

Overloaded Anyone?

Is there any missionary out there experiencing overload? Steve and Mary Farrar in *Overcoming Overload* explain, "Overload reminds us of the weight of everyday life. We are overwhelmed, overworked, overcommitted, overanxious, overmatched, and overextended. Our tanks are on empty and we are running on fumes." Yeah, I've been there before (like yesterday). Have you?

H. Dale Burke in *Less is More Leadership* tells how he asked leaders to describe their feelings about their lives. They responded with three simple words. "I am busy, buried, and behind."

The early mission leaders understood overload. Church growth statistics were flying off the chart. Life was great...until people started complaining, "Our needs are not being met. Our widows are going hungry." It was time to stop, reflect, and come up with a solution. Their conclusion: "We will stick with the main things—prayer and ministry of the Word." Lesser responsibilities were delegated to others. Jobs were redistributed and the church continued to grow by leaps and bounds.

Occasionally, as missionaries we need to take inventory of all that we trying to accomplish, analyze our priorities, delegate lesser tasks to others, and stick with the main things. The task of reaching nations is gigantic. Limited resources of men and money hinder us from doing everything. However, we can do all God calls and equips us to do. Each of us has God-given abilities, gifts, and a wealth of experience. This gives us a role to play in the church. You are unique. There is no one just like you. I know, perhaps, that is a bit scary. Smile!

Missions Possible Assignment:

Tired of being tired, budget restraints, and lack of help? Sit down today and take a second look at the things you are trying to accomplish in your ministry. What are your priorities? List them in order of importance. Where possible, trim things down to fit your time, budget, and available staff. Plan your schedule to fit your priorities.