



MILE POST | 1

WHO'S KIDDING WHO?

Andy Spohrer, WorldVenture

“Who’s kidding who? Do those missionaries I just worked with *really* think they can make a difference and change those people? With all the poverty and religious opposition and so-o-o many people, it is really an impossible dream.”

Do you sometimes have these thoughts? Sure, we all do if we are honest. The task of reaching the world is daunting at best. The missionaries cannot do it alone. God will, however, miraculously intercede, and hearts will be changed as missionaries work and as they are helped by our prayers. Remember the story of the battle the Israelites fought against the Amalekites as told in Exodus 17:8–13? Joshua and the army of Israel were winning when Moses held up his hands with the staff of God, but when he let down his hands, the enemy won. So Aaron and Hur held Moses’ hands up—a clear witness of prayer as indicated in verse 16—and Israel won the battle. Prayer is the only way the Great Commission will be fulfilled. It can be done through prayer.

Your mission trip is over. You may go back some day and you may not. But your mission can continue! You can continue to assist the same missionaries. You can lift up the missionary’s tired arms by your prayers and by encouraging others to join you. However, you will need to do some specific things to remind yourself to pray or busyness will make you forget. One man I know carries in his pocket a small coin from the country he visited. It is worth about 2/10 of one cent. Whenever he reaches for change to buy something and sees the coin, he is reminded to pray for the country, people, and missionaries who work there! As a truck driver, he spends a lot of time interceding for the country in which he served. A lady who visited a restricted-access country that grows a lot of olives cleaned olive pits and gave them to her teammates to carry as a prayer reminder. One country’s leaders limit the sharing of the gospel. A major source of outreach there is via satellite TV. Satellite dishes are everywhere in the country and look a

lot like mushrooms. So the visitors are encouraged to pray for the spread of the gospel every time they see mushrooms—on pizza, in salads, etc!

What are the everyday things and experiences you can use to remind you to pray for the missionaries in “your” country? Their hands may be heavy with fatigue or discouragement. You are not present with them, like Moses was not with Joshua. But you can help them win the battle today by your prayers. You see, they are *not* kidding. It is God’s will to reach the world, and the missionary’s dream is possible through his Spirit’s working. Your prayer is God’s plan for making this possible. Today!

**WHEN YOU
SEE THIS
PENCIL
USE YOUR
JOURNAL
TO MAKE
MORE
NOTES**



MILE POST | 2

SHELTER FROM THE STORMS OF REENTRY

Howard and Bonnie Lisech, Deeper Roots

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” Psalm 46:1


God is our shelter from the troubles of life. He is our strength; safety, courage, and rest are found in trusting him. Believers have no need to fear; almighty God is always present with them.

1. Read Psalm 46:1–3. How would you define the word “refuge”?

2. How bad is the trouble the writer has described?

3. What phrase indicates that facing trouble with confidence is a choice?

4. Note in your own words the basis for the writer’s confidence.



5. How do you usually react to troubles and challenges that come into your life? What choices do you make? On what do you base those choices?

6. Read Habakkuk 3:17–19. Summarize the troubles described in these verses.

7. What attitudes and actions express Habakkuk's faith? Upon what does he base them? (For more of the basis of his faith, read Habakkuk 3:2.)

8. How can you apply this to your life to increase your faith?

9. In troubled times, there is a temptation to trust in our own resources rather than in God. Read 2 Chronicles 32:7–8. What did Hezekiah say that was so encouraging to the people?

10. Is this principle an encouragement to you? Explain.

11. Read Psalm 147:10–11. What do these verses say that pleases the Lord?

12. Are you trusting in God as your refuge and strength, or are you trusting in your own resources? In what areas of your life are you most tempted to place your trust instead of in him: education, intelligence, physical strength, beauty, or finances?

13. Perhaps you just don't know God well enough to place your confidence in him, and you may be afraid to trust him. According to Jeremiah 9:23–24, what should be the most important goal for your life? Is this your goal? Explain.

14. Can you say with confidence that God is your refuge and strength? Do you believe he is always present to help you in times

of trouble? What truth about God most encourages you to have confidence in him as your refuge and strength?

15. The Lord is ready to help. For the following verses, note the things that particularly encourage you to trust in the Lord and memorize your favorite.

Psalm 91:4-7 _____

Psalm 115:11 _____

Psalm 118:6 _____

Psalm 146:5-6 _____

Isaiah 41:13 _____

Reflecting on your cross-cultural experience:

What was the most important thing you learned about God during your time overseas?

What do you remember most about the people you served there?

What would you rather forget?

Prayer Suggestions:

Thank the Lord for his faithfulness to you on your trip and ask him to help you if you feel overwhelmed, discouraged, or disconnected now that you are back home. Share your concerns and thoughts with the Lord. Ask him to help you understand and embrace the process you are going through.

(If you enjoyed this reentry devotional Bible study, check out www.DeeperRoots.com for information on the 14 day *Coming Home—Reentry Devotions For A Successful Return*, or *Coming Home Again—Reentry Devotions For Another Successful Return*.)

