



Siloam Missionary Homes

A place missionaries call home

September 4, 2013

Unleashing Your Potential

Speaking to one another in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord. Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God. Eph. 5:19-21

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A number of years ago, I was on a trip to Michigan with my two daughters and my brother in law, Scott. The trip started out fine, we were making good time, the weather was good and it looked like we were right on schedule. We stopped at a McDonald's for lunch. After eating, we jumped into the car and started talking about what we were going to do once we got to our destination. Not paying attention, I took the highway toward Tennessee instead of towards Ohio. After some time driving, I saw a sign that said "Tennessee State Line 50 miles." I instantly realized we were heading in the wrong direction and were miles out of the way. Being on an interstate, you can't just stop and do a u-turn. You have to take the next exit ramp and on some interstates, they only allow you to exit and don't have a way to get back on to the highway. I was so disgusted and immediately begin to gripe and complain that we would be hours late. I wanted to blame someone, anyone, to make me feel better. Then after a few minutes of silence, Scott said, "It doesn't matter what time we get there, it will be fine. Let's name 10 things we are thankful for." **10 things**, I was thinking to my self - I just wanted to stew and complain. I wasn't interested in anything but getting back on the right road.

When I think back on that situation, I laugh because we did make it and it all turned out right. But the experience would have been a better memory for all of us had I followed Scott's advice. Can we really be thankful in times of suffering and disappointment, and even bereavement? Keep in mind that Paul was a prisoner when he wrote those words, yet he was thankful for what God was doing in him and for him. When I find myself in a difficult situation, I need to immediately give thanks to the Lord, by the power of the Spirit that lives within me.

A few days ago, I watched a missionary family repack to return to the field - sorting and resorting to make room for what they had to take with them. With weight limitations and new requirements, they couldn't take everything with them. So instead of getting mad, they took these things around the Siloam campus and gave these precious things away. You see, they took a hard, difficult situation and brought joy to the hearts of many. Oh, what a lesson this has been for me to watch. This was living out what Paul was saying.

As I finish this letter, I praise the Lord for you and the encouragement you are to us. God is good! Last night we had a missionary fellowship and hearing their words of encouragement blessed me. A lady that had been overseas for 4 years came up to Joyce afterwards and said, "When we applied to stay here, we weren't sure what kind of a house we would get, since we never have been here before. The house was perfect and thank you for such a beautiful home." This could not have been possible without you.

Thank you, friend for being a listening ear for me. May the Lord bless you today as you share Christ with someone and may people around you see your life with a melody in your heart.

Because of Christ,

Larry George, President