

Do You Have an Answer?

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A fatigued father sits down to a meager meal in a humble hut. He glances at his four children and then to his wife now showing signs of another addition on the way. With a growing family and a shrinking salary, he ponders, "How will I ever be able to answer God's calling and attend the Bible school." Do you have an answer?

A faithful pastor rushes into his little community church and hurriedly prepares for morning worship. He feels so ill-equipped to feed his flock. He picks up his Bible and reads, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). He thinks, "How I wish. I would love to study. We have a Bible school. It is far away. How would I be able travel there and still attend to my congregation?" Do you have an answer?

A vision-saturated young man approaches his father. "Dad, I feel a call into ministry. I want to give myself to it. I need to go to Bible school." The father furiously retorts, "Bible school? Ministry? What type of income does a pauper pastor produce? Your mother and I trained you so that you would be able to get a profitable profession to take care of us in our advancing age. If you plan to go to Bible school, get out, and we will not support you in your folly." The boy walks slowly away, tears streaming down his face, but the call in his heart remains. How will he go to Bible school without the support of his parents? Do you have an answer?

An obedient, godly lady kneels at a crude altar with her dress dirtied from the mud floor. She has knelt here dozens of times before. Bible words ring in her ears and resound in her heart, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations..." (Matthew 28:19). She knows God has a plan for her but how will it unfold. Her heart's desire is to attend the Bible school. How will she be able to go? Do you have an answer?

A saint sits on a padded pew in rural America. She longs to make an impact. At one time, when she was much younger, she longed to be a missionary. A happy marriage and kids in school make that only a fleeting thought from the remote past. She speculates, "Can I still make a difference in reaching the world?" Do you have an answer?

A local church leader daydreams of the exhilarating exploits of great missionary and apostle, Paul. He smiles as he recalls the many miracles performed in the Book of Acts. How ironic that this acclaimed writer of about half of the New Testament was initially rejected by most in the New Testament church. But, an encourager and mentor came to the rescue. Barnabas took the chance, invested in someone he didn't even know, and the rest in history. The man queries, "Wouldn't it be great to raise another Paul? Is it possible? Is there any way I can invest in another? I wouldn't even have to know the person. I'm willing to take a chance. Is there any opportunity?" "And the things that thou has heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2

Timothy 2:2). He thinks and he commits, "I'm willing to make the investment. But, who? But, where? But, how?" Do you have an answer?

Six scenarios are given in this article and I won't bother to count the number of questions posed. For each question, do you have an answer? I've always been taught that God's special, perfect number is "seven." So, the seventh scenario provides the ready, real, response. The answer in each scenario is the same. The question in each case is, "Do you have an answer?" I think you do.

The answer to every one of these situations is YOU! That's right, you are the answer! Each time you sacrifice to give to the Ladies Ministries foreign student support program, or to a missionary's training project, you become the answer. Your giving empowers a weary father, a faithful pastor, a vision-saturated young man, and/or an obedient, godly young lady fulfill their calling. This is easily achieved by sponsoring someone in an overseas Bible school or training program in any one of 190 nations. "How shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?" (Romans 10:14-15). How shall they study, except they be sponsored? It pulls you right into the picture and makes you the answer. You can make an investment through entrusting the truth to faithful men and women that will be able to preach and teach in their language, to their people.

Do you have the answer? Yes, you do.

Who is the answer? You are!