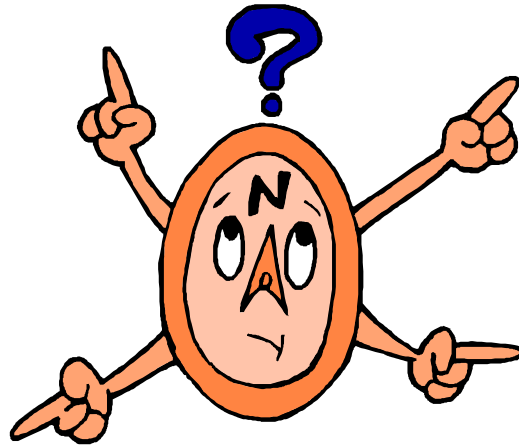


Cross-Cultural Perspectives from the Director



Lost on Deputation?

I received a cute article from David Schwarz, one of our missionaries to Costa Rica/Cuba. It is adapted here for your reading pleasure and encouragement:

Getting lost on deputation is probably not a novelty to any missionary. Those who traveled before the time of GPS can tell many stories of the directions they were given on how to arrive at a church. The rural pastors sometimes have a unique way of giving directions. Most country roads now have numbers but few know them since that road was called Dusty Springs Road since before the flood. They will tell you to go past John Miller's barn on the left, up a hill 'til you see a spotted horse in the pasture on the right and turn left on Dusty Springs Road. Of course, when you get there, the horse is in the barn at the bottom of the hill and the road now is County Road 163. Many can say, "Been there, done that." Those are some of the comical things that happen while on deputation that we never forget.

Now the real question is, How many have gotten lost on deputation? I'm not talking about making a wrong turn in the vehicle you drive. We have all done that. But how many would truthfully say, "I got lost on deputation"? You allowed the things factored into deputation to side track you and your thinking and for a moment you were lost. You had lost your way and became vulnerable to the van load of thoughts, anxieties, frustrations, etc. that have the potential of running you off the road to the point you may not find your way back. That kind of lost will cause you to make decisions out of frustration that cloud God's will and purpose for your life.

I know that normally the good outweighs the bad, but the bad comes down like a large hammer and leaves an unforgettable bitter taste. The good seems far away and insignificant.

Thank God I have my GPS (God's Powerful Spirit) to guide me. Prayer and God's Word help keep me on course. But it is hard to fill my mind with the things of God when there is so much negative noise around me. I have a calling and a burden that help keep me on track. I have people that I love dearly waiting for my return to the field.

I pray for the newly appointed missionaries; those who have never traveled. Will the burden be enough to carry them? I pray for those who have several deputations under their belt. Will the unfinished things in the country of their calling be enough to help them finish the course?

Don't get lost on deputation. I did, but thank God, I got back on the road.