

## **Lecture 12**

### **DEPUTATION**

One of the great fears of a new missionary is how to raise the needed support to get to the field and do what God has called him to do. **How you approach deputation will determine whether you enjoy or endure deputation.**

### **DEPUTATION SHOULD BE LOOKED AT AS A MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY, NOT SOME NECESSARY EVIL**

See it as a ministry.. It is something God is allowing you to do. It is God's will for you at this present time. When you start deputation you should realize that for the next three years or so, God is going to let you get into many churches that you would not otherwise get in.

### **DEPUTATION SHOULD BE LOOKED AT AS A TIME OF TRAINING, NOT TIME WASTED.**

#### **1-3 years training**

If a missionary cannot endure the trial of three years of deputation, it is doubtful that he will endure the trials of his first four-year term on the mission field.

### **DEPUTATION SHOULD BE LOOKED AT AS A TIME OF BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS**

God will give him some great prayer partners.

#### **Note:**

Many missionaries tell stories of how God moved when their situation seemed helpless and hopeless all because someone was praying for them.

Some advocate that the churches change from supporting several missionaries at a small amount to a system where about three or four churches support one missionary totally.

1- This would cut down on the amount of travel the missionary must do, but it would also shrink the prayer support base of the missionary tremendously.

2-It would also rob the missionary of many experiences where God will supply his needs and meeting the needs of others through him.

### **DOING DEPUTATION**

Several big questions face the missionary when he starts thinking about deputation. Some of these questions are. How do I get started? How do I get meetings? How do I convince pastors to take me on for support?

He must pray and find God's will for him in raising the support he needs. The missionary must learn that he is an individual and God has a specific plan for him. He must learn to be himself.

He would be wise to talk with other missionaries who have raised their support in good time and learn all he can from them.

The mission board will give him some pointers and guidelines, but he must learn to seek the face of God in prayer and trust God to work out the right schedule, bringing him in contact with the right people.

The most common way for a missionary to get an appointments is to call the pastor and ask the pastor to allow him to come and present his burden. If you take this approach you will probably be turned down many more times than you will be given an invitation to come.

One of the greatest ways for a missionary to get doors opened is exposure. I encourage missionaries to attend every preacher's fellowship, camp meeting, revival meetings, or any other meeting where pastors will be present that they possibly can. Introduce yourself to the pastors, but don't pressure them.

Another good way to get contacts is from other missionaries. They will have a list of preacher's names and phone numbers.

### **GOING TO FILL AN APPOINTMENT**

Here are some dos and don'ts for a missionary when he goes to a church to present his burden.

#### **1. Be Prompt**

**2. Be Presentable.** Slouchy clothes and the lack of personal hygiene should not be the marks of the servants of the most high God.

**3. Be Polite.** Christian courtesy is an impressive virtue for a missionary to display to a church. They will remember your politeness long after they forget your preaching or your presentation.

**4. Be Punctual.** Always remember the Pastor is always the Pastor. He is in charge of the service. He is God's man in that church. If he gives you five minutes, do your best to present your burden in five minutes.

**5. Be Prayerful.** The missionary must always keep in mind; it is the responsibility of the Holy Spirit to impress upon the pastor and church's heart that they should support you.

**6. Be Prepared.** It is helpful if you know what is expected of you in the meeting before you get there. This can usually be established beforehand by asking the Pastor what he wants you to do in the service when you make the appointment.

**7. Be Pointed.** Keep focused on your purpose for being in this church. Remember you are there to present your burden for the field to which the Lord has called you. You are not there to straighten out the Pastor or the church. Keep your presentation pointed. While it may be good to say something about the place and the people that the Lord has called you to, don't forget the major PURPOSE for going to the mission field is to reach the lost for Christ and establish New Testament Churches for the glory of God.

### **IMPRESSIONS THAT LAST**

There are three things that are weighty in the heart of the Pastor and church in making their decision about supporting you.

**1. *The Burden you displayed.***

**2. *The Blessing you delivered.*** Ask the Lord to make you a good preacher. Ask Him to enable you to be a blessing with your preaching. Do not be selfish.

**3. *The Behaviour your demonstrated.***

I cannot over emphasize the importance of good behaviour. The missionary, the missionary's wife, and their children must demonstrate good behaviour.

### **AFTER THE APPOINTMENT HAS BEEN FULFILLED**

While you are with the pastor get his name and address and his permission to put him on your mailing list. Be sure to promptly send a "Thank You" note back to the Pastor and church.

Just thank God He has given you the opportunity to present your burden and trust the Lord to take care of your needs. You must learn that the same God who will supply your needs on the field will also supply them now.

## **SOME CLOSING THOUGHTS ON DEPUTATION**

**1- Be real.** Don't put on a show. Be real. Be genuine. Be prayerful, but be yourself. Read I Thess 5:24.

## **PREPARING TO LEAVE FOR THE FIELD**

Do not try to set your departure date until you have almost all of your support raised.

**However, there are many things that need to be done well in advance of departure time.**

1- You should check with other missionaries and your mission board about packing your belongings and the other necessary things that will have to be shipped to the field.

2- Don't wait until the last few days to start your paper work. Sometimes it will take months to get your visas for some countries.

3- Another area of preparation is the medical aspect. Different countries require different medical preparations.

4- Don't allow procrastination to cause you to have to delay your departure for your field. Remember some of your churches have been supporting you for a long time and are anxious for you to get to the field and do the work that God has called you to do.

## **THE COMMISSIONING SERVICE**

When the support is raised and the necessary preparations for departure have been made, one of the last things to be done by the sending church is a commissioning service.

In this service the sending church ordains the missionary if he has not already been ordained. After ordaining him, the sending church then \_\_\_\_\_ the missionary to go to the field where God has called him and do the work God has called him to do.

In the commissioning service, the church actually gives the missionary the authority to carry out the Great Commission, Matthew 28:18-20.

1- First, he is given the authority to *Evangelize*. He is to go the field of his calling and start leading sinners to the Lord Jesus Christ.

2- The commissioning by the sending church gives him the authority to *baptize* those who are saved. Since there is no church there yet, the new converts are by

proxy members of the sending church until the mission church is constituted into a local indigenous New Testament Church.

The details of the authority to baptize are not laid out clearly in the Scripture. However we do have it spelled out plainly in the Great Commission that baptism is a part of the work of missions. Then we have several examples given in the book of Acts.

Conversion of Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-35). Turn in your Bible.

It is evident there is no local church there in Gaza, so the only sensible explanation is that the church at Jerusalem had invested this authority in the disciples.

Peter preaching to the house of Cornelius in Acts 10.

See also Paul's teachings on this matter in the story of the conversion and baptism of the disciples of John the Baptist in Acts 19: 1-7.

No preacher, be he a pastor, evangelist, or missionary has the authority in himself to baptize anyone, even though he may a God-called ordained preacher. The local church alone has that authority.

The commissioning service gives the missionary the responsibility to establish a church and *stabilize* those that are saved and baptized. Matthew 28:20 says, **"teaching them to observe all things."** He is to establish them in the doctrines of the Word of God.

### **LANGUAGE SCHOOL**

Language school is an absolute necessity for the missionary that is going to be using another language. It will take you a year or so to learn the new language, but it will be time well invested.

### **NEW MISSIONARY ON A NEW MISSION FIELD**

I strongly recommend that a new missionary work with an experienced missionary for the first several months that he is on the field.

1-This will give him time to get acquainted to the customs and culture of that country.

2- It will also give his family time to get over the \_\_\_\_\_ shock that missionaries often experience when they arrive on a new field.

3- This will also help the new missionary family to overcome the \_\_\_\_\_ that comes by being away from home, family, and friends.

## **STARTING A NEW WORK**

After many years of praying, schooling, deputation, language school, and working with an experienced missionary, you are now ready to start your new work for God.

1- One of the first things the missionary must do is contact with the people and present them the Gospel of Christ. This can be done by door to door visitation or by passing out tracts on the street corners and in the market places.

2- You will need to decide on a meeting place. The idea of the meeting place will differ in different countries and cultures.

There are basically **three options** to the meeting place.

1- You can invite those who are interested to come over to your house for a time of Bible study.

2- The second solution is to get a family to let you come over to their house for a time of Bible study or meeting. You should encourage them to invite their friends to come to the meeting also.

3- The third solution is to find a regular meeting place and invite the people to come there for your services. This might be a storefront building, a school building, a public library, or some other area that the Lord will provide for you to meet in.

4- Once a regular place is established to hold services at you may also use the media, fliers, a town crier, etc., to advertise your meetings. However, **your best means of reaching people is personal contact.**

Missionaries often make the mistake of trying to start an American style church on a foreign field. Even if this is possible, it should not be done. Allow the national people to develop the meetings as much as possible in their own culture.