



The Flame

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from GCCN Prayer Ministries

So Much to Do

Our first place to live in Papua New Guinea was the village of Farata. We settled in, became familiar with living 500 miles deep in the “bush,” met neighbors with names we struggled to remember, and used our new language.

But the luxury of a casual schedule was short lived. Days soon filled with study, teaching, dispensing meds to leprosy patients, trekking to nearby villages, patching roofs, digging a new location for the outhouse, and a 100 other mundane things.

For the first few weeks, our radio transmitter didn't work, so we were not a part of the mission's scheduled radio times. When one of the other missionaries stopped by on his way to the provincial capital, he asked why we had not been on the “sched.” I explained that the transmitter didn't work, and that I had taken it apart, put it back together but found no problem.

As he left, he looked it over, reached around on the back of the transmitter and flipped a rather obscure little switch, one I had missed, the one labelled “on.” For the rest of my years with the mission, the story of the “broken” radio was told and retold as part of the regular entertainment for old and new missionaries alike. [And, I'm probably going to regret telling that story here.]

I had let life with the complications of unfamiliar stresses blind me to the fact that not every problem was a complicated one. I had missed the obvious.

Has that ever happened to you? We begin our walk with the Lord and quickly find our schedules filled with all the new things that we can do and share. Add all that to the normal routines of life, and it makes our heads swim. We become distracted with all the doing and before long the quiet moments in God's presence are replaced by the natural “high” of being busy for the Lord. After some time, all the doing wears us down, and we are left with lives in which the practice of His presence has been lost in large part.

Taking Your Next Step

From time to time, stop and hit the reset button. Ask God for clarity about daily routines and commitments. Re-establish a schedule that allows for your specific personal time with the Lord. Ask Him to help you discover the special focus for the passion He has planned for you, and commit to re-align priorities to sync with that “calling.” With His peace, the joy of doing will return.

