

Mission Critikal

#10 – Little and Little

“Is a bear chasin' Daenum?!”

Saturday afternoon began as a plain ordinary day for the tent mission team of teens (plus Willy, of course). Each one was asking the others how they'd ever repair all the rips in the ten foot by ten foot tent God have given them. Daenum came racing up the hill to the mission so fast you'd think a grizzly bear was chasing him.

All the time he was waving a sheet of paper above his head like it was a letter straight from heaven... maybe in a way, it was. No sooner had he reached the Mission Critikal tent than he dropped on the ground like a runner stealing third base, totally out of breath.

After a minute or so of panting, he sat up and called everyone to gather around. He had received a letter of great importance to the tent mission above the little village. Neither Dae nor any of the team ever figured out how, but an evangelist in Colorado, USA got Dae's address and sent the team a letter as follows:

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Dear Mission Critikal Tent Mission,

My name is Brother Billy Hopkins and I want so much to visit you and see all the fun and challenges you are experiencing as you begin your ministry, with very little training and resources.

I am a tent evangelist, as you are. God has touched my heart to encourage you in the Lord's work, and send along this small check for your mission. I've learned that you had a teen trust Christ as his savior even before you got the tent put up. Isn't it exciting?!

Our uphill efforts become so small in our hearts while we see God moving and hearts are changed in front of us. But there are often times when it appears God has forgotten our desires to make a difference for Him, in this world around us. Sometimes He doesn't show us the easiest fastest way to get some things done. His will is often not to send an angel to us with a brand new tent or a truck load of chairs or song books.

Maybe He wants us to savor each step, each small victory, in His plan. He wants us to advance **little by little**. Well, did you know the Bible teaches us about LITTLE BY LITTLE advancement? It certainly does! God wants us to move forward on

His schedule, not ours.

The phrase in the Bible is actually “LITTLE AND LITTLE.” But it means the same. We're even told WHY God wants us to move ahead slowly, whether it's with your tent evangelism there, or my tent evangelism effort here, in Colorado.

Several reasons we (and the Jewish nation) are given for the step by step, little and little pace as listed first in Exodus 23:29, 30. God told them He'd remove their enemies a little at a time. The fields conquered from the enemies would need to be planted and cultivated and the conquering Jews wouldn't have time to do it, all at once.

Another reason the Bible gives for God moving in a LITTLE AND LITTLE pace in helping His Jewish nation drive their enemies out, is in Deuteronomy 7:22. If God snapped His fingers and killed all the enemy armies, the Jews wouldn't have enough time to bury the enemy casualties and the wild animals would multiply too fast. WOW! Isn't that great? God's schedule of doing things is best, whether it's growing food for hungry tummies or getting rid of the enemies of people He loves. (That's you and me too!)

Now I have a favor to ask of your team. It's not hard, but it is very important. I want one of you to start a journal. I want you to write down in simple words the things you do in building the mission, and I want you to clearly state the lessons you're learning along the way. The reason is, others are wanting to do the very things you are learning to do, but they don't have anyone to show them how. They need you to lead and encourage them in much the same way I am sending my heart's desire to you, in this letter.

Let me ask. When you eat an ice cream cone... do you gulp it down real fast? Certainly not. You'd freeze your tongue and tummy. But the cone is enjoyed the most when you go at it Little by Little, thanking God for the cone, but also the magnificent body to be able to savor each taste.

He wants us to serve Him the same way. Savor each victory, each of His blessings. See that He makes a long task sweeter as He shows us little shortcuts along the way.

Go His way, not our way.

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