Suggested Guidelines for New Missionaries
by Doug Nichols

1. **No Bible, no breakfast**! Be serious about regular daily devotions.

"O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day" (Psalm 119:97).

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

2. **Memorize the Word** (the Bible). *"Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You…Give me understanding, that I may observe Your law and keep it with all my heart…This is my comfort in my affliction, That Your word has revived me"* (Psalm 119:11, 34, 50).

"Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you…" (Colossians 3:16).

3. **Read! Read! Read!** Read good books and read the Bible through at least once yearly! *"…but grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"* (2 Peter 3:18). Someone said, "If you do not read, you will not grow." To walk with the wise is to read good books. *"He who walks with wise men will be wise…"* (Proverbs 13:20).

Books by Catholics, mystics and "health and wealth," and emergent church proponents are of no help. Authors such as: Richard Foster, Dallas Willard, Henry Nouwen, Benny Hinn, Joyce Meyer, Brian McClaren and spiritual warfare books by Neil Anderson and others.

4. **Preach the Gospel to yourself and others.** *"But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life"* (Titus 3:4-7).

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them" (Ephesians 2:8-10).

The gospel needs to be proclaimed. Good works are not the gospel, but the results of the gospel.

5. **Live by faith**. *"But my righteous one shall live by faith; and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him"* (Hebrews 10:38). Trust God. He is Sovereign and we can trust Him. Jesus is our Shepherd and He goes before His sheep. He leads and cares for us.

6. **Love the Savior, love saints, and love sinners.** *"…You shall love the Lord your God with all you heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'"* (Matthew 22:37-39).

7. **Build friendships** with local believers and fellow missionaries. *"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity"* (Psalm 133:1).

8. **Network for the glory of God**. *"…but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, **we have fellowship with one another**…"* (1 John 1:7).

9. **Practice hospitality** often whether you are single or married. *"Be hospitable to one another without complaint"* (1 Peter 4:9).

10. **Dress modestly and neatly.** Do not be sloppy in dress. *"…for we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men"* (2 Corinthians 8:21).

"Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly …" (1 Timothy. 2:9).

11. **Put on humility daily**. *"… clothe yourselves with humility toward one another…"* (1 Peter 5:5b).

12. **Be a servant of Christ by serving others.** Remember manners and serving others are the kindness of Christ in action. *"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in **serving one another** as good stewards of the manifold grace of God… whoever serves is to do so as one who is **serving by the strength which God supplies;** so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ…"* (1 Peter 4:10-11).

*All scripture NASB