

Women's Retreat- Black Mountain, NC

Ministry on the Move - Mission Ministry Opportunities

In preparation for this session I thought about the topic I was given and what it meant. I was always taught by my Spiritual Dad whom I affectionately call my "ole man" that sometimes you have to dig deep and get under the gravy.

So let's get under the gravy. We all know what ministry means or should know but in looking up the word ministry two words kept showing up and they were WORK & SERVICE. One of the definitions for MOVE is the act of deciding to do something. The definitions that I feel are applicable for MISSION as it relates to this session are an operation that is assigned by a higher headquarters and a special assignment given to a person or group.

Now let's digress for a few...

"Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. (Genesis 12:1)

The Christian faith has always been a missionary faith.

In reality, all followers of Christ are missionaries of some sort. As someone once put it, you are a full-time minister disguised as a doctor, lawyer, stay-at-home mother, father, teacher, advocate or other. Even God himself is a missionary, coming to earth in human form to perform His most elaborate mission...that of redemption.

In the strictest sense of the word, the very first missionary mentioned in the Bible is Abram. God called him out of Ur which was the largest city of Shinar or Northern Chaldea and into a new place, forcing him to depend on God's provision. Abram's life is a model for our own story of learning to trust God. As his faith increased, God

entrusted resources to him NOT for his own good, but so that through him all nations would be blessed.

God's intentions have always been to bless a specific group of people or individuals in order that they may bless many more. Just as Abram (later named Abraham) was blessed to be a blessing, so are we given gifts and responsibilities in order that we may share them with others, including the saving knowledge of Christ. Ministry on the move is stepping out in faith and obedience to God, sharing what you have been given with others.

Those doing ministry come in different shapes and sizes. Some are goers, and others are senders. As you might guess, goers go on mission trips, and senders provide resources and support for the goers to do their ministry. What is particularly sad is that some Christians sense God's calling on their lives, but they are afraid of what it might cost them. So, they decide that they are really "called" to

be senders and make all kinds of excuses to avoid obedience and be the goer they are really called to be.

Just for a moment, I would like you to set aside all preconceived ideas about who or what a missionary is and what ministry on the go is. I would like you to consider that maybe God wants more for you than just a nominal, comfortable Christian faith. I would like you to consider that we are all goers, all full-time ministers "on a mission from God".

We must learn to leave home, come outside of the four walls known as your church and break away from what is expected of us, and find the inheritance that God has for us. The tricky part is that when we depart, we may not completely know where we're going or what we'll be doing.....which brings me back to my first mission trip with Bishop Marshall Strickland and Dr. Dorothy Brunson. I had no idea of where I was really going or what I would really be doing BUT I was obedient

to my Bishop who saw something I couldn't see. The fuse was lit.... I was and still am a goer! I am ministry on the move be it doing my monthly hospital shuttle for those that don't have anyone to take them and assist them with all that is involved with going to their appointments or meeting a survivor that has been raped at the crisis unit, hospital or courtroom or my quarterly arts and crafts class at what is called a "last stop" for AIDS patients. I have 3 hotels that I deliver food and clothing to for those persons that have been displaced, I have written contracts and purchased buildings, helped to physically rebuild buildings and have learned to drive to get ministry done in places I can't even pronounce... and may I add that I keep my international drivers license current. Ministry on the move does not mean you have a meeting to talk about the meeting you want to have to plan the meeting to decide what you want to do. Ministry on the move means rolling up your sleeves, getting dirty, sweaty going and doing things that may make you

uncomfortable but know in you being uncomfortable you are really blessing someone else. What means nothing to you means the world to someone else.

Now ask yourself if you are a goer or a sender or if God has called you to be one thing and you have decided to be something else because you are afraid. REMEMBER You are to be a blessing to others! If you are a goer then GO! If you are a sender then SEND knowing that there are many opportunities for you.

Now if you haven't been taking notes now is the time to do so. I did not share some of the things that I have done to boast or say look at me but hopefully you heard something that made you say... I can do or something similar to that. Or maybe you said I already do that or better still you realized that you may be a goer or a sender.

If you are not sure what to do or how to get moving until God speaks and gives you

directions on where and how to move here
are a couple to consider:

- * KIVA.org
- * Project Dental Africa - Face Book (Kwame Otuo Achampong)
- * These are just a couple of my favorite ministry projects but seek the face of God for directions on how you can get moving. Remember that you were blessed to be a blessing!