

## **It's Your Choice: Red Pill or Blue Pill**

Remember that old movie called The Matrix? In The Matrix, life was controlled by a hidden world. In the movie, the person of Neo was faced with a choice between a red pill and a blue pill. The blue pill would allow him to go back to his life as before with no recollection of a brief encounter he had just had and thus no knowledge of this hidden world. The red pill would cause his eyes to be opened to the unseen world and thus join with radicals who didn't settle for what others called normal. Neo chose the red pill —his eyes were opened to a whole new world and he was connected with people who didn't flow with the majority.



Like Neo who was sitting with Orpheus, asking him to choose between a red and blue pill. I know that many of you that read this blog, during your prayer time, God has been asking you to make a decision between life as a normal Christian or radical Christian. So you've pondering some questions. Should I just keep flowing with the masses, with people living a plastic self-centered Christian life? Or should I choose to step out from the crowd? Like Neo in the movie Matrix and choose the red pill and take a ride of faith into missions' life.

### **The Benefits That Come With The Red**

What happens when a person chooses the red pill? (The out of the box faith ride with God) Suddenly there is an inner awakening and they choose to step-out of church life as usual. Nothing ever looks the same again to a red pill person! Never again can you just follow with the masses, which like ants that live and die conducting a monotonous life. Attending services with apathetic outlooks on life. No... you start adjusting your lifestyle to do what Jesus called us to do, be what Jesus called us to be and go where Jesus called us to go!

This happens in the process of people before I meet them on the mission field. Months before we meet God had started asking them to step-out of the norm, they chose the red pill, the life of faith. Coming for training and coaching they have left the majority. They are a part of the radical minority... taking the road less traveled.

*Article By Dr. Bill Craver*

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## Hold to the Fathers Rope

Here on the mission field I hear so much from the people who live in the jungle. Many times the Lord will give me an illustration, by something they do, to apply in one of my teaching workshops. At the DCI mission campus, I was preparing to do a teaching series on trusting in God for your every need. I was leaving at the end of the week to be a speaker at a conference and I had to carry many of the young people back up river to their homes. When coming up to the place where a young man named Malcolm was to depart for his village we landed on the side of the riverbank, it was a high cliff. People were waiting there from his village and a long rope was lowered down. The large rocks had very sharp edges along the sides. Before Malcolm tied the rope around his waist, he called out to the people, “have my father pull me up”. As he tied the rope around his waist he said again: “only my father.” I saw a large older man step out and grasp the rope and pull him to the top where they embraced.



As I watched, the Lord said to me, “Like the young boy placed his trust in his earthly father, tell people to place their trust in Me. I’ll never let them fall!” So I used the illustration in the States and many people at the conference took a hold of God the Fathers rope where they made fresh commitments to trust God.

Let the Father hold your rope and experience what trusting in Him will do for your future.

Missionary Bill Craver D.D.

*Story from an “Extreme Mission”- a Specialty Trip that 3% of People Attend.*

“Extreme Mission Trips” are Limited- a Person must Qualify!

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## Learning From The Mayans

*By Missionary Dr. Bill Craver*

Returning to the Mayan missionary campus, I noticed that a swarm of bees had built a hive in one of the coconut palm trees. I pointed at the hive and asked if anyone knew someone that could remove the nest. A Mayan boy said. "I can do it". He went to the storage room and came back with a trash bag and climbed the palm tree. As he got to the hive, his face just two inches from the bees. Then I watched him place the plastic bag over the hive, he broke it off the palm tree and came down with the bees and hive wrapped within the bag. Not one bee stung him. I said, "That was one of the most amazing things I have ever seen!

What caused the bees not to sting?" The Mayan boy said, he learned it from his father in the jungle. He said, that the bees know your presents by smelling your breath. So, if you do not breathe, by holding your breath as you approach the nest, the bees do not know that you are there. Only the smell your carbon dioxide makes them aware of your approach. What a learning experience. From that point on, whenever I am around a bee, I hold my breath and I haven't been stung in years.



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## **Febreze Me**

*By Missionary Dr. Bill Craver*

Each year I have a crazy friend who comes to serve with me on the mission field. He always has a new idea for trip survivability. Last year he was obsessed with Windex. You know, the window cleaner we all use around the house. He was convinced it was the miracle product. You could use it for sanitizing your travel goods, washing clothing, bathing and even brushing your teeth and gargling. Like I said. “He’s my crazy friend”.

Just recently while on a trip, my crazy friend threw a shirt at me. Reacting quickly to catch the shirt just before it hit my face, I held it with a surprised look. My friend Kris said, “Bill, smell it!” Frowning at him, I said: “I don’t think so!” He said, “No, smell it!” Again I said: “NO, you’ve been wearing that shirt everyday this week.”



Like the TV show Seinfeld, my friend can act a little like Kramer. He went on stating: “Come on Bill... smell it.” So, with great caution I smelled it and said “it smells good”. At this point, crazy Kris told me with great excitement that he had just proved that by dusting your clothing at night with baby powder and spraying your clothing with Febreze, you could wear a shirt for a week without washing it in soap and water.

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## A Way To Keep Our Hearts Focused On Christ Jesus' Great Commission

After 21 years of people coming on short- term mission trips to help us at our Mayan missionary campus, there are some things that still amaze me and many things I learn from the mission team members. You would think after twenty one years of hosting mission teams you would have learned everything by now, yet I learned a once a week method, that keeps taking the message to the nations alive in our



hearts. There is a family that has come multiple times on mission trips with us and they taught me that by having a dinner, once a week, keeps missions alive within their children's heart. They told me that every Monday night is mission's night, and a Mayan dinner is prepared.

They take turns cooking meals from the land of the Mayans like:

- Chicken on a stick with fried bananas cooked in brown sugar and white rice.
- Spaghetti topped with grilled fish and a mango/watermelon fruit bowl.
- Chicken Tacos with a filling of shredded cabbage and carrots.
- Shredded Beef served with white rice cooked with coconut milk and red beans.

This meal is to keep their hearts focused on the Mayan people and it has become the family's favorite time of the week. At each dinner they would pray for the Mayan people, read a scripture of God's desire for Christian's to go to the nations and reminisce on past short-term mission trips.

What a neat idea. Even if you have never been on a mission trip, a once a week or even a monthly dinner is a great tool for keeping our hearts focused on the unreached people groups of the world.  
To The Nations!

*Bill Craver -DCI Missions Founder/Director*

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## Vinegar a Missionary's Indian Secret

*By Missionary Kathy Craver*

My grandmother was half American Indian. Her mother was from the Creek Native American tribe of southern Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia. This makes me 1/4 Indian. My grandmother taught me that vinegar was an amazing natural remedy. If you take two ounces each morning and two ounces before bed it will stop any bad bacteria growing in your stomach. However, you've got to shoot the two ounces very quickly and swallow down holding your nose. It takes time to get used to it but it is worth it. I'll have to say, when others are struggling a bit of Montezuma's revenge, my vinegar has saved me time after time. On your next short-term make sure to pack a little vinegar, then hold your nose taking that first shot!



*Advice for an "Extreme Mission"- a Specialty Trip that only 3% of People Attend.*

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## **Taking Inventory**

*By Bill Craver D.D.*

You Must Always Take Inventory Before Leaving on a college student mission trip. Taking spring break mission trip inventory of your available supplies while on a extreme mission trip is the key for a successful missions experience. You should always pay special attention to your emergency survivor items. Taking inventory includes everything you are carrying in your pack, including the items that are in your pockets. Everything you have with you at times can become temporary survival tools.

### ***Why you should always carry a lighter on a extreme mission trip.***

When taking ground transportation or a boat to a dissident village you never know when a motor can break down. If you breakdown late in the day, it may mean you're stuck for the night. If you cannot find a way to civilization, shelter and a fire should be your next focus. In a rescue situation, if you are hidden beneath trees you will most likely not be seen. Find a visible area and if you do not have a tent, build a lean-to out of material from the immediate area. Now, use your lighter to build a fire.

### ***Reasons why to carry a lighter:***

A fire is a source of warmth.

The smoke of a fire keeps insects away.

Staying near a fire is an enormous psychological booster.

Area animals' hate fire and detours any visiting critters

A fire is a means of signaling for those who are usually coming to find you.

You can purify area water by draining water through a sock and boiling.

Silverware, knives and pots can sterilized with fire

Your food will taste better when wormed over a fire.

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## The Science of Duct Tape Missionary Survival

There are obvious uses for duct tape on the mission field: temporary repairs for broken eyeglasses, broken radiator hoses, and leaking tents. However, did you know that there are many more reasons a wise missionary never leaves camp without his/her trusted duct tape?

### ***Here are just a few:***

- 1) Waterproofing clothes, shoes, gloves, etc.
- 2) Securing your tablecloth
- 3) Twisting and stretching it to make a guitar string.
- 4) Marking a trail to find your way back to base camp.
- 5) Taping two branches together makes a strong splint.
- 5) Name tags for new people to learn names of team members.
- 6) Removing thistles and weed spurs from clothing.
- 7) Makes a great temporary sleeping mask when light is a problem.
- 8) Good for making a drum out of a bucket.
- 9) Repairing leaking water bottles.
- 10) Makes the perfect flypaper for catching mosquitoes in your tent.
- 11) Keeping a crocodile's mouth closed.
- 12) Makes the perfect temporary Band-Aid.
- 13) Hanging posters and signs.
- 14) Taping food in cooler to keep critters away when they tip it over.
- 15) Re-enforce folders, book covers, etc.
- 15) Great for placing over mouths of annoying people.

Can you think of other uses for duct tape while on a mission trip? I'm making a new missionary training manual, so send me some new insight on the science of duct tape.



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### **Duct Tape To The Rescue!**

One significant event when duct-tape came to our rescue was during a DCI mission trip. We were hiking and came across a child who had sprained her ankle. Our team was three hours up a trail, and it would have been too difficult to carry her back to DCI for care.

Fortunately the river was flowing towards the DCI campus. It was one of those moments for innovation! We took a knife and duct-taped it to a stick, making a hatchet. Mission members found four-inch bamboo growing. This would be the answer since (of course) it floats and makes a perfect raft. Using the homemade hatchet we cut the bamboo and plugged each end with sticks. Two DCI members accompanied the girl back to base and iced her foot. The rest of the team went ahead with our mission, marking our train with duct-tape to show us the path back home. I'm happy to report that by dinner she was walking.

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*Please send me some more mission trip duct tape stories.*

### **Received Testimonies**

I thought you would like some of the responses from "the science of duct tape missionary survival".

"My parents threatened to duct tape me to a chair when I told them I was taking a semester off to do DCI missions in 2008". Brian C. - Now working on his masters at FS!

"While my family was doing a DCI mission I had one child who moves a lot while he sleeps. Duct taping his sheets to his air-mattress was the answer to securing his sheets". -Sarah M. Dallas Texas

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## 4 Essential Elements For Mission Trip Preparation

*-By Dr. Bill Craver \*DCI Director of Global Mission Operations*

[1] Prepare your heart and mind to be teachable. By being teachable, you will learn effective ways from the in-country missionaries helping you in being relatable to the indigenous people.

[2] Be prepared to serve with flexibility and humility. When entering the mission field, always be flexible and humble. Doing so will keep you focused when unexpected events occur.

[3] Understand- by your actions...they will see Jesus. The people you're connecting with may not read a Bible, but, you will show them the Bible by your actions and service.

[4] Practice giving a five-minute testimony. Each of us has something unique in our testimony.

In twenty years of mission's ministry, I have discovered that by people giving their testimonies it is the most effective way for leading people to salvation. Note: DCI is known for effectiveness in pre-trip training. Helping people who participant be better prepared, so fear of the unknown subsides, having the best training tools for the best mission trip possible.

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### **Mission Trip Morning Humor**

A lawyer, a politician, a missionary and his son were on a flight on a small private plane in a third world country. Suddenly, the plane developed engine trouble. In spite of the best efforts from the pilot, the plane started to go down. Finally, the pilot grabbed a parachute, yelled to the passengers that they had better jump, and then he bailed out. Unfortunately, there were only three parachutes remaining. The lawyer grabbed one and said "I'm an attorney, I help many people, so I must live," and jumped out. The politician then said, "I hold a seat in congress and Senators are the smartest people in the world! So, I deserve to live." The politician also grabbed a parachute and jumped. The missionary looked at his small boy and said, "My son, I've lived a long and full life. You are young and have your whole life ahead of you. Take the last parachute and live." The little boy handed the parachute back to his dad and said, "Not to worry father. The politician... the smartest man in the world just jumped with my school back pack."

-It's always good to add a little laughter :)  
Bill Craver D.D.