

TITLE: Teacher / Learner & Learner / Teacher

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Author: Dr. James Paul Humphries

Editor: Dominique Kozarchuk

Copy-editor: Gilbert Demers

Cover Design / Layout: Sarah Van Pelt

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Leadership Series

Book 9

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PREFACE

Welcome to the discipleship / leadership series. These little booklets were designed to give basic information concerning various topics about our Christian faith in Christ Jesus.

The purpose of this series is to stimulate thought and to foster a clearer understanding of discipleship and servant leadership. These booklets can be used as a discussion tool for personal study, family devotion, youth meetings or in cell groups. Our hope is that this information will stir the readers and encourage them to go deeper into personal research and study.

Our desire is that these booklets will be a blessing to the reader and a tool that can be shared with others as a gift of encouragement.

Please feel free to mail or e-mail us for more copies or to just write to us with any feedback concerning the content of these studies. We hope you enjoy this offering of knowledge and experience. We pray that Christ will draw you into an ever deeper personal relationship with Himself as you study.

Your servants in Christ,

Rev. Dr. James and Hkaw Win Humphries

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"The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witness, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

II Timothy 2:2

INTRODUCTION

The teacher's goal should be to pass on information that will help the student both in understanding concerning life and in their walk with Christ. A teacher becomes a conduit for the student, a walking dictionary and encyclopedia to the people that they are training.

We could define a "teacher" as, educator, tutor, instructor, coach, trainer, lecturer, professor etc. We see that these are all people who are used to give information and guidance to others.

If we were to make an acrostic of what some of these characteristics and goals of teachers, it might look like this:

- T = teach or train
- E = encourage
- A = accountability
- C = courage, conviction, connection, communication
- H = harvest
- E = equip
- R = relationship
- S = Scripture

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Scripture: II Timothy 3:10 to 4:5

*3:10 But you followed my **teaching**, conduct purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, ¹¹persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! ¹²Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. ¹³But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴You, however, continue in the things you have **learned** and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have **learned** them, ¹⁵and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for **teaching**, for reproof, for correction, for **training** in righteousness; ¹⁷so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. 4:1 solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: ²preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and **instruction**. ³For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves **teachers** in accordance to their own desires, ⁴and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, be*

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sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of and evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Background on Paul and Timothy:

Paul:

- Saul to Paul (name change) Acts 8:1
- Paul was not one of the twelve Apostles
- Pharisee, he was very highly educated and knew the Old Testament very well.
- persecuted the church, was at Stephen death
- conversion Acts 9:1
- three years in wilderness
- brought by Barnabas to Antioch
- went on 4 missionary journeys
- last days possible in Rome or Spain

Timothy:

- Father was a Greek
- Mother a Jew
- Grandmother and mother were believers
- Timothy was well trained by them and by Paul. II Timothy 1:5 & 3:15
- Paul thought of him as a son and fellow worker
- Paul named him as co-sender of 6 letters:
 - II Corinthians
 - Colossians
 - Philemon
 - Philippians
 - I & II Thessalonians

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- Timothy also was jailed for a period of time, Hebrews 13:23

Background:

II Timothy, book overview

Timothy was:

- exhorted to guard the Gospel 1:14
- exhorted to preserve the Gospel 3:14
- exhorted to keep preaching the Gospel 4:2
- exhorted to if necessary, suffer for the Gospel sake 1:8, 23

I Teacher as the Leader 3:10

The world is crying out for leaders and leadership. We may not become a world leader but we will be a teacher and leader in our place of living. As leaders we teach both formally and informally and what we do does impact other people. People are spoken of in the Bible as sheep and sheep love to follow other sheep and sometimes their shepherds. A teacher is one who God uses to lead others to a better and safer place, where they can feed and rest.

Key Verse 3:10:

*But you followed my **teaching**, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance.*

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Key Word: leader
follow

Definitions:

Leader: the person who leads or commands a group, organization, or country. *Synonym:* chairman, chairwoman, chairperson, chair, convener, moderator, director, managing director, pioneer, front runner, innovator, trailblazer, pathfinder, ground-breaker, trendsetter, torch-bearer, pacemaker, originator, initiator, developer, discoverer, founder.

Follow: go or come after (following a person or thing that is proceeding ahead), move or travel behind, come after in time or order. *Synonym:* come behind, come after, go behind, go after, walk behind, tread on the heels of, accompany, go along with, go around with, travel with, escort, attend, trail, abide by, adhere to, stick to, keep to, comply with, conform to, obey, observe, heed, pay attention to, note, have regard to, mind, bear in mind, take to heart, be guided by, accept, yield to, defer to, respect.

Insights:

We must realize that all leader / teachers are influencers. We can influence both in a negative way and in a positive way. We are also history makers touching people's lives for change. We are leader / teachers who are equipping some to be teachers and leaders also for the future. Paul encourages Timothy to follow him

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as he also followed Christ Jesus. We are Christ's hands and feet. We are given treasures from God who has entrusted us with the task of teaching them about eternal things and we are guiding them on how they should live here on earth.

- People or students will follow something or someone.
- leaders are to be an example to all at all times.
- leaders have to watched their conduct (action).
- leaders have to be a teacher of purpose.
- leaders have to be a teacher of faith.
- leaders have to be a teacher who is patient.
- leaders have to be a teacher who loves others.
- leaders have to be a leader who has perseverance.
- leaders have to be one who learns and studies, so he can show others the way.

Timothy as Paul's apprentice:

Watch how:

Know what:

- * The above list is no different for a leader or for the teacher.

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The key to being a teacher is to watch and know what the needs of your student may be. For the leader they are to also know the need of what the people who are following them are.

Related Scriptures:

Psalm 23:2-3 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He **leads** me beside quiet waters. ³ He restores my soul; He **guides** me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

Psalm 25:5 **Lead** me in Your truth and **teach** me, For You are the God of my salvation; For You I wait all the day.

Psalm 31:3 For You are my rock and my fortress; For Your name's sake You will **lead** me and **guide** me.

Matthew 4:9 And He said to them, “**Follow Me**, and I will make you fishers of men,”

John 21:19 Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, “**Follow Me!**”

II Thessalonians 3:9 not because we do not have the right to this, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would **follow** our example.

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I Peter 2:21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you leaving you an example for you to **follow** in His steps.

Practical Application:

We must realize that each day, others are watching and following our examples. Our life is like a chalkboard full of things written, our lives is what others will read and do. People follow that which we have done. Each day I must pray and study so my light can be a shining light for Jesus Christ wherever I go.

II Teacher Challenges: 3:11-13

The teacher will face many challenges from the world and from within the church. Teaching stirs up people's minds and emotions and that is why everything we do must be built firmly planted on the Word of God. We will face all kinds of winds and waves but if we have built wisely on Jesus Christ we will pass through those fiery trials.

Key Verses:

*¹¹persecutions, and sufferings, such as **happened** to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; what persecutions **endured**, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! ¹²Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. ¹³But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.*

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Key Words: happen
endure

Definitions:

Workplace: place where people work, such as an office or factory. *Synonym:* office, headquarters, agency, bureau, administrative center

Challenges: problems that people may face, an obstacle to physically or mentally need to get around or overcome *Synonym:* problem, difficult task, test, trial, trouble, bother, obstacle

Persecution: ill-treatment, especially because of their race or political or religious beliefs; harass or annoy (someone) persistently. *Synonym:* oppression, victimization, maltreatment, ill-treatment, mistreatment, abuse, discrimination, punishment, torment, torture, harassment, hounding, badgering, teasing, bullying, molestation.

Sufferings: experience or be subjected to (something bad or unpleasant). *Synonym:* hardship, distress, misery, wretchedness, adversity, tribulation, pain, agony, anguish, trauma, torment, torture, hurt, affliction, sadness, unhappiness, sorrow, grief, woe, heartache, heartbreak, stress.

Endure: suffer (something painful or difficult) patiently. *Synonym:* last, live, live on, go on, hold on, abide, continue, persist, remain, stay, survive, tarry, undergo, go through, live through, experience, meet, encounter, cope with, deal

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with, face up to, handle, suffer, tolerate, put up with, brave, bear, withstand, sustain, weather, become reconciled to, reconcile oneself to, become resigned to, get used to, become accustomed to, learn to live with.

Insights:

The teacher must be willing to stick it out for the long journey. They also must be sure of what they believe in because people will challenge both directly and indirectly. These challenges are like knives in the back to the teacher. The teacher must daily put on the full armor of God if they hope to survive the battles that they will face. The enemy will use all kinds of tactics and methods to attack.

Kinds of problem:

- Persecution and suffering will come to the teacher.
- Lord will be with you as you seek Him.
- Evil men will try to trick us and deceive us.
- Imposters will come to trip us up.
- Sometimes things will go from bad to worse.
- Deceivers, they will lie and try to misdirect us.

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- Some days we may be overwhelmed with grief.
- Troubles can come in from all sides.
- Look to God and He will rescued you.
- Lord will deliver us but we must keep focused.
- People will be lead astray but we must stand firm.
- People are deceiving and being deceive all around us.

Both Paul and Timothy underwent challenges but they built on the rock that stands firm, Jesus Christ (Matthew 16:18).

Are we building on sand or on a rock?

Because the teacher faces challenges they must each day put on the "Full Armor of God" (Ephesians 6:10-17).

1. Helmet of Salvation:

- a. To save our thoughts & attitude from destruction.
- b. To protect our mind.
- c. To give our mind peace that passes all understanding.

2. Breastplate of righteousness:

- a. Our heart covered with Christ's blood.

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- b. When God sees us, He sees Christ's righteousness covering us.
- c. It protects all the vital organs.

3. Belt of truth:

- a. We need truth to be our guide and the Word of God is truth.
- b. It is the truth that sets us free.
- c. We need to be disciples of the truth.

4. Shoes of Gospel of Peace:

- a. Our feet take us everywhere.
- b. They carry us with a very important message.
- c. Bring the Gospel of peace to lost world

5. Shield of faith:

- a. To protect us from the enemies' fiery darts from his lies and deception.
- b. It shows the enemy that we believe in Christ Jesus.

6. Sword of the Spirit:

- a. The Word of God.
- b. Both an offensive & defensive weapon.
- c. If we know & understand, it is very powerful with a skilled sword handler.

The teacher / learner, learner / teacher needs to remember that there is "Power in Prayer". Prayer Changes Things, Ephesians 6:18-20.

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Related Scriptures:

Hebrews 11:1-40

Romans 8:17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we **suffer** with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

Philippians 1:29 or to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to **suffer** for His sake, ³⁰experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now here to be in me.

James 1:2-4 consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various **trials**, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴And let endurance have its perfect result, so that here to be in me.

I Peter 1:6-9 in this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various **trials**, ⁷so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though **tested** by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ⁸and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

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Practical Application:

Each day when you get up, you will face many decisions they can be seeds that can also cause you many challenges. You can never please all people but that is not what we are called to do anyway. We are called to die to self and to do God's will and to teach and be an example of His Word to others.

III Teachers as a Learner: 3:14-15

Most people do want to learn. They want and desire to get further ahead. A learner can grow in three different levels. They can grow in their body, (physically) or in their mind, (mentally) but most often they do not grow in their hearts, which is where we nurture and grow in spiritual things. There needs to be a balanced ministry to the whole person. The total person must be equipped if they are to grow and produce fruit that will last.

Key Verses:

*¹⁴You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become **convinced** of, knowing from whom you have learned them, ¹⁵and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that **leads** to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

Key Word: convinced
leads

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Definition:

Foundation: the lowest load-bearing part of a building, typically below ground level. *Synonym:* footing, foot, base, substructure, understructure, underpinning, bottom, bedrock, starting point, base, beginning, premise, principles, fundamentals, cornerstone, core, heart, essence, kernel, underpinning, groundwork.

Learner: a person who is learning a subject or skill. *Synonym:* beginner, trainee, apprentice, pupil, student, novice, newcomer, starter, fledgling, new recruit, raw recruit, raw recruit, new boy or girl.

Insight:

The teacher needs to be convinced of their calling to serve as a teacher for Christ, but a teacher also needs to remember that they never will come to the place where they can stop learning. The foundation stone of a good teacher needs to be that they continue to be good learners. Timothy was taught by his grandmother and mother but was also working along with Paul for many years. We need to believe in the Scripture and the power of the Holy Spirit that works through them and in us as we teach. Every time we teach, we should pray for the student and for ourselves that we are convinced on the importance of what we are teaching. The Word of God is life to those who hear and receive it.

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We are to:

- Walk in what you have learned.
- Remain convinced in what you believe.
- Remember your training in what you believe
- Use wisdom, and to be wise in what you believe.
- Know salvation, and the way of salvation.
- Have faith in Christ Jesus.
- Be sure of the integrity of our teachers.

Jesus is the way, truth and life.

He is:

- the only way
- the only truth
- the only life
 - o This is the pure foundation for the Gospel of Christ that we as teachers need to be built on.

Roman 10:8-11

*But what does it say? “THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, in your mouth and in your **heart**”- that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, ⁹that if you confess **with your mouth** Jesus as **Lord**, and **believe in your***

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*heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰for with the **heart** a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the **mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.** ¹¹For the Scripture says, “**WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.**”*

Confession with the mouth = like wedding vows, between a man woman, they must confess to one another or they cannot be married and have a personal relationship with each other.

Commit with their heart = like a wedding the rings and the signing of the license shows commitment, we are to commit to Christ as Lord. It is no longer I that live, but Christ that lives within me. Not my will, but His will is to be done here on earth (Lord’s Prayer). Communion service is also to remind us of our commitment. The drinking of the cup, Jesus said, represented a new covenant or commitment between us.

- **Everyone must personally pray a sinner's prayer and confess their sin and commit their hearts to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.**

Let's look at what King David has to say in Psalm 1:1-6

Key verses 2&3

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He who meditates is

- like a tree planted by the waters
- yields fruit in season
- leaves do not wither
- what he does will prosper

If we as a teacher take time to learn, we will begin to see more fruit from our labours. The process of reproduction should never stop but to have fruit from our labours we must keep digging deep into the Word of God. Plus we need to learn from others and work with others, because if two or three carry the load it will be easier for all the rest.

Related Scriptures:

Romans 8:38 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. ³⁸For I am **convinced** that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

II Timothy 1:12 For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am **convinced** that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day. ¹³Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴Guard, through the

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Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.

Psalms 23:2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He **leads** me beside quiet waters.

John 10:23 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and **leads** them out.

II Corinthians 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always **leads** us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.

Practical Application:

How are you helping yourself to keep growing in Christ? Do you set aside time each day to study God's Word and to learn more? Do you go to seminaries or visit other teachers that you know are doing well and try to learn all you can from them. Do you sit in other classes and watch how teachers face problems, instruct their students and what kind of teaching tools that they use.

We need to help students to grow and learn in all areas of their life if we hope them to be strong and active in their faith and walk with Jesus Christ.

IV Teacher and the Scriptures: 3:16

The Word of God is to be our manual for life and for teaching. It is the tool that God gave to us to help us and others to grow and mature with. It is to be a lamp unto our feet and is given to use, a message of hope and "good news" for all those who will receive.

Key Verse:

*¹⁶All Scripture is **inspired** by God and **profitable** for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;*

Key Words: inspired
profitable

Definitions:

Manual: a book of instructions, especially for operating a machine or learning a subject *Synonym:* handbook, guidebook, instruction manual

Tools: a device or implement, especially one held in the hand, used to carry out a particular function *Synonym:* implement, instrument, utensil, device, apparatus, gadget, appliance, machine aid, hardware, equipment, kit, tackle.

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Insights:

The Scriptures we are told is like a mirror that we can look in and see the real us. This mirror does not just show the outward picture of what we might look like but it also reveals the real heart, who we are on the inside. The teacher needs to teach the Word clearly to the student so that they can see their need for a Saviour. It will also show to them how to live and how to make correction in their lives.

Remember:

- Scripture is inspired.
- Scripture is for teaching.
- Scripture is for reproofing.
- Scripture is for correction.
- Scripture is for training people in righteousness.
- Scripture is practical and useful.
- Scripture shows us truth.
- Scripture exposes our rebellion
- Scripture corrects our mistakes.
- Scripture shows us what we need to see and realize what is wrong in our lives.

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James and the mirror illustration.

James 1:22-25

- two kinds of people
 - One who forgets and goes on their way
 - One who looks intently and does something about it

Looking and doing, results in blessing in what we do.

Related Scriptures:

Acts 20:20-21 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was **profitable**, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, ²¹solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

I Timothy 4:8 But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; ⁸for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds **promise** for the present life and also for the life to come.

Light:

Psalms 119:105 Your **word** is a **lamp** to my feet And a light to my path.

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Psalm 119:130 The unfolding of Your **words** gives **light**;
It gives understanding to the simple

Sword:

Ephesians 6:17 ⁷And take the helmet of salvation, and the **sword** of the **Spirit**, which is the word of God.

Scripture:

Matthew 22:29 ²⁹But Jesus answered and said to them, “You are mistaken, not **understanding the Scriptures** nor the power of God.

Acts 17:10-11 The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, **examining the Scriptures daily** to see whether these things were so.

II Peters 3:16-17 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and stable distort, as they do also the rest of the **Scriptures**, to their own destruction. ¹⁷You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, **be on your guard** so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness,

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Practical Application:

The Word of God is a very powerful weapon if used right and anointed by the Holy Spirit. We should not take the Word lightly and we should do all we can to meditate on it and memorize it, because when we do, it opens up the doors and windows of our heart and mind. It brings life to those who will receive. As we train others with the Word of God, we also must allow the Holy Spirit to train and equip us. We must see that the Word of God has great value and it is very profitable to all our hearers. It is a great treasure-chest of immense value.

V Teacher Goal:

The teacher needs to set out clear goals for teaching and growing their students. These students are soil that needs to have good seed planted and nurtured, if we hope to see fruit both now and in the future.

Key Verse:

*¹⁷so that the man of God may be **adequate, equipped** for every good work.*

Key Words: adequate
equipped

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Definitions:

Purpose: the reason for which something is done or created or for which something exists. *Synonym:* motive, motivation, grounds, cause, impetus, occasion, reason, point, basis, justification, intention, aim, object, objective, goal, end, plan, scheme, target, ambition, aspiration, desire, wish, hope. (Abstract)

Goal: the object of a person's ambition or effort; an aim or desired result. *Synonym:* aim, objective, object, end, target, design, desire, desired result, intention, intent, plan, purpose, idea, point, object of the exercise; ambition, aspiration, wish, dream, hope; resolve. (Concrete, measurable)

Insights:

The teacher and the Word is like a farmer who goes out into the field to sow precious seed. We as teachers are given gifts and tools that we must use to help our students to germinate and produce a plant that in due time will produce fruit. We must see our students as great and precious treasure. They will need guidance and pruning and the weeds around them must be removed and those suckers that would try to drain the life out of them be cut off.

Teaching is:

- to make the student adequate.
- to help equip the student.

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- to prepare the student for good works.
- to train and prepare the student to be able to help others.
- to help the student to be complete.
- using the Word helps put the student together and shape them up. (like the potter molding the clay)
- remembering that God has a task for us as a teacher and for the student.

Students are a treasure from God.

Read II Corinthians 4:1-12

Related Scriptures:

Hebrews 13:20-21 Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, ²¹**equip** you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Philippians 3:12-14 Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. ¹³Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

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I Timothy 1:5 But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

Romans 8:23 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His **purpose**.

Ephesians 3:11 This was in accordance with the eternal **purpose** which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him. ¹³Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory.

I Timothy 1:9 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him. ¹³Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory.

I Peter 2:21 For you have been called for this **purpose**, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps

Practical Application:

Students cannot do things alone, but they need a teacher's help. We all need each other. This is why the body of Christ is so important. The people's different gifting and abilities are what help us to become strong so that we are able to stand against our enemies. We as believers are teaching and training others so that

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they can be equipped for service. There is a job that needs to be done and Christ needs all of us to get personally involved.

VI Teacher Commission: 4:1

God calls us but He also commissions us to go out and serve but with serving also comes responsibility. We will be asked one day as we stand before Christ, to give an account of what He had given to us both in gifts and in students.

Key Verse:

*I solemnly **charge** you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to **judge** the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:*

Key Word: judge

Definitions:

Charge: demand (an amount) as a price from someone for a service rendered or goods supplied; entrust (someone) with a task as a duty or responsibility. *Synonym:* order, command, direct instruct, tell, exhort, enjoin, adjure, demand, require, ask, fix a charge, impose, expect, demand, exact, invoice.

Commission: an instruction, command, or role given to a person or to a specially constituted group. *Synonym:* task,

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employment, job, work, piece of work, project, mission, assignment, undertaking, exercise, enterprise, endeavor; duty, charge, responsibility, burden.

Accountability: required or expected to justify actions or decisions; responsible: explicable; understandable: *Synonym:* responsibility, liability, answerability, reporting, obedience.

Insights:

Accountability should always be in the back of our minds of the hearts, for the teacher and for the student. Jesus gave a parable about how a lord of some land, entrusted three of his workers with some money. The lord went a way for a time, but when he came back, he called them in, one at a time, for an accounting of what they had done with the funds. Two turn the money into more, but the third just hid the money and was foolish, and because of what he did, the Lord judged him on the basis of the results. Because he had no increase he lost all that he had (Matthew 25:14-30). Paul tells Timothy that we are charge with a great responsibility. Children are precious to the Lord.

Everything we do as teachers will be brought before the Lord. We are told that

- God and others will bear witness.
- that we will have to bear witness before Christ.

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- this charge of teaching is of utmost importance.
- Jesus will judge us.
- God is watching us.
- His Kingdom is soon coming, and we need to be ready.

Please note: We often think of children as babies or a child but in the spiritual sense you can have a 50 year old just become born in Christ and is a child or baby when it comes to spiritual things. Some physical children are more spiritual than many of the adults.

Related Scriptures:

James 3:1 let not many of you become **teachers**, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter **judgment**.

I Thessalonians 5:12 But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have **charge** over you in the Lord and give you **instruction**,¹³ and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work.

Hebrews 4:12 ²For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to **judge** the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

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Practical Application:

Every time we teach we need to remember that God will judge us as teachers, concerning how we teach and how we worked with those students that Christ has entrusted us with. There will be an accounting for our ministry before Christ. James warns the teacher that there is a strict set of guidelines that we will be held to (James 3:1). We need to be sure of what we are teaching and how we are teaching it. What are our motives behind the things that we are teaching to others. Remember we are doing what we do in the name of Jesus Christ. We are His mouthpiece, His hands and feet.

VII Teacher Preparation:

Many teachers and preachers do not take the proper time to ready themselves with the lesson that they are going to minister to the student or to the congregation. We must know our materials well. It must become part of our lives and we must be convinced that what we are ministering is true and life giving. Teaching takes a lot of time and preparation. A message from the heart will touch the heart of another.

Key Verse:

*²preach the word; **be ready** in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.*

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Key Word: ready

Definitions:

Preparation: the action or process of making ready or being made ready for use or consideration, something done to get ready for an event or undertaking, *Synonym:* devising, putting together, thinking up, drawing up, construction, composing, composition, editing, fashioning, concocting, production, getting ready, making ready, arrangement, development, assembling, assembly.

Heart: a hollow muscular organ that pumps the blood through the circulatory system by rhythmic contraction and dilation; the central or innermost part of something. *Synonym:* centre, central part, middle, hub, core, nucleus, kernel, eye, courage, resolution, determination, purpose, resolve, backbone, spine will, will power, fortitude; bravery, valor, fearlessness, boldness, heroism.

Insights:

There are two things that we must prepare before we teach. One is our own heart before the Lord confessing and getting all the garbage of the world out of the way. Second is the material that we will be teaching, well researched and Biblically based. We must know clearly what the Bible is saying and how can I clearly teach these truths to the students so that the Holy Spirit can use it to correct, rebuke, build up and encourage them. We need to keep it

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simple and to the point. We must show great patience and love as we present Biblical truths to others.

As teachers we are:

- to be **ready**: in season out of season with our students.
- to be **convinced** in what we are doing with our students.
- to **rebuke** where needed, with our students..
- to build up and **exhort** where needed, with our students.
- to be **longsuffering** – **patient** with our students
- to be teaching – use careful **instruction** with our students.
- to be **proclaiming** the message of Jesus Christ with intensity.
- to be **challenging** the students to move forward.
- to **warn** the students of what might lay ahead.
- to **urge** the student to keep moving forward.
- to help the student, **not to quit** or give up.
- to keep it **simple** for the student.
- to exhort the student to **preach the Word**.
- to **patiently correct** the student.
- to **encourage** our student with God's teaching.

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We are to be ready all the times to:

- correct
- rebuke
- encourage

Often when the student has failed, the teacher has failed also.

Related Scriptures:

Matthew 24:44 Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ “But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ “For this reason you also must be **ready**; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.

I Peter 3:15-16 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being **ready** to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; ¹⁶and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.

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Practical Application:

Do I see clearly that I am a channel of God's Holy Spirit to this lost world? What I do and say will make a difference. It will affect history and will plant seeds that if nurtured can change history. Examples of Mohammad and the religion of Islam, and Christ himself, with the twelve disciples, what they taught and said affected them, the world and the History of the World.

VIII Teacher Doctrine: 4:3-4

What we teach must be based on the Word of God itself. Many religious take the Bible as a starting point and add all kinds of other things to it. They seem to make and want their teaching (man) to be raised to the same level as God's Word itself. We need to be careful that what we teach is sound and that our teaching is not full of our own personal desires and thoughts.

Key Verses:

*³For the time will come when they will not endure **sound** doctrine: but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own **desires**; ⁴and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.*

Key Words: sound
desires

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Definitions:

Doctrine: a belief or set of beliefs held and taught by a Church, political party, or other group, (late Middle English: from Old French, from Latin *doctrina* ‘teaching, learning’, from *doctor* ‘teacher’, from *docere* ‘teach’). *Synonym:* creed, credo, dogma, belief, set of beliefs, code of belief, conviction, teaching; tenet, article of faith, canon, principle, precept, unquestioning belief, certainty, invincible conviction, unchallengeable conviction.

Dogma: a principle or set of principles laid down by an authority as incontrovertibly true, (mid 16th century. : via late Latin from Greek *dogma* ‘opinion’, from *dokein* ‘seem good, think’). *Synonym:* teaching belief, conviction, tenet, principle, ethic precept, article of faith, canon, law, rule; creed, code of belief, set of beliefs, set of principles, doctrine, ideology, unquestioning, belief, certainty, conviction.

Insight:

The trend today is to teach a lot of stories but little Biblical truth. People are going around and teaching people, on what they want to hear and not on what the Word of God proclaims. The Word when taught properly will bring about change. There is a time coming were people will turn their backs toward the teaching of the Bible. They will not want to hear the truth. They will want their old traditions and culture and ways of life back again.

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Accord to Paul these people:

- will not want sound doctrine.
- will run after all kinds of teachers.
- will not hear the truth.
- will just want stories.
- will desire fables.
- will go after myths.
- will reject the truth.
- will chase after other things.
- will not want solid teaching instead they desire spiritual junk food.
- will want things that will tickle their ears.
- will turn their back on the truth.

We as disciples and teachers of Christ have been given a Word to proclaim and it is the "Good News". The Gospel or Good News of Jesus Christ can be broken down into the following doctrines which are key to the understanding of the whole Bible:

- I Birth of Jesus (virgin birth)**
- II Life (physically lived here on earth)**
- III Death (shed His blood on the Cross)**

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- IV **Resurrection (He was raised from the dead on the third day)**
- V **Ascension (in front of many ascended up into heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father)**
- VI **Sending of the Holy Spirit (Day of Pentecost)**
- VII **Church (body of Jesus Christ here on earth)**
- VIII **Second coming (He will come again for His Church and set up a new heaven and earth)**
- IX **Kingdom of Heaven (He will reign over His eternal Kingdom forever)**

Related Scriptures:

Ephesians 4:11-6 and He gave some as apostles, and some as prophet, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a **mature man**, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of **doctrine**, by the

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trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵but speaking the truth in love, we are to **grow up in all aspects** into **Him** who is the head, even Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

I Timothy 4:6 ⁶In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, **constantly nourished on the words** of the faith and of the sound **doctrine** which you have been **following**.

I Timothy 6:3-5 anyone advocates a different **doctrine** and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the **doctrine** conforming to godliness, ⁴he is conceited *and* understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, ⁵ and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.

Titus 1:9 holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to **exhort** in sound **doctrine** and to **refute** those who contradict.

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Practical Application:

We must realize that what we teach will produce some type of fruit both in the long term and short term. It is like seed that we plant but the question we need to ask, what is coming out of what we have been teaching? We are told that we will know that they are Christ's disciples by their fruit. We need to expect and see fruit. What we do must come out of a heart of service and not for personal gain or popularity.

IX Teacher ministry: 4:5

Teaching is a ministry and service that one gets called by God to do. But it also takes a commitment to serve people with all our hearts. We have been entrusted with the living Word of God. We are people who prepare a meal each week for people to eat and it must be done right and carefully or we could poison them.

Key Verse:

⁵But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry

Key Word: you

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Definitions:

Ministry: the spiritual work or service of any Christian or a group of Christians, especially evangelism. *Synonym:* teaching, preaching, evangelism, administration, office.

Service: the action of helping or doing work for someone, be of service to, provide with a service. *Synonym:* act of assistance, good turn, favor, kindness, helping hand, help, aid, offices, assist, be helpful, be beneficial, serve, be useful, be of use, be profitable, profit, be valuable, be of worth, do someone a good turn.

Insights:

One key thing that teachers are doing through their teaching is building relationships. Paul went out and spent months and years teaching the people but he also built strong relationship with people that he knew and could be entrusted to go out and teach others also. We need to endure not in our strength but in God's strength. We need to have everything we do seasoned with the fruit of the Spirit.

The second thing is to watch our own walk before God. Paul tells the Galatian church to walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh. God wants us to do things not from our self-consciousness but through having a God-consciousness. He wants us not to do it in our ability and will, but in His ability and will.

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We as teachers need to:

- be watchful concerning all the things we say and do.
- endure all the challenges that will come our way.
- evangelize, because it is what sets the captive free.
- minister in word and in deeds, serving where we can to help nurture others in their faith.
- keep our eyes on what we are doing, keeping clear-minded.
- keep the message alive.
- do a complete job.
- do the work of an evangelist.
- fulfill your ministry and call.
- not to be afraid to suffer
- work at telling others the Good News.
- fully carry out your ministry as God leads you to do.

***These points are just some part of what should make up our thoughts, our heart and focus for ministry as a teacher.**

We may not be totally aware of this, but we are all call to be witness and evangelist for Jesus Christ. Even though we may not have the office of an evangelist we are still to lead others to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Paul said the Romans these verses,

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How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!” **Romans 10:14-15**

We as teachers should be praying daily that we would be filled with the Holy Spirit and that everything we say and do as a minister would be saturated with the Fruit of the Spirit.

Fruit of the Spirit Galatians 5:22-23

Love	Patience	Faithfulness
Joy	Kindness	Gentleness
Peace	Goodness	Self-control

- **The fruit of the Spirit should be flowing from every teacher's life. This shows that you are truly Christ's, because Jesus said, that by your fruit you shall be known that you are His. John 15:8 states, “My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.**

Related Scriptures:

II Corinthians 9:12 For the **ministry** of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God. ¹³Because

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of the proof given by this **ministry**, they will glorify God for *your* obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all, ¹⁴while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you.

Colossians 4:17 Say to Archippus, “Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.”

Romans 12:1 ¹Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which* is your spiritual **service** of worship

Romans 12:6-8 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if* prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; ⁷if **service**, in his serving; or he who **teachers**, in his **teaching**; ⁸or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Ephesians 4:12-13 ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of **service**, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

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Practical Application:

The teacher needs to remember that they are on a pilgrimage here on earth. This place is no longer their home. When we became believers in Christ, it was at that moment we also became Ambassadors of Christ (II Corinthians 5:20). We are now representing King Jesus Christ and soon He will be coming back to set up His Kingdom here on Earth. We need to endure and have faith that through Christ we can do things and that greater is He in me than he that is in the world (I John 4:4, Little children, greater is He in us than He in the world). You are a key part of keeping the truth alive and going forth out into this lost world. We have all been commissioned and called to a teaching ministry of some type, either through the formal class setting or at work or in our homes.

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “*All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*”¹⁹ “**Go** therefore and **make** disciples of all the nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,²⁰ **teaching** them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

We are all called to service. In Matthew 28:19-20

- to **go out to the people.**
- to **make** and invest in people.

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- to *baptize* people as a sign to others of their commitment that they have made of being disciples of Christ.

- to *teach* people about the truth, love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

Paul exhorts Timothy to what it is all about when it comes to being a teacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He states, in II Timothy 2:1-6,

*You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ²The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, **entrust** these to faithful men who will be able to **teach** others also. ³Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴No **soldier** in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. ⁵Also if anyone competes as an **athlete**, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶The hard-working **farmer** ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops. ⁷Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.*

Paul gives three kinds of people as examples that we can learn and teach others about.

Soldier:

- knows who enlisted him.
- knows that he is in active service.
- knows his job.

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- knows the enemy.
- knows the hardship of war.

Athlete:

- knows the rules.
- knows not to get himself entangled in too many things.
- knows the importance of training.
- keeps focus on the goal.

Farmer:

- knows the cost of hard work.
- knows that he must motivate himself to keep on and to endure hardship.
- knows that he must prepare the ground and plant seed.
- knows that he must nurture and care for the plants.
- knows that there will be a harvest in due time.

We do not need to be afraid of teaching but we just need to put our lives clearly into the hands of the Great Master Teacher Jesus Christ. We need to trust and obey because there is no other way to be happy in Jesus.

Application

Being a teacher / learner and a learner / teacher shows to us that we are all part of a bigger picture where we can train others, but while we are doing that, we also must be willing to learn from our students. Teachers can never stop learning. We need to have our eyes and ears open to see and hear what God may be saying to us through His Word and Spirit, but we also need to be open to

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what God may be saying through other teachers and students. We are all to be learners because this is the only way that we can become more mature for Christ. As teachers we should be praying that God will give to us fruit that will last. We should keep clear in our mind and heart the purpose and goals that God has for us. We must keep our focus as a teacher, so that our lives will help and bless other and bring honour and glory to our teacher Jesus Christ.

Memorization

"The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witness, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

II Timothy 2:2

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Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus,

Help me to be a true teacher / learner and learner / teacher. Lord I know You have set my feet on a firm foundation but I need to have more wisdom and understanding how I can communicate Your truths better to others. Lord where I have fallen short as a teacher in character and principles, I ask that You forgive me and rebuild me from the inside out. Help me to hear and see You more clearly so that I will be able to proclaim Your truth to all those that are around me each day.

Lord I want to teach and use Your Word as the channel that I can help other people with. I pray that You will continue to use me as Your servant. Thank You for all Your love and grace that You have poured into my life, now help me to be a true servant of Yours, pouring all who You are, into the lives of others.

Your servant,

Project L.A.M.B.S. International

Making disciples is the call and mandate of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus urged the disciples to follow Him. He laid down before us the teaching and the walk that we need to follow with Jesus as our supreme example. It is imperative for every believer and the church to know that disciples are not born but they are made. For the church to be strong in the last days, we must be about the business of equipping the saints (disciples) for the work of service.

Dr. James Humphries has been ministering for over 40 years, and has experience in a variety of ministries including church planting, children's ministry, street ministry, youth ministry, camp ministry, pastoral work and directing and teaching in schools all over the world. In addition, he has taken part in traveling and ministering in the USA, Mexico, Ukraine, Myanmar, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Thailand and across most of Canada. He completed his B.R.E. and his M.A. from Briercrest, and his Doctorate of Ministry from Providence Theological Seminary in the spring of 1999.

In January 1996, Dr. James Humphries resigned as pastor of a local church with a vision to reach further abroad with the Word of God and to use it to train labourers for Christ (Matthew 9:36-38). He shared this with Dr. David Smith and Dr. Chuck Nichols of Providence Theological Seminary and they greatly encouraged Dr. James Humphries and his wife Irene to develop what God was laying on their hearts.

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In March 1997, they traveled to Jamaica where they met several pastors who were very concerned about the need for training and disciplining their young people as leaders in their churches. Dr. James Humphries and Irene did not know this would be the starting point to an international ministry of discipleship training around the world known as Project L.A.M.B.S. International.

To date, Project L.A.M.B.S. has ministered in Canada, Myanmar, Ukraine, Africa, Jamaica, Mexico, Israel, Thailand, Japan, Dominican Republic, Naga Land and China. We offer over 30 different courses. Our graduates number over 1000, and are serving worldwide. Out of this group of graduates, we have equipped and trained directors, teachers and pastors who in turn are carrying out II Timothy 2:1-2 to an even larger group of people.

In 2002 it was discovered that Irene had cancer again. God gave Irene another three years and because of that she was still able to travel and teach in many different countries. Shortly after what was to be her last trip, Irene was hospitalized in February, 2005. A few weeks later she went home to be with her Lord and Saviour on March 9.

My second wife Hkaw Win was raised and trained mostly in the land of Myanmar. She has earned B.th, University Degree and a master of Divinity Degree in Myanmar. In April 2007 she finished a second Master's Degree at Providence Theological

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Seminary in Christian Education. After July 1st, 2007 she headed back to Myanmar to head up the Christian Education Department for the Myitkyina Kachin Baptist Association and oversaw various ministries to 62 churches. After her four-year term was completed, she has been traveling and working as an interpreter and doing translations concerning various kinds of discipleship books and materials.

Over the last ten years we have lived in the countries of Myanmar and Thailand preparing a variety of resources in the Burmese (Myanmar) and Kachin Languages. To date we have published over 20 different kinds of books. Our goal is to equip and establish people as Disciples of Christ. Please pray for God's leading and wisdom. Our walk with Christ has taken us down many challenging pathways but we have seen the faithfulness of our Lord and Savior in every area. His grace has been sufficient.

Founder and Director,

Dr. James and Hkaw Win Humphries

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