

Reflections on Africa Voluntary Missionary Workers Training Seminar 2008

The Heart of a Servant of God

By Angela Ho

Hallelujah! In the name of the Lord Jesus I share my reflections on the Africa Voluntary Missionary Workers Training Seminar (AVMWTS) 2008 and a brief summary of my feelings towards the Africa Ministry.

It has been around fifteen years since I first heard of God's amazing grace showered upon the distant continent of Africa. Accounts of God's wondrous working power, testimonies from church ministers and voluntary workers, and countless videos and photographs of the work and members traveled its way over to the shores of a young, tender yet inspired heart. From then on, such poignant stories and news concerning the Africa ministry stirred in me a heart to serve God in Africa.

Some fifteen years later, thank the Lord Jesus that I was able to attend my fourth AVMWTS in January 2008, in Edinburgh, UK. Although I am grateful to Jesus for giving me the many opportunities to attend this seminar, a part of me feels somewhat regretful. Even after attending so many of these training seminars, I have yet to completely equip and spiritually cultivate myself with the words of God, not to mention committing myself to assist during any specific trip in the last few years.

But somehow, through the grace of God, attending AVMWTS 2008 has actualised my dream to go to Africa; and to be more exact, I hope to go next year, God-willing. The root to my decision stems from the inspirational teachings I gained from the five topics studied throughout the seminar (Zephaniah and Micah, One True God, The Glory of the Throne of God in Revelation, Parables of Servitude and the Acts of Jesus Christ). From these topics, a recurrent theme motivated my decision to psychically participate in the Africa ministry. That recurrent theme was the heart of a servant of God.

From Micah's actions, the heart of a true prophet can be revealed. Preaching to a rebellious nation – a nation too hard-hearted to heed God's warnings and reminders of repentance – such a futile task would cause anyone to quit ahead of the game. However, it was in this aspect that Micah succeeded: his relentless compassion on Judah spurred him to not only intercede for the people of Judah, but furthermore established his ultimate trust and source of power in God. His selfless and self-examining attitude then enabled Micah to foster a closer and more intimate relationship with God, his Master.

Likewise, could you also adopt Micah's attitude in your church work by placing the needs of the church before your own? Are you able to persevere in your work, even when the Mountain of Zion seems steeper to climb? Can you empty yourself and fill your hearts with the heart of God; to care for His people, to pray for them, to let them find God again in their lives?

Just like the twenty-four elders in ‘Revelation 4:10’ who cast their crowns before the throne of God, in your service to God, place your full trust in Him, do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God, giving all glory and praise to the One who sits on the throne. Your actions should reflect your attitude in looking highly upon benefiting the church and to lead the flock of God by example, which God has entrusted to you to take care of.

Not only should the heart of a servant of God rely and trust and continually pray to God, you must constantly ask yourself “How much do I love Jesus?” In ‘John 21’, thrice Jesus asked Peter, “Do you love Me?” and thrice Peter said, “You know that I love You.” Why did Jesus ask Peter this question so many times? Should once not be enough? Would this not seem laborious and exasperating if you were in Peter’s place?

In fact, the question of whether you do love Jesus, and how much you love Jesus, is one of self-examination. But not only should you confess your love for Jesus through words, you must further demonstrate the love you have for Jesus to His lambs: by feeding His lambs. For ‘1st John’ says that if you love God Whom you cannot see, your love for God can only be complete if you demonstrate love to the brethren whom you can see first.

But feeding His lambs is not enough to show your love for Christ. As a shepherd, not only should you find pasture for Christ’s flock, it must be the right kind of pasture. Just as a mother who will do her best to find food for her children, your love for Jesus must be reflected towards your loving actions to your fellow brethren. This is another aspect of the heart of a servant of God.

Furthermore, the heart of a servant can be explored in a series of parables within 1st and 2nd Corinthians. How can being a mere farmer, builder and an earthen vessel for the One True God affect the heart of a servant when serving God?

The vital link between all three parables is God. It is God who gives the increase; it is God who is the foundation; it is God who can make and break what He has created. All God requires from you is to do your best for Him. Build up, not only the faith of the church with the right materials, but also your own faith to withstand the fiery test of the words of God. And furthermore, to humbly accept the work entrusted to us and undergo constant sanctification and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

I now understand fully how vital it is for me to have the correct heart and mentality as a servant of God. If I could adopt Micah’s selfless and compassionate heart towards the people of God, show my love for Jesus by reflecting this love towards His flock and continuously remind myself that my source of power and reliance is in God during my service to Him, then surely I can present myself as “a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is [my] reasonable service” (Romans 12:1).

In knowing these wonderful truths of servitude, somehow, the once distant continent of Africa is now closer to me than ever before.

May all praise and glory be unto the Lord Jesus’ holy name! Amen.



The 5th Africa Voluntary Missionary Workers Training Seminar
6-11 January 2008 @ Edinburgh