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Equipping God's Workers With God's Word For God's Work



Pilgrims, Resident Aliens, Voluntary Exiles, and Travelers



Jay Hallowell

One of the interesting spiritual ideals during the first 1000 years of Christianity was the *peregrinatio* or "voluntary exile". Those particularly devoted to the Lord would voluntarily leave their own home and undertake dangerous journeys to various places. Some Celtic Christians, especially some from Ireland, practiced an extreme form of this. They would get into a small boat, without oars or rudder or any other way to steer the boat. They would take no food or water. After praying they would cast themselves off from shore trusting the Lord to use the wind and the ocean currents to take them wherever He wanted and to provide for all their needs. There are some amazing stories of how they survived, where they ended up, and how people where they ended up converted to Christianity as a result.¹

I am not advocating setting sail into the South China Sea in a *bangka*. In fact, since the practice so quickly died out and was so rare, it is clear that not even a majority of committed believers at that time advocated the practice.

Yet the goals of voluntary exile are worth examination. The devotee "freely left his native land in order to release himself more completely from human

ties and come closer to God in solitude. This voluntary exile was looked on as a battle in which the soldier of Christ went out to fight against the powers of darkness and to perfect himself through self-conquest."²

Does your spiritual life help release you from inappropriate human ties? Are you drawing closer to God in solitude? Are you winning your battle against the powers of darkness? Where are you at in your journey toward perfection in the Lord?

I am learning that I need to have the attitude of a voluntary exile, that God's kingdom and values are simply more important than my own nationality, cultural background, family or language. I am learning that I need to have the attitude of a pilgrim, not getting too comfortable where I am because where I am going is more important. I am learning that I need the attitude of a Resident Alien,³ never quite feeling at home on earth because my King and my citizenship are in heaven. I am learning to be a traveler, not yet at my destination or goal but pressing on toward God.

I have reached the midpoint in my adult life between my years as a single

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Calapan Ministry of Wensley Go Kiao and Rosaline Lim

One sunny Monday afternoon in April, two girls were about to experience another kind of adventure in their seminary life. For Rose, it was her first summer practicum ever. And for Wensley it was a second time but in a new environment.

God had been with us right from the very first day; from the start of the bus trip to our Supercat [fast-ferry service] ride until we reached our destination: Calapan City. God took care of our physical needs. Though strangers, some people were so kind to help us transfer our (quite a number of) luggage on and off the bus as well as onto the boat. Our host family (especially their youngest daughter) devoted much of their efforts, not only serving us with really good meals, making sure we have everything we need and most of all, spending time with us talking and sharing on the table. The heart-warming insights we brought with us back home. Some active members of the church brought us to some of their pleasurable places to relax and enjoy.

God has opened opportunities for us to serve Him in new areas of ministry. We taught basic sounds

and alphabets to children 3-5 years old. God did stretch our patience and refresh our abilities to relate with them. Just the flash of their smiles was enough to really make our day. Our home visitations and home Bible studies broadened our concern toward people who need to be renewed in their faith and in their fellowship with believers in the church. Sunday Dawn Prayer Meetings increased our awareness about a number of needs in other Asian countries. We were encouraged to see that a small church has a big heart to take time out to pray for the needs of others. Preaching and interpreting for each other were also blessed and fun experiences for us.

God blessed our working relationship. Even with our different personalities and gifts, we took pleasure in each other. Time spent together in prayer, planning and preparing for activities, strolling in the plaza and sharing until late in the evening allowed us to grow in our friendship. Pastor Anita Uy, our alumnae/supervisor was there to accompany and encourage us (in spite of her busyness helping out in their store, taking care of her family and meeting the needs of the church).

God was really with us throughout our summer practicum. We give Him back the glory and praise. May He find delight in us as well as in the work of our hands.



Rosaline (left) and Wensley (right)

BSOP's website: www.bsophil.org

The Gender-*invasive* Bible

The popular translation NIV has been a favorite since my early days as a Christian. The NIV Bible was my constant companion as I grew in my spiritual walk with God. Moreover, the NIV came out during the early years of my Christian life and immediately it became a favorite because of the hard-to-read KJV Bibles that were commonly used that time. When I bought my first Bible naturally it was an NIV version. However, recently the NIV has undergone a transformation with its mission to translate the Bible that is relevant to the modern use of the English language. It has saddened me to see that this new revision is not faithful to the original language anymore. The New Testament has just been released which is now called the TNIV (Today's NIV; www.tniv.info).

The TNIV has followed the steps of the New Living Translation (NLT) which came out in 1996 using the gender-neutral translation principle. The New Testament of the TNIV was released last February 2, and the whole Bible will be ready by 2005.

What is the gender-inclusive language? Simply said, it is using generic terms for both men and women instead of using masculine nouns to describe people in general. For example, instead of saying man as representative of people (both man and woman) the better way is person. So, instead of using "spokesman," a better way is "spokesperson." This is precisely what is wrong when used in translating the Bible. For example: in the NIV version, Revelations 3:20, Jesus says "I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with **him**, and **he** with me." The TNIV does not seem to read well grammatically when translated this way: "I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with **them**, and **they** with me." The verse retains the singular "anyone" but ends with the plural "them" and "they" which reads very awkwardly.

This is just one example of what I call "invasive" translation, putting an idea to the Bible where it does not say so. In effect, it loses the force of the individual's response to the Lord's call.

(more next issue)

FACULTY ON THE MOVE

- ☼ Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Shao will be attending the CCOWE Women’s Mission Conference on September 23-24, 2002. Dr. Shao will be the Keynote Speaker during Opening Ceremony while Mrs. Shao is part of the executive committee.
- ☼ Dr. Jane Chuaunsu trained the Sunday School teachers of St. Stephen’s Parish on May 1 and 8, 2002. On May 3, 2002 she gave the Theme Message — *Fruit of the Spirit* — during the Youth Summer Conference of UECP. On May 7-8, 2002 she spoke during the Kids’ Camp of UECP Greenhills.
- ☼ Rev. Dennis Yam is teaching a 6-week course on Bible doctrines at Grace Gospel Church every Thursday from June 20 to July 25. “Know What We Believe” is part of the continuing series of GGC’s TEE program.

Prayer & Praise

Praise God BSOP is now certified as Donee Institution Status. For individuals, 10% of their donation can be deducted from their net taxable income. While corporations can avail of the 5% deduction from their net taxable income. For inquiries regarding procedures, please contact the Business Manager of the seminary.

This year we have 11 new students. Pray for their adjustment in study and ministry.

Mandarin Classes continue at CCF and another class has been offered last June 29, 2002 at Greenhills Christian Fellowship on Saturday afternoon. Please pray for the students and faculty members.

Please pray for Rev. Philip Co as he continues his doctoral studies at Dallas Theological Seminary.

Scorgie lectures

Dr. Glen Scorgie has finished teaching the module on Spirituality and given a series of lectures (on June 15-17, 2002) on Movie Theology at UECP Lower Chapel. His wife, Dr. Kate Scorgie, teaches the graduate level at Azusa Pacific University. She was assigned by this University to teach a course at Faith Academy. Under our sponsorship, she lectured on “A Passion for Learning, Perseverance for Life” at UECP Lower Chapel on June 23, 2002.

45th anniversary

The 45th Founding Anniversary of the Seminary will be held on September 22, 2002 in our Auditorium. Rev. Franklin Lee, former faculty and acting president from 1969-1972, has been invited as Keynote Speaker.

Following the Anniversary Celebration, the Alumni will have a Homecoming Event on September 22-23, 2002.

Alumnae at rest

Dr. Christine Ngo has entered her final rest. She was brutally slain inside her residence in Dagupan City. May God serve justice and watch over her family, granting them inner peace and security.

On-going TEEs

Gerizim Evangelical Church	<i>Knowing God</i> Rev. Dennis Yam
	<i>Families in Focus</i> Prof. Rosa Shao
Diamond Jubilee Evangelical Church	<i>The Holy Spirit</i> Rev. Jay Hallowell

SUMMER PRACTICUM

3 Lessons

Jamiely Sia

This will be my last year here at BSOP, and this summer was my last opportunity to have my summer field ministry...but still, the Lord has never failed to impress me.

It is true that if one will have a teachable heart, he will receive teaching. And I’m very thankful to the Lord that He indeed gave me a teachable heart, for it seems that wherever I go, I receive blessings and lessons to be learned from Him, whether from the people I encountered with or with the situations or circumstances I am in.

While I was at Cagayan de Oro, He taught me three valuable lessons: patience, decision making and to trust in Him alone. And during the UECP’s youth conference entitled Bond Aid, I was taught how to humble myself and love my family no matter who they are and what they do to me...all for the glory of God’s name!

And though life’s struggles often compelled me to quit on God, His grace was always sufficient for me to go on. May all praise and glory be to God!



Jamie (extreme right) with the young professional group of CGC.

and as a married man. In just over 13 years as a single adult I lived in 20 different places. In May, 2002, my wife, Amor, and I settled into our 20th residence, the wonderful apartment BSOP has assigned to us. We have been married just a bit over 13 years. The main reasons for the moves, both as singles and married, are ministry opportunities and assignments. We do not have children, so we have been relatively easy people to assign to new places.

So, what have I learned from 40 moves? What lessons is the Lord trying to teach?

First, *life is really a pilgrimage, a sojourn*. Our real home is not here on earth. We own no home, no land. We would like to do so. It is not wrong to do so. But, in serving the Lord we have never had enough money or been in one place long enough to buy any property. And that is OK. In truth we can

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take nothing with us when we die.

God can be trusted. He has always taken care of our needs. While we own no home we have never been homeless. God has always provided a suitable place. In fact some places along the way have been real delights. All have met our needs and at least some of our wants.

We have learned to understand scripture better. We understand something about wandering in the wilderness or feeling the pain of exile. Jesus' or Paul's life make more sense to us.

We have learned that every time you move you learn more about your real priorities in life. Not everything one has can or should be moved. And, in every move, something will be lost, and something will be damaged. We have to learn to adjust and to mourn lost places, people, and things. We are trying to learn to be content with what God has provided. No, not just be content, but to rejoice in His provision.

Each move helps to keep us humble. We have to learn, even at the basic level of where to get safe drinking water and where to get food. It is like we are children again. We have to ask questions. We feel weak. We have to figure out how to fit in and yet be "salt and light" as God's people. Each move makes us aware of how deeply we rely on God.

Each move reminds us of God's sovereignty. Our weakness, our frustration, our adjustment is not a bar-

rier to Him. He has used us over and over again, not because we are so good, but because He has chosen to work.

But, whether we have physically moved 100 times or not at all, all of us are pilgrims in our spiritual journeys. No one in the English speaking world has written of this more clearly than the Rev. John Bunyan, who in 1675 wrote *Pilgrim's Progress* from a prison cell. No book in English has sold more copies except for the Bible. The book remains the classic example of allegorical literature. Rev. Bunyan, in the introduction to *Pilgrim's Progress*, wrote "This book will make a traveler of thee."

Whether we are aware of it or not, all of us are travelers, exiles, pilgrims, and resident aliens. The only question is: Are you moving toward God or away?

¹ Some of the stories are so amazing they are probably not true. But some probably are.

² Webb, J.F., ed., *Lives of the Saints*, Hammondsworth, Penguin, 1965, p. 19.

³ In 1 Peter 1:1 Peter writes to the *parepidemos*, which Thayer's Greek Lexicon defines as "one who comes from a foreign country into a city or land to reside there by the side of the natives." It strikes me that my legal status as an American missionary in the Philippines is exactly like that. I am a "Resident Alien". I may live here, pay taxes, and have other privileges. But I do not have the rights that a citizen has or the same feeling of belonging as someone born and raised in the Philippines. Likewise the Resident Aliens to whom Peter writes are citizens of heaven but living in various provinces in what is now the nation of Turkey.

[Rev. Jay Hallowell is an OMF missionary assigned to teach Mission courses in BSOP. Together with his wife, Amor, they will serve here for a term of four years. Jay is also D. Miss. candidate.]

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