

GO-TEAM TRAINING

GO-TEAM TRAINING DEVOTIONAL—The Call and Cost of Missions

VOL 2

Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God." For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Revelation 19:10

Andy outlines the proper perspective in writing a support letter: when he asks for support he isn't asking for himself, he's asking for Jesus. Both those going and those sending know the gravity and urgency of getting the Good News to the Lost all over the world. When Senders give to fund a Missionary, they are giving to Christ for the cause of building His kingdom.

In his book, White Knuckle Faith, Andy described his family's needs during a time of unexpected financial trial. In anguish he penned a letter requesting support at the kitchen table in his single-wide mobile home. "There, the Lord assured us in the still, and quiet, but matter-of-fact way of His Spirit that He would move on hearts of committed friends and missions-minded churches to support us as we continued to labor for His Kingdom." Andy believed that all Christians should be burdened by a desire to see the Gospel delivered to the nations. They would be looking for an opportunity to do whatever they could to share what Jesus has done for them.

Action Steps:

- Listen to Podcast Vol 2: "Call & Cost of Missions"
- Pray asking God how He would have you identify Him as your first Sponsor.
- Reflect on what you've learned by answering the questions on the next page.



*"We are
His laborers
worthy of
our wages."*

The call on the life of us as Believers constrains us to the service and will of God. When our life is hidden in Christ, we are holding the testimony of Jesus. We have a different motivation than the rest of the world. We are not seeking riches and financial security. We know this earth is not our home, and therefore we do not need to strive after the provision of this life. We are motivated to the call of God, and our purpose is to do what the Father tells us.

Only God knows who will cross our path and become part of our Go-Team. He is working in the lives and hearts of potential supporters, getting them ready for the requests you will make. It is in meekness that we can put fourth that need that you have for ministry, for provision, for daily support, for the needs of our family, for ministry tools. We don't know who He has prepared to be our supporters. hat So, what stands in our way of asking for what we need? If we're asking the lord, He is listening. At the same time He is working in the hearts of others. Although it is the Holy Spirit that moves their hearts we must be willing to speak up and ask. We can't let ourselves be the thing that is holding us back.

Joe had been praying for the outreach trip. He was only halfway to his fundraising goal and his team was leaving in a week. He had faith to believe that God was hearing his prayers. But he couldn't shake the nagging feeling: Maybe he wasn't supposed to go. Maybe that door would be closed at the last minute.

He knew the church would be disappointed if he was not able to fulfill his promise to return and provide a report for their annual community ministry. The church was the chief supplier for the local school. If Joe's team couldn't find a way to get the supplies to the mission field the children wouldn't be able to attend their school year without the materials and the clothing that his partner church would provide.



Just then the phone rang. He answered and heard his cousin Rafael and the other end. "Hey, brother, that was just returning your call. It was good to hear from you. What is the latest?"

Joe gave Rafael an update on the latest in his personal life and ministry. Then Joe cut to the chase. He had a trip a week out but I didn't have the funds. \$1500 short. They're really counting on checks to come through. Without it missing a beat Rafael said " I've been wondering how I could help with the work you're doing. I have the money and would be supplies for the glad to help. Is there anything else you'll need." Before that call was over he not only had the rest of the funds for his trip but an extra \$500 to provide additional village

school. Jettison it quick message out to the rest of his team to let them know that the knee had been met. Then he got a reply and group text ... we told you God was listening . He's not going to leave you high and dry. Little did he know that Raphael had been praying as well about how God would have him use his recent refunds. Joe had only been thinking about his side of the prayer. But he should trust that God was doing the same in the hearts and his supporters.

In 1976, Andy heard the call to go and deliver the hope of eternal life to the Lost of this world. He was burdened to give what he had freely received. Regrettably, almost no one was supportive. Nevertheless, he stepped out in faith into the mission field. For several years he continued to find little support for the work he was called to do. But when he pushed through the fear and self-doubt to write that letter expressing his genuine need, describing in detail what it would take to keep him on the field, he saw a breakthrough. That letter written under the cloud of uncertainty of how his family would be provided for, produced the return of much more than financial provision. “The good response we got was not merely monthly support, but confirmation that we were indeed hearing God’s voice and doing His will...We were his laborers worthy of our wages.”

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8

Andy’s testimony confirms that God will support those who He has called. If God communicated to you that this is your calling, recognize Him as your first Sponsor. Watch for His miraculous provision, a partnering Church, or group of individuals who has a heart for you and your ministry. God has a Go-Team tailor made for you. Believe that the finances are already provided and He has a strategy and a plan for you to answer the call He has put on your life.

Now, how about you?

- 1) Have you identified God as your ultimate “Supporter”? How might you need to trust Him more deeply?
- 2) Think about and record evidence of God’s support through:
 - miraculous provision
 - a partnering Church
 - an individual or a group of individuals who has a heart for you and your ministry
- 3) How can you approach support letter writing as a more authentic request for the work of Jesus?