

Seminar Title: Don't Let Singleness Stop You: Everyday Stories of Life on the Field

Date and Time: 28 December, 3:30-4:30pm

Location: Convention Center, Room 276

Room Capacity: 391 people

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Don't Let Singleness Stop You

I. Introduction:

A. Armenia kerosene story and Turkey Greek Island story

B. Brief Summary of my journey as a single missionary

C. My Hope for this seminar

D. Four Questions we want to answer

1- Does God really call us as singles into missions?

2- Do I have what it takes to be single servant?

3- What's it like day to day on the field? Advantages- Challenges as singles

4- What if I still desire to be married; is that a problem? Should I still go?

II. Does God really call us as singles into missions?

A. Personal Calling versus Going Solo

The difference between receiving and responding to a mission's call as an individual and then being sent and serving in pairs, teams, community.

Biblical Models:

1. Moses as leader and his team

2. Jesus and Disciples

3. Book of Acts, early church, Apostle Paul

B. The Gift of Singleness

I Corinthians 7 Paul discussing his gift of singleness

I Corinthians 12 Paul elaborates on the purpose of all gifts & the giver:

1. For unity and diversity

2. For the common good of the Body, Bride, Church of Christ

3. God the Spirit distributes gifts to each one as he determines

C. The opposite of singleness is not marriage but the Body of Christ

Singles must be in community, fellowship, local church, families to have

emotional, relational, social, spiritual, and even physical needs met.
Marital status a small part of who we are, key our Identity in Christ.
Gal 3:26: For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
Gal 4:19, My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ
Eph 1:4, For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy
Eph 4:1, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.
Jn 15:14, You are my friends if you do what I command.

III. How do I know if I have what it takes to be a single missionary?

- A. Clarity on your Identity in Christ
- B. Committed to the core values of team, community and partnership
- C. Contentment today with this season of life
- D. Healthy male-female friendships, no urgency for romantic relationship
- E. Good theology of God's character
- F. Trust in your future to God
- G. Do you have a mission/gospel calling?

NOTE: Use these 7 measures as means to prepare as a single missionary

IV. Day to Day Advantages and Challenges on the field

A. Advantages (Give examples from my field experience)

1. Freedom, ease, simplicity
2. Opportunities and risk
3. Cost and affordability
4. Culture and Language
5. Nationals more receptive

B. Challenges

1. No immediate family, decision making
2. Loneliness, isolation
3. Safety and security
4. Local cultures negativity to singleness
5. Work/ministry becomes identity

V. What if I still desire to be married; is that a problem? Should I still go?

A. Affirm that marriage is the scriptural norm for most people

Genesis 2:18, not a less holy, less righteous option

B. Hold and cherish your desire for marriage without; making it an idol or obstacle to obedience, or feeling guilty, less spiritual about it

Live fully and freely for the Kingdom now; life & ministry do not begin at marriage.

Matthew 6:33, Matthew 16:24, Jeremiah 29:13, Luke 10:27

C. Pray and continually give God your desire

Psalm 37:4 : complex-God answers desires of our hearts but not in the packaging we think: a spouse, but perhaps in community/the Church

Hebrews 4:6, 1 Thes 5:17, Phil 4

D. Address the deeper theological issue: How do we live with unfulfilled desires?

Greater issue which impacts many aspects of life; walk in this tension of life. Work through our theology of suffering, justice, God's character, sovereignty.

1 Corinthians 2:7-8, Peter 5:10, Romans 8:31, 32, Gen 50:20, Deut 1:25, 2 Sam 10:12, Psalm 73:1,

E. Practical Issues:

1. Be honest with your emotions to God and self

2. Talk to other singles, marrieds, pray with companions

3. Live in community, the Body of Christ, invest relationally

4. Make the most of life, step out in new opportunities

5. Live one day at a time; 24 hour a day principle, each day has enough worries of its own, His grace sufficient for today

VI. Conclusion: Questions