



Jensen Missions

Tanzania, East Africa

September 2009

WORK QUIETLY – GOD SEES YOU

You may recall the incident when Jesus observed folks depositing their gifts into the treasury. What was obvious to all was the large sums being cast in by those who were rich. But our Lord's notice was fixed upon a "certain poor widow" (Luke 21:2). Here Luke the historian used a rare word which means *one who works for their living* and is akin to another word meaning *to be hungry* (A.T. Robertson). Such a lowly lady might be unnoticed by the masses but not by the Master!



Please take a look at this photo. This elderly saint might easily be overlooked amongst the whole group that assembled each week in Kasiya, for the past four years in Malawi. Yet I'm sure she is not overlooked by our Lord. From time to time, we try to introduce you to various people here in Africa. Real life examples often prove inspirational. But I cannot even properly introduce this aged sister to you – I don't even know her name. I was informed that she walks most of one day, spends the night somewhere along the way, and then travels by foot the rest of the way – just to be able to attend the classes at the Mobil Bible School. Would you say she hungers for the word of God? How often has your local congregation hosted a short gospel meeting, only to be disappointed with the attendance? Folks who have the conveniences of autos, or shoes, don't seem to be too interested in a healthy serving of spiritual food.

When Jesus was teaching against ostentation in spiritual activities, he reminded us that our "Father who seeth in secret shall recompense" us (Matt. 6:6). We ought to keep our focus upon serving in faithfulness. You may not be aware of one aspect of mission work which I find uncomfortable. Even making short mention of it may be misconstrued in the wrong way. Reporting on our work is uncomfortable. I realize supporters deserve to be informed about what is going on with works which they support. But this pragmatically entails the missionary telling about himself. Paul returned from a missionary campaign and rehearsed to the brethren "one by one the things which God had wrought among the Gentiles through his ministry" (Acts 21:19). To God be the glory.

There is one other older saint, whom I wish to highlight. She is not poor, but is poor in spirit. I have known this dear sister now for over twenty years. Even with the growing pains associated with advancing age, she rarely misses a service, nor a gospel meeting, and is one of the humblest people I know. She obeyed the gospel later in life, and has never looked back. Out of respect for her tender humility I shall herein withhold her name – but God knows. Thank you sister _____ for your quiet example! As the reader, I hope you have been encouraged by learning about these ladies, as I have been. Work quietly – God sees you. George Jensen 2009

"Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established" Pro 16:3 .

September Overview: At ACSOP, George taught two courses: Isaiah, and Mission Methods. We have visited four different congregations: Kioga, Kisongo, Njiro, and Monduli. We continue to host an English worship time in our home for the missionaries on Sunday evenings, during which George is teaching a series on the Prophets. On Wednesdays, Joy has been teaching the ladies Bible class for the Arusha congregation.



SPIRITUAL GOALS IN MARRIAGE

The book of Nehemiah tells us about a man who had a goal, and he determined to accomplish it. After the Jews spent 70 years in Babylonian captivity, they were allowed to return to their homeland, a few groups of people at a time. Nehemiah, still in Jerusalem, heard about the wide-spread destruction of his homeland. He sought permission from the king to return to Jerusalem, in order to organize its reconstruction. Not only did the king grant him permission, but the king also gave Nehemiah building supplies to aid in the reconstruction. In order to accomplish his goal, Nehemiah did a number of things: he recognized the need, he prayed, he had vision to see the end

result, he developed a plan and acted upon it, and he evaluated the work along the way, to make sure they stayed focused on the goal.

In your marriage, what kind of goals do you have? Many of us think about physical goals – moving here or there, the education of our children, buying various items for our family, a vacation, etc. But as Christians, our goals need to be much more than simply taking care of the physical needs of our family. Do you have spiritual goals? How do you plan to accomplish them? Just as Nehemiah had to do certain things to accomplish his goal, we must also have a plan and act upon it if we expect to grow spiritually in our marriages.

► **See the need for improvement:** One of the most difficult and humbling things you can do is approach your spouse and ask him/her to name one or two areas in which he sees you need improvement. Most of us have more than one or two areas in which improvement is needed, but it's best not to start with too many, lest you become too discouraged. ☺ Listen to your spouse, without being defensive or argumentative. Thank him/her and indicate that you will work on those things.

► **Prayer:** Now that you know some specific areas in which you need to improve, pray specifically about those sins in your life (James 5:16). Do not pray for forgiveness only, but pray with the determination that you want to be more like Christ, and are willing to change.

► **Vision:** It is important to visualize yourself thinking and acting in ways that bring honor to Christ and your marriage. 1 Peter 3:8-11 gives a beautiful picture of how we ought to treat one another, as does 1 Corinthians 13. Visualize yourself acting and reacting in ways you know you OUGHT. The more you do this, the easier it will be to make your vision a reality.

► **Take action:** Building spiritual maturity does not happen by accident, but by making purposeful choices. Talking about it isn't enough (James 1:22). For example, if you have a problem with anger, make a specific, conscious decision to respond in a kind and loving manner. Devote personal Bible study to the specific area in which you need to improve. Write down how you respond to certain situations, and then write down Bible verses which address that sin.

► **Evaluate:** As you go through these various steps, it would be helpful to write down your specific goals and how you plan to accomplish them, so that you can go back and check your progress. Keep in mind that as you do make progress, Satan will not be happy. He wants you to fail, and so he will target your weaknesses and test you again and again. Determine in your heart not to let him win!

Marriage is a beautiful partnership, designed by God. Sadly, many couples do not experience the satisfaction God intended. When each partner focuses on improving self, instead of so quickly laying blame to the other person, greater unity can be enjoyed in the marriage. Psalm 139:23,24 beautifully expresses the attitude we ought to embrace regarding self-examination and a having a heart open to improvement. If we dedicate our time and energy to building our relationships, rather than tearing them down, we will reap great benefits. Make it your goal to be a better spouse tomorrow than you were today!

Contributions May Be Sent To:
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