

## Chapter I

# A Time of Sharing

standing before the Church (King)...what will you say?

### 1. World View of Missions:

#### **Prior to your call:**

Searching for the will of God for your life brings several things to mind. Do I really have a Biblical world view? Can I see this world as God sees it? **Joh 3:16** *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* Do I understand that he loves all! The good, bad, and ugly he loves. Do I really understand the brevity of this life? Each day as we read our Bible, we try to read it through the eyes of God. What is his message, what is it that he is trying to tell and show me today? His redemptive plan was for all mankind, but not all have heard. Not all have a preacher or Bible. He has commissioned his church to fulfill the task of taking this life-giving message to the ends of the world. He desires to save and fellowship with all who will come to him. Being part of the church, he ordained, is my responsibility to fulfill and follow his command.

### 2. Definition of Deputation:

A group of people appointed to undertake a mission or take part in a formal process on behalf of a larger group: a group of people who are sent to a place to represent other people. Deputation is an act of seeking financial and prayer support to represent the churches or individuals in fulfilling the commission that Jesus gave to his church.

Those that have been through a Bible College, Seminary, Bible Institute will be aware of the different means and methods of getting to the field. The most recognizable one is that of “deputation”. This word is known by most pastors in our circles and also is conveyed to their congregations of its definition and importance. There is no signed contract between the missionary and church but a willingness by faith and prayer to support a missionary prayerfully and financially to represent the church on the mission field. In some foreign countries this Biblical principal may be foreign or in its early stage of practice.

## **Examples:**

Mexico and their churches have a good grasp of deputation now, but it was not always that way. Mexican missionaries would go to churches in Mexico and have a good meeting and present their need. Churches would respond, the Mexican missionary would be very excited about the promise only to find out that they might give a few times but then the support would stop. This put a real hardship on the missionary. Many of them just quit. This problem still exists but it is getting much better.

When the missionary comes from the USA they are looked at as one who does not need their funds and has sufficient financial resources to live in their country. Not only is the missionary to win souls and baptize new believers but he is to teach them the Word of God. Tithing...giving... in a poor country this can be a challenge, BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE!

## **3. Pre-Deputation:**

### **Up to the point of starting deputation:**

You experience a great feeling of relief, joy and excitement just knowing the will of God for your life. You look at others that are still struggling to find God's direction and think to yourself, I know how they are feeling, but now I know his will and I have such peace. Giving testimony in your church of your calling and receiving all of the applauses from pastors, friends, leaders and church members is a wonderful short-lived experience. Now it is time to hit the road. You have overwhelming excitement and desire to get to the field, this leads you to believe that everyone feels just like you.

### **The journey of deputation begins:**

What does deputation mean to you?

### **How will you as a missionary define this word deputation?**

Will it be a wonderful journey of learning and growing your faith and knowledge in preparation for the tasks and challenges that awaits you. Or will you succumb to the temptation to dwell upon the negative from what you have seen and heard. This journey that you will embark on is paramount to the success that you desire to have on the mission field. You will cross paths with all kinds of people, the good, bad, and ugly.

## **Your Wife:**

My wife said to me, “I will follow you wherever you lead us, but remember that if you lead us wrong we will all suffer the consequence.” You are accountable to God...your wife, family and church... What happens if your wife says I don't want to be a missionary any longer and leaves you? Your ministry is over.

## **Your Family:**

Your wife and family will be the first ones to attend your new church plant. They can be a help or hinder. If there is one thing that affects a missionary's ministry, it is his attitude, and that of his wife, and children. Our attitude reveals more about what we are than we realize. Pride, self pity, anger, hidden sins, jealousies, laziness, unforgiveness, doubt, fear.

Our Attitude is always under inspection by those around us. It is what people see even when we are not speaking. It is difficult to always have a good attitude, but it is possible when we are yielding to the Holy Spirit.

Our attitude reveals our reactions, whether verbalized or internalized, to adverse or uncomfortable situations.

**Php 4:11** *Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*

**Php 4:12** *I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.*

**Php 4:13** *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

## **Becoming a Leader:**

Are you only a follower? It is important to follow because if you never learn how to follow how can you teach others to follow you. **Mat 4:19** *And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*

**Family** (relatives) acceptance or discouragement:

## **Debt:**

Most cases of debt are because of poor management. Do you pay your bills and taxes? Do you tithe and give to missions? Credit cards. Loans. If this is a trouble area for you, you must take care of it before starting your deputation. Seek help from your pastor or close friends. There are several books that address this issue.

## **Your family's health situation:**

Is there a medical situation that cannot be addressed where you will be living?

## **How do you feel about those from other countries?**

You will be the one that is different when you arrive on the mission field. Your language, looks, food, friendships, get together, schooling will take a drastic change. For the average missionary because of the love that God has put in his heart, these changes are welcomed and anticipated. Be careful not to react when the foreigner speaks negative of your country. Nationalism in many countries is alive and well. They may speak bad of their country but be careful what you say. Remember I can hit, or talk bad about by brother, but you better not!

So if you have issues prior to deputation in this area, how will you deal with it when you get to the field.

## **Are you teachable?**

Can you listen to others with an open mind? Will you train with a veteran missionary? How much time will you spend with them? What do I do if we have differences? Make sure you plan ahead and know who you are training with.

## **Gratitude and Humility:**

No everyone will agree with you, can you accept constructive criticism? There will be times when you receive a great love offering and other times you will receive nothing. What will be your attitude? I cannot control how others treat me, but I can control how I respond to it. REMEMBER WHAT YOU ARE LEARNING NOW IS WHAT YOU WILL TEACH OTHERS ON THE MISSION FIELD!

## Laying the right foundation:

You're calling, as far as you know for now, is for life. Take the time to learn these important principals that will carry you throughout your life and ministry.

## God will supply:

**Php 4:19** *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.* Our reliance is in God, we can depend on him. God is not surprised by your need.

**Php 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.* Thomas Edison failed thousands of time trying to make the electric light bulb. Mr. Edison replied, "I have not failed. I have successfully eliminated ten thousand wrong ways to build an electric light bulb." Some pastors will turn you down but keep going.

## Discouragement:

If you are normal it will come. Prayer and trust in God and then seeing him open closed doors will build your faith to press forward. **2Co 9:8** *And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:* **Psa 56:4** *In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.* **Deu 1:21** *Behold, the LORD thy God hath set the land before thee: go up and possess it, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath said unto thee; fear not, neither be discouraged.* **1Pe 5:10** *But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.*

**Prayer: Psa 63:1** *A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah. O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;* Keep a close relationship with God. **2Th 1:11** *Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:* **Jer 33:3** *Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.*

**Work Hard: Col 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;* **Col 1:11** *Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;*

**Accountability:** You are your own boss.

### **Give your life to God:**

**Psa 34:18** *The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.* “I was once young and now I am old, but not once have I been witness to God’s failure to supply my need when first I had given for the furtherance of His work. He has never failed in His promise, so I cannot fail in my service to Him.” William Carey

### **Don’t loose your focus:**

**2Co 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.* Be careful here not to compare your love offering, frequency of meetings, and how you are treated by pastors, churches and other missionaries. One of the greatest joys of deputation is not in seeing that our support is raised, but that we have experienced God using us to raise up laborers for the harvest. David Livingston influenced Robert Moffat. Moffat said, “sometimes seen in the morning sun, the smoke of a thousand villages where no missionary had ever been.” William Carey was influenced by Jonathan Edwards. All great missionaries were influenced and challenged by others. How did you get to the place where you are today? Someone had an influence in your life.

### **Money:**

Be careful that your main subject is not money. **1Ti 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.* “Pray ye the Lord of the harvest” for money or laborers? **(Enlistment of Others)** It is about you, but not just about you. **Mat 9:38** *Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*

### **Servant:**

Don't be a phony servant but a real genuine one. Look for opportunities to serve the pastor and church. If you are not a good servant in your own home, you will not be a good servant outside of it.

### **Own up to your failures:**

Don’t make up excuses because you are failing. Look for the solution, take action and change. One might say, well the success of the other missionary is because

they are better looking, play instruments and can sing. Remember that you have a calling upon your life and that you are special to God, and he will supply! **Mark 12:30** *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.* Let others see the love of God in your life.

Zig Ziglar said, “if you aim at nothing, you are sure to hit it.”

#### 4. Deputation Trail:

Meeting the Church’s Needs:

What do you have that every church needs? They have a calling to go into all the world, they are going through you.

**Philippians 4:14** *Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.*

**15** *Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.*

**16** *For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.*

**17** *Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.*

**18** *But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.*

**19** *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

#### 5. Your call:

It could be just a general call. A simple surrender to the mission field wherever God wants you. This could be pre, during or post seminary.

**The Passion.** When you give a testimony about your call. Your call and passion, did you communicate it well, (did they understand it).

**The challenge:** Your call will be challenged. by Satan, sin, unbelief, laziness, others, trials, lack of results, family, sickness. Feelings of worry and doubt about your calling...How will I know. Fears of the unknown: You will become familiar with the word “how” and “inadequacy”. Could I or can I really do this? Am I worthy of this calling?

**The clarity:** Your call must be clear. If it is not clear to you, it will not be clear to others.

**The Authority:** Your call must agree with the Bible: In **Act 13:**

*1 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.*

*2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.*

*3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.*

The laying on of hands was a symbol of agreement the church had on the calling of God upon those that God was sending. God's Word is your authority. Pastors, missionaries, and church members will be witness of the fact of your calling and life and will manifest that by public acknowledgement. You have consulted with the appropriate people or those that you are accountable to, now you must determine the direction to take to financially and prayerfully sustain yourself on the mission field.

**The Longevity:** Your call is for how long? For Paul, it was a lifelong calling. Your location may change, from one city to another but you still have the same calling of God for full time missionary work. Don't go into this with doubts and set preconditions. The church and pastors will take notice of this and send their funds somewhere else. **1Co 7:20** *Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called.* Don't be looking for something else if this doesn't work out or if you get tired of it. **Php 3:14** *I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

**The Master:** Your call, is it from Gods or man? Authority of your call. Missionary conferences and speakers can inspire, instruct, encourage, and enlist followers to service. Nothing wrong with this, it is to be encouraged. It is your responsibility to make sure that God has called you not man.