

STRATEGIES FOR SERVING GOD

September 20th, 2015

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I (Ian H.) was raised on the mission field (Venezuela). Judy and I also served as missionaries ourselves.

I have never heard a better presentation of the tasks and challenges of a missionary than was presented this past Sunday.

Nate Ingvolstad's presentation should be a stimulus to each of us to pray seriously and with understanding. There are numerous applications to our own lives as well.

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: WHAT IS THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE OF A MISSIONARY?**

Do we just want to "get people saved"?

What does it mean to grow a mature and healthy church?

What harm might come from long-term dependency on outside help?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: WHAT ARE THE QUALITIES NEEDED TO BECOME A LEADER?**

Read Titus 1:5-9. Briefly discuss each of the qualities noted here.

How do these qualities differ from what God wants of YOU and ME?

How are these qualities developed in anyone?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: DEPTH OF KNOWLEDGE.**

Look at the commands in Matthew 28:16-20. Note the statement about the lack of confidence among the disciples!

Do you ever feel inadequate to the task of bringing others to Christ and discipling them?

If I am not formally trained in Bible Interpretation and Theology, how can I be useful to Jesus?

Am I willing to learn what resources are useful and to use them?

Do I actually know what to believe? Do I care?

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DISCUSSION POINT FOUR: PRAYER.

If I pray will God answer?

What should I pray for (in the context of serving God)?

As we also pray for the ministry in Barangonan Island, consider these items:

- Ingvoldstads and Binders have a responsibility before God as to the raising of their children. At what point would God want them to leave the island?
- Does the so-called "call" to the mission field (or to any ministry) mean that God only has one career in mind for your life?
- How would the Tagbanwan Church continue to grow without foreign help?
- Pray for the transitions that will be required.
- Refer to the "Lets Talk Strategy!" notes from Sunday in praying for this body of fellow believers and for the Ingvoldstads and the Binders.

◆ REFLECTION AND PERSONAL STUDY:

Are you really any different from Eddie or Grace (on the island)?

What does God want of you in serving Him?

What resources do you have available? (Consider written, internet, and people resources.)

Does God really want YOU to teach someone else about living with God?

Are you willing to prepare and learn?

Are you willing to be inconvenienced?