stuff, overcome difficulties in finding what they need, and guard the door to prevent disruptions.

A good leader is like a lifeguard. He knows that the best way to prevent someone going down and perhaps even dragging him under is to educate everyone to swim well on their own.

A good leader is like horse whisperer. The most effective correction occurs quietly and away from the herd.

A good leader is like an acrobat. Flexibility, balance, and lots of experience are their keys to a gold medal performance.

A good leader is like a governess. They know how to instruct the mind, polish the unrefined and when needed, spank the behind.

A good leader is like a midwife. The most important thing is, “Can they deliver?”

Want more? Well you can preorder one or more copies of Leadership Proverbs by going to www.cmda.org/proverbs. The beautiful first edition boxed book is only \$16.99. For those that preorder, CMDA will provide free embossing to personalize a copy for you or for a gift.

[Back to menu](#)

Cura Animarum

by Rev. Stan Key

WHERE THE BATTLE IS WON... OR LOST

You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you. (Psalm 82:6)

Deep within every human soul resides a kingdom where self is sovereign. In this little fiefdom of autonomy the unholy trinity of me, myself and I reigns supreme. Here, I sit on the throne of my life enacting decrees, making judgments, forming decisions and controlling my destiny. Outside, I must adjust and even submit to the reality of others and their little kingdoms. But here, within my inner citadel, I'm in control. Not even God will violate the borders of my kingdom within.

Biblical psychology calls this inner kingdom “the will.” In no other aspect of our being are we more like God than in this capacity to exercise sovereign control. Indeed, as far as this kingdom within is concerned, we are “gods” (Psalm 82:6). The Bible has much to say about the will.

1. **The will is the only thing I really possess.** One day all my earthly belongings will disappear: wealth, talents, health, possessions, etc. Ultimately, the only thing I truly possess is my will.
2. **The will is the only thing God really wants.** The Gospel makes it clear that what God really wants is not my money, time, or talents. He wants me! He wants my will. This means abdicating the control center of my life so that he can reign uncontested as sovereign Lord. The only thing I really possess is the only thing God really wants.
3. **The will is twisted.** But here’s the rub. The moment I begin to discover Christ’s intention to rule in my heart, I discover that his will and my will are in conflict. What he wants, I oppose. And what he detests is the very thing I want. The thought of abdicating control strikes terror in my heart. I don’t want what he wants! (Genesis 6:5).
4. **The will must be conquered.** Like a wild horse, an untamed soul must be broken. The will must be conquered. Until this happens, I will be like a wild stallion, impressive to watch from a distance perhaps, but useless for God’s purposes.
5. **Victory through surrender.** In this battle, victory comes through surrender, not when I get my way but when he gets his! I win when I loose. But surrender is harder than it looks. *I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out (Romans 7:18)*. No one abdicates control without divine help. The Good News is that grace can do what I can’t. He enables me *to will and to do* what I know I should (Philippians 2:13). But I have to ask for his help. I have to be willing to be made willing!

Friend, who sits on the throne of your life? Ultimately, there are two options and only two: my will be done.... thy will be done. Neutrality is impossible. Not to decide is to decide. What will you choose?

[Back to menu](#)

Opportunity to Serve the People of Haiti

If you are on furlough or could otherwise be available, there is a desperate need for doctors and nurses to serve the people suffering from cholera in Haiti.

Christian doctors and nurses are urgently needed to help Samaritan’s Purse respond to the deadly cholera outbreak in Haiti. More than 1,000 people have already died and nearly 17,000 have been hospitalized. The worst is yet to come as UN officials fear that as many as 200,000 people may be affected.

Samaritan’s Purse personnel have mounted an emergency medical response, treating patients in three Cholera Treatment Centers. Medical teams have been working around the clock to save lives since the outbreak began in late October.

Doctors and nurses are desperately needed to serve on short-term assignments of one to two weeks, beginning immediately, through the end of the year.

If you are available to serve in this emergency, please contact Morgann Greene using one of the options below, or complete an application online at www.samaritanspurse.org.

Morgann C. Greene, Medical Response Volunteer Coordinator
World Medical Mission, Samaritan's Purse
PO Box 3000, Boone, NC 28607
828-278-1087
Email: haitimedical@samaritan.org or mgreene@samaritan.org

Resource

International Aid: We've recently learned that International Aid is once again providing resources for ministries around the globe. Their website lists their mission as: multiplying donation, medical equipment, lab-in-a-suitcase, health products, disaster relief and Haiti relief efforts.

You will learn about these resources on their website: www.internationalaid.org. Their contact information is: 17011 Hickory St., Spring Lake, Michigan 49456-9712, USA Phone: (616) 846.7490, Fax: (616) 846.3842, Toll-Free: (800) 968.7490

Anger

By Dr. Ron Koteskey

When Jonah is mentioned, we usually think of his disobedience. In reality Jonah was a cross-cultural missionary whose ministry was incredibly successful. After some hesitation, he went into the large, important city where God had called him and preached the message God had given him. The people, including the king, responded by fasting, praying, and giving up their evil ways. However, instead of returning to his passport country with exciting reports of the salvation of 120,000 people, he sat down to pout.

Jonah's attitudes did not match his successful ministry. He became angry, and his anger generalized to many different categories of people and things.

- He was angry with the people group to whom God had called him to minister. It was an evil city, one which a fellow prophet had pointed out was filled with liars, killers, and thieves (Nahum 3:1). Jonah's anger had turned to hatred, and though he preached to them, he really wanted them destroyed because they had been so cruel to his people.
- He was angry with God. He said to God, "I knew it! That is why I didn't want to come in the first place. I knew that you were a loving, compassionate God who would forgive

them!” God did not destroy the people as he had hoped; Jonah asked God to take his life; and then he went outside to city and sat down to see what would happen (4:1-5).

- He was angry with the vine when it withered and no longer gave him shade (4:6-9). If living today, he would be angry with the electricity when it went off, with the computer when it crashed, and with the car when it quit.

Like many people you know, perhaps including yourself, Jonah had a problem with anger. Let us consider whether or not anger is sinful, why we get angry, what we can do with the anger, and whether or not we can change people who make us angry.

Is anger sinful?

Some Christians maintain that if we are truly spiritual, we will never become angry, or never express it if we do. However, the Bible approves of anger in some instances, but with warnings about it. We must never forget that “anger” is only one letter away from “danger.” Even as Jonah was praying to God and mentioning his grace and compassion, he pointed out that God was slow to anger (4:2).

- Jesus was angry on occasion, but also warned about it. When people were watching him to see if they could accuse him of healing on the Sabbath, he “looked around at them in anger,” was distressed about their attitude, and went ahead and healed the man (Mark 3; 1-6). However, he also said that people angry at someone (perhaps without cause) were subject to judgment (Matthew 5:22).
- Both Old and New Testaments tell us, “In your anger, do not sin.” (Psalm 4:4; Ephesians 4:26). Paul tells the Ephesians to get over their anger soon, and continues on telling them to “get rid of all bitterness, rage, and anger” (4:31).
- Both Old and New Testaments point out the importance of being “slow to anger.” As noted above, Jonah said that God was slow to anger. James notes that we should be “quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry” if we want righteousness (James 1:19).

Anger is one of those things that may be sinful at some times and not at others, so we must be very careful of the danger of falling into sin when we become angry.

What do we do with anger?

Cultures vary widely in their prescriptions for how to handle anger, and those prescriptions change with time and place.

- Suppression. From the time of Plato through the Puritans to the present, some people in western culture have said that you must suppress anger at all costs. You can control it; therefore you must control it. Living in silent submission changes nothing, and such people may progress to chronic bitterness—or occasionally even to a sudden outburst.
- Catharsis. Likewise, others have said that it is unhealthy for you to control your anger, so you should not be expected to control it. In fact, if you do control it, you may become physically ill or emotionally disturbed. If you just express your anger and get it out of

your system, you will feel relieved and all will be OK. Phineas (Joshua 22:13-20) is a good example of this approach. He was ready to go to war with the other tribes (reminiscent of his action in Numbers 25), and he launched into a “How could you, how could you” tirade. Unfortunately, research shows that expressing your anger may become a habit. Your relief is short-lived, and you become more likely to respond with rage in the future.

- Both. What is needed is neither complete suppression nor unbridled expression, but a controlled expression. Rather than the result being bitterness or rage, anger can result in appropriate confrontation. A good example of this is found in the answer to Phineas (Joshua 22:21-29) as shown in the next section.

What are some guidelines for expressing anger?

Phineas had unjustly accused the people of building another altar, displeasing God, and perhaps bringing destruction on everyone (Joshua 22). We do not know the name or names of the persons who answered him, but their principles can be expressed in a double acrostic of the English vowels AEIOU.

- A: Affirm the Almighty (v. 22). They began by declaring their allegiance to God. This means that the goal of pleasing God is one that both groups have in common.
- E: Explain your Excogitating (a big word for thinking that starts with an “E”) (vs. 23-29). They elaborate on their thinking to explain their motivations and intentions. They seem to overdo it and go through the explanation too many times, but often that is necessary if the other party is also upset.
- I: “I” messages (not “you” messages) on the Issue (vs. 23-29). Their presentation is done in the first person with “we,” “us,” and “our” (plural of “I”) occurring 21 times. They talked about their thoughts, feelings, and behaviors, rather than pointing their fingers and saying, “You....” They also stuck to the issue of the memorial, rather than accusing Phineas and his group of offending God themselves by what they were doing.
- O: Open to being the Offender (v. 23). They also remained open to the possibility that they had done something wrong, “If we have....” Remember, you may be the one in the wrong, and you may be the one who has to repent.
- U: Unity before Unanimity (v. 30-31). They were not trying to persuade Phineas and his group that their position was right, but really to get back into fellowship with them. It worked. Everyone was pleased, placated, and praised God.

We do not know if Jonah ever resolved his anger, but we do know that we do not have to leave our anger unresolved and become bitter as he did.

For a more complete treatment of this topic as well as other topics please visit www.missionarycare.com. Also please let your non-medical colleagues know about these free resources.

[Back to menu](#)

Center for Medical Missions

PO Box 7500
Bristol, TN 37621
423-844-1000

www.cmda.org/cmm

To unsubscribe, send an e-mail to susan.carter@cmda.org. Thank you.