



Family News

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Suggestions For Choosing A Mission Board



Dr. Gene Burge
President, BMFP

I have many opportunities in my travels to talk with people that are trying to discriminate the will of God for their lives, especially concerning choosing mission boards. A mission board does not replace or usurp the authority of the local church. With Baptist Missions to Forgotten Peoples missionaries are sent out of their local church and answerable to them.

Our purpose is to aid and assist independent Baptist churches and pastors in caring for their missionaries both in their pre-field ministries and while they are on their mission field. Here is some advice I try to articulate to people seeking God's will concerning choosing a mission board.

Seek Guidance Concerning Your Calling:

- Counsel with your pastor and seek his advice about missions and mission boards.
- Counsel with other spiritual Christians and especially missionaries
- Seek advice about working with someone first; either on church staff or another missionary
- While in college contact various mission boards

Find Mission Boards That "Specialize" In The Area That You Are Most Interested:

- General Church Planting (Foreign and US)
- Ethnic & International Church Planting (US and Foreign)
- Military (Church Planting & Servicemen Centers)
- Prison & Jail Ministries
- Children Homes & Shelters
- Rescue Mission & Rehab Farms
- Helps Ministries
- Medical Ministries
- Deaf Ministries
- Aviation
- Jewish Ministries
- Bible Institutes, etc.

Check The Mission Board's Doctrinal Statements, Policies, Practices and Personnel:

(Continued on next page)

What Is A Pre-Field Administrator?

By
Dr. Tim Clark



When the nation of Israel crossed over the Jordan River, twelve selected men followed the priest into the river. Their purpose was to take one stone each from the dry river bed. These twelve stone were then set up on the opposite shore as a reminder to the generations that followed of the delivering power of God. The nation of Israel had a history of forgetting God and His working in their midst.

It seems that we all need reminders from time to time. We like the children of Israel have a tendency to forget certain facts and acts. Sometimes we even forget our purpose and lose focus of the greater end.

That is where I find myself at times. There are times when I am in a church or speaking in a college class or missionary prayer band that I am introduced as the BMFP Pre-Field Administrator with the tongue-in-cheek quip about what that really means. *What is a Pre-Field Administrator?* What is their purpose toward the greater end? As I understand it the greater end is getting the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world.

I am reminded of the role that God has given me to work with missionaries who are raising their support to get to the people that God has called them to reach.

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**Please Pray For Our Next
BMFP Candidate Training Week**

June 14 –18, 2010

Jacksonville, Florida

Suggestions For Choosing A Mission Board (Continued from front page)

- Stand on the Bible and use of versions
- Doctrine
- Is it Independent Baptist?
- Policies & Practices
- Relationship with the sending local church
 1. Missionary requirements of the board
 2. Ownership of properties
 3. Separation
 4. Support (insurance, retirement, emergency fund and support for headquarters)
 5. Services rendered by home office
 6. Working relationship with other missionaries of like faith and practice
 7. Flexibility to do your missionary work
 8. Personnel
 - a. Leadership of the board and board members
 - b. Purpose, duties, relationships of Field Administrators & Missionaries
 - c. Reputation of mission board and missionaries around the country

Make Sure:

- Of your calling
- Of the people to whom God has called you
- Of the area of your calling

Are You Looking For A Mission Board Or Mission Family? (There Is A Difference)

- A Mission Board that takes a personal interest in you and your family
- A Mission Board that takes an interest in your ministry and those to whom you minister

God Will Never Call You Without Giving You The Ability To Fulfill That Call.

What Is A Pre-Field Administrator? (Continued from front page)

Missionaries like Daren & Dana Dilts who are headed to South Africa. They are doing a wonderful job and God is blessing their efforts. Recently I had the pleasure of sitting with them during a brief break in their travels. As I answered questions about scheduling and presentation, I saw again my purpose. To assist and give guidance that will help a missionary family be more effective in the pre-field experience.

Missionaries like Jason & Charity Woon who are going to serve in Nepal. This new missionary family has sought advice on a variety of pre-field issues. Again, these are

wonderful focused people who just want to get it right as they seek to fulfill the will of God for their lives.

Missionaries like Stan & Joni Helm who will be serving God in India. I have the pleasure of speaking with Stan on a regular basis giving encouragement and counsel as they draw nearer to the time when they will be traveling to the land where God has called them.

In my mind's eye I look at those stones on the western bank of the Jordan River and see them as the Dilts family, the Woon family and the Helm family, as well as others. I am reminded of the greater end – getting the Gospel to those that need the Gospel. I find myself refocused on that end.

Let us all seek the refocusing reminders of God and purpose ourselves to the propagation of the Gospel of Christ.

The Will of God

The will of God will never take you,
Where the grace of God cannot keep you,
Where the arms of God cannot support you,
Where the riches of God cannot supply your needs,
Where the power of God cannot endow you.

The will of God will never take you,
Where the Spirit of God cannot work through you,
Where the wisdom of God cannot teach you,
Where the army of God cannot protect you,
Where the hands of God cannot mold you.

The will of God will never take you,
Where the love of God cannot enfold you,
Where the mercies of God cannot sustain you,
Where the peace of God cannot calm your fears,
Where the authority of God cannot overrule for you.

The will of God will never take you,
Where the comfort of God cannot dry your tears,
Where the Word of God cannot feed you,
Where the miracles of God cannot be done for you,
Where the omnipresence of God cannot find you.

"Everything happens for a purpose.
We may not see the wisdom of it all now
but trust and believe in the Lord
that everything is for the best."

Author Unknown