

“Equipping Equippers”

A Three-Pronged Strategy

One of the primary tasks of the pastor is to “equip the saints for the work of ministry” (Ephesians 4:12). But who will equip the pastors for this important task?

It is the burden of my heart to give a helping hand to younger ministers, especially those in the smaller villages and smaller churches on the mission field. It seems that most of the experienced American pastors who go abroad focus on the larger city churches — and they are often a blessing in those places. But the result is that the village pastors seldom get the benefit of such enriching ministry.

Many of these pastors have not had the privilege of a college education; few are even able to attend Bible institutes. They are hungry to learn more of the Word of God, and to learn the principles of Pastoral leadership.

The Lord is opening up doors of ministry in this electronic age that we never had before. He has laid a three-pronged strategy on my heart for this ministry of “equipping equippers.”

On my last visit to the Philippines, I was amazed at the extent to which computers had permeated this culture! I drove through remote villages where the luxury of indoor plumbing was virtually unknown, but there were signs advertising computers, training and internet service providers! Wherever phone lines have gone, internet service has followed.

Following one seminar last year, a pastor approached me and asked if I had email! Of course, I did, but I was surprised to find that he did also! Since my return, I have been in email contact with him, and several other pastors in that area.

Strategy one: Electronic Teaching.

Recently, I received a question from a ministerial student in Wales, based on a paper on my “Pathway Papers” web site. Because of this, I have electronically mentored him as he prepares for his Master of Arts Degree in Theology.

This opened my eyes to the opportunity of a regular “e-quippers” letter via electronic mail to pastors and Bible college students on a variety of subjects. I will also enlarge my Pathway Papers web site to include more material. I will be able to respond to questions via email as well.

Strategy two: Library Project.

As you know from our previous newsletters, this is something we are already doing. However, I intend to greatly increase our efforts in this area.

We will continue to ask you, our supporters, to contribute Bibles, books and periodicals for this project.

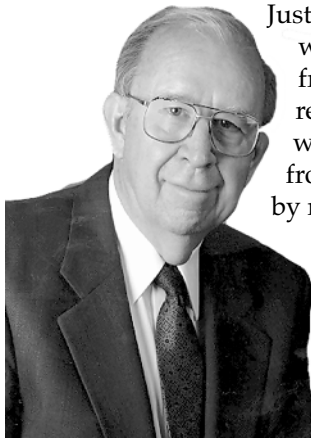
Now, in addition, we will be soliciting new materials from publishers and bookstores for our overseas libraries. We have obtained a tentative commitment from a publisher of Bible software on CD. Each CD will contain the equivalent of a library of over 400 works, including many Christian classics! We will also be researching other sources for free or reduced cost material of this sort.

Strategy three: Seminars

We will continue to conduct on-site seminars as funds allow for travel. Right now, I am

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I Was Just Thinking



Just the other night, I watched as people from some remote region in Africa were being rescued from flood waters by military helicopters.

It struck me as rather odd. These people lived in mud and stick huts in remote jungles. I

doubt that any of them had an automobile; perhaps few had even ridden in one. Now they jumped from an almost stone age existence to the 21st century.

I see much the same thing in other parts of the world. Cultures that only a few years ago (relatively speaking) communicated with drums are using cell phones! Some of them skipped the whole process of going from the old wall-mounted, hand-cranked phones to the wireless cell phone!

The changes that have taken place in the last 50 years are incredible! I am only (note *only*) 73 years of age. In my lifetime, air travel has gone from the 87 mph, low altitude flights in a rickety Ford Trimotor, to 600 plus mph at 37,000 feet! Believe it or not, I was grown and out of college before I ever saw a TV set. Now we have four of them in our house, and I have one on my desk at work (just in case we have one of those famous LA car chases).

Just the other day, I ordered some office supplies. As a premium, the company sent me a nice softsides briefcase with a plush notepad, a good ballpoint pen, and a free electronic calculator. I was showing it to Frank, and he commented, “That’s something when you compare that freebie to the first calculator you bought way back and paid almost \$100 for it. (I was always a nut for the latest gadget out).”

And here I sit, typing away on a keyboard attached to a laptop computer that I take wherever I go. My 4.3 gigabyte disk drive is only .5 in thick, 2.5 wide and 3 long! And my built-in color monitor reproduces pictures as clearly as the original!

The internet is a marvel. I frequently chat with Douglas Montague, Omega missionary in Penang, Malaysia and communicate with pastors and missionaries around the world. I received an email from China regarding an article on my web page.

While there are many who use the web for pornography, it can also link me to the greatest writings of all time. The amount of this material is growing every day.

Little wonder, then, that we are challenged by the Lord to harness this incredible power for the Kingdom. The column on the left tells a bit about our plans in that way. True, many others are doing the same, but the more good resources we place there, the more the Word can go out.

You can check us on the web at our present location:

<http://members.aol.com/pathpapers/Pathway-Papers.html>

We hope to get our own domain name, which will make us easier to find.

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planning a trip to the Philippines in July or August, and have several locations already lined up for seminars.


These seminars require a great deal of preparation and study, as we provide printed notes for each lecture

I take along my laptop computer and a small portable printer. Rather than carrying large stacks of paper, we print the notes out and have copies made as we need them.

These seminar notes will also be made into lessons which we can post on our web page, where pastors can download them.

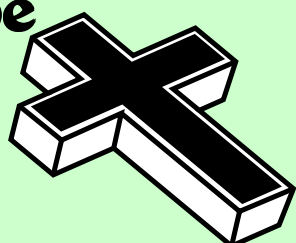
We hope to be able in the near future, to get our own “domain name” for our web site. That will be an added expense, but will greatly simplify this kind of ministry.

I will appreciate your prayers for this aspect of our ministry, and for the provision of the needed travel funds.Ω



Some complain because the
Roses have thorns.
Others give thanks because
The thorns have roses.

The



Cross

The young man was at the end of his rope. Seeing no way out, he dropped to his knees in prayer. “Lord, I can’t go on,” he said. “I have too heavy a cross to bear.”

The Lord replied, “My son, if you can’t bear its weight, just place your cross inside this room. Then, open that other door and pick out any cross you wish.”

The man was filled with relief. “Thank you, Lord,” he sighed, and he did as he was told.

Upon entering the other door, he saw many crosses, some so large the tops were not visible. Then, he spotted a tiny cross leaning against a far wall. “I’d like that one, Lord,” he whispered.

And the Lord replied, “My son, that is the cross you just brought in.”

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Sermons from a Schnauzer



I’ve just written a little book with that title about lessons I learned from our little mini-Schnauzer, Daisy. We had her for 13 years of sheer pleasure. Here is an excerpt from the book.

And, He walks with me ... Daisy

“For your love is ever before me, and I walk continually in your truth.”
Psalm 26:3

“And, He walks with me
and he talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own..”

If Daisy had a favorite song, that would be it. There’s nothing quite so wonderful as to walk with someone you love.

When she was younger and her hearing was good, one of our favorite little tricks was to see if I could sneak downstairs without her catching me (which was seldom done). I’d quietly get my jacket and cap, then ease over to the wicker basket where her sweater and toys and leash were. When I picked up the leash, it would give a slight jingle. The family would be watching her, and even if they couldn’t hear it, she did. Up came the head, the ears pricked, and she’d realize what had happened. She’d come down the stairs like a streak, tail wagging, ready to go.

If she, by chance, missed the jingle of the leash, I’d zip my jacket. The sound of the zipper was enough to bring her down. In later years, I’d have to call her. But even when she felt bad, she was ready to go for a walk.

How many pleasant miles we walked. She seldom needed the leash, for our desert allowed her to run footloose and fancy free. The desert was filled with delicious smells, and rabbits to chase. Every once in a while, she’d glance my way to make sure she could see me. Never once did she wander away and just try to leave.

Companionship. That’s what our walks were. I’m sure she never thought of the need for exercise. Although she took delight in the smells and the feel of running free, it was never something she wanted to do alone. Our yard was not fenced, so she could have run away. But she delighted in the companionship of those she loved, whichever of us took her for the walk.

There’s a gospel song that says “I just came to talk to you, Lord.” How seldom we seek out the presence of our Master for the sheer joy of companionship. We are “black holes” of need, swallowing up all that we can gather. Our prayers, beyond our perfunctory “thank you for the blessings” are shopping lists of wants and needs.

On the day of the Resurrection, two disciples were joined by the newly risen Lord as they journeyed to Emmaus. After the Lord had disclosed Himself to them in the breaking of bread, they commented, “did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us by the way.” (Luke 24:32)

We should each seek that blessed companionship which leaves us with a burning heart, a sense of warm satisfaction in His divine presence.

Maybe we ought to make that beautiful hymn our theme song as well:

I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses.
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.
And, He walks with me,
And He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own.
And the joy we share, as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

If you enjoy this, there are many more stories in the book. I’ll send you a copy for your offering of \$5.00 or more for our ministry. Just check the appropriate box on the reply card, and we’ll send it to you. Every pet-lover will relate to these stories, and enjoy them.