



Making the Most of Every Opportunity

Ephesians 5:15-16 says, “Be very careful then how you live... making the most of every opportunity...”

Last month I celebrated my 55th birthday. For me this was a milestone, even more than turning 50. Over the years I have learned that there are definite seasons to life. Some seasons are joyful, some are sorrowful, some are busy, some are difficult. But life has its seasons.

As I look at the next few months ahead of me... I am facing a season of great opportunity. So much so, that I have decided to devote this Spader Update to some of those opportunities...asking you to join me in prayer that I will “make the most of every opportunity”. I feel a deep need for prayer during this time.

All together, I have listed over fifteen major opportunities in front of me. Let me describe five of them and ask you to pray with me.



Opportunity #1

At the end of this month, one of our Growing A Healthy Church trainers...Jon Schuerholz...will have the opportunity of training up to 60 pastors from the Middle East in the Life of Christ. What started as a gathering for 12 pastors from Jordan has now grown to include the entire region. Our GHC manual has been translated in Arabic and here is an e-mail Jon sent me just a couple of days ago from the pastor in Jordan:

The rough draft of the manual has been completed and Pastor Habis has read it. He told me last night that he thought it is some of the finest material he has ever read. He is getting very excited.

Praise GOD, the bombings that occurred there yesterday did not hit our church.

We now have seven coming from Iraq and three coming from Palestine. Habis and I believe this is an historical gathering. It will be the first time that leaders from the five national churches in the Arab Lands will have gathered together at the same place; from Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Jordan, and now the new national Alliance church of Iraq.

I am asking myself what the Lord has in mind. He has taken control of this Conference! Whoever is praying (besides yourself), tell them to keep it up!



This is a great opportunity to bless our brothers serving in a very difficult region of the world. Can you pray for Jon as he trains...**pray God's blessing on these fine pastors.**

Opportunity #2

In the middle of February, Don Roscoe (one of our trainers from Michigan) and Andrew Tay (our Sonlife South East Asia regional director) will be traveling to Khon Kaen and Chiang Mai, Thailand to teach our training materials on the Life of Christ. This is another incredible opportunity to bless some of God's choice servants in a distant part of the world.



Pray for God to give Don and Andrew safety and clarity as they work with translators and newly translated manuals.

Opportunity #3

The end of this month I travel to Singapore, Thailand, and then Beijing for the following:



- February 20-24 Asia Pacific Healthy Church Conference
- February 25 Global Youth Summit for leaders of the Singaporean Church
- February 26-March 1 Global Youth Initiative meetings with 30 leaders from 6 continents
- March 2-March 7 On to Beijing to design a training partnership with an English teaching organization.

Obviously much prayer is needed as I speak, train, lead, and encourage fellow leaders in GYI. **Pray God's supernatural blessings on our GYI meetings, and pray that the Lord will be with my family during my travels.**

Opportunity #4

A decision has been made to take the training I have written and repackage it into 8-12 four session web-based training modules. Because of the way this will be designed, it will have the potential to be available around the globe! This has huge potential...but will also be a huge financial investment and a great deal of work. When I return from China, I will need GREAT WISDOM and SKILL in putting this together.

Please pray for God to give me the wisdom and endurance needed for this type of project.

Opportunity #5

I have been asked to come to Bangkok and train in the Life of Christ, 200 of Campus Crusade for Christ's Regional leaders in Asia. Campus Crusade has redefined their mission as "building movements everywhere...", so the teaching I have been doing on the Life of Christ and how He built a movement of multiplication...has been of interest to them.

I will also be doing this training in the near future in Australia, Czech and India.

Please pray as I rewrite this material to serve their needs, that it would be appropriate for their ministries. This must be done by May!!

On the Lighter Side

Children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note: "Take only one, God is watching."

Moving through the line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A boy wrote a note: "Take all you want, God's watching the apples."

"Sally, can you spell 'water' for me?" The teacher asked.

"H I J K L M N O," answered Sally promptly.

Her teacher look puzzled. "That doesn't spell "water."

"Sure it does," said Sally. "My daddy's a scientist and he says water is H to O."

Today's thought:

If they squeeze olives to get olive oil, how do they get baby oil?

If peanut butter cookies are made of peanut butter, what are Girl Scout cookies made of?

ALL I REALLY NEED TO KNOW I LEARNED FROM NOAH'S ARK

1. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
2. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone might ask you to do something REALLY big.
3. Don't listen to critics -- do what has to be done.
4. Build on high ground.
5. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
6. Two heads are better than one.
7. Speed isn't always an advantage. The cheetahs were on board, but so were the snails.
8. If you can't fight or flee -- float.
9. Take care of your animals as if they were the last ones on earth.
10. Don't forget that we're all in the same boat.
11. When the doo-doo gets really deep, don't sit there and complain -- shovel.
12. Stay below deck during the storm.
13. Remember that the ark was built by amateurs and the Titanic was built by professionals.
14. If you have to start over, have a friend by your side.
15. Remember that the woodpeckers INSIDE are often a bigger threat than the storm outside.



**Global Youth
Initiative**

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