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P A P A B A R R Y

ON A MISSIONARY JOURNEY

CRC Youth Leaders Manual: The Great Mission Challenge

Introduction:

Youth Leaders....Are you keen to host a special focus group for youth in your church to challenge them to greater involvement in mission?

Here is a 7-part series that you can use based on the book *Papa Barry* by Pastor Barry Silverback ¹- Chapters 1 to 7. Our prayer for those who participate is this: 'may you be inspired to be a missionary...and be open to the Holy Spirit speaking and challenging you about your own life'.²

This is a **pre-packaged guide for leader's** in facilitating each session with the aim of providing resources and a plan to make it easier for you, but engage with the material as you see fit according to your youth group.

Each session provides a 7-8 minute video which brings out the main themes from each of the first seven chapters in the book.

Each session is designed for a 40-45mins time frame.

The structure for each session is:

- Prayer for the Lord's presence and guidance.
- Theme for the day
- Play the video of key points.
- Discussion/reflection on some of these key thoughts. You might not have time to discuss all the questions, so choose those you think most relevant to your group.
- Close in prayer for the Lord to speak to us about all that He wants for our lives

Preparation:

While it is not essential that participants read the book, **it is encouraged** as it contains many pearls of wisdom and understanding that cannot all be addressed in the videos.

Make sure you have some books available for purchase. They can be purchased online from crcchurches.org CRC Online Shop for \$20 plus postage.

¹ *Papa Barry* by Pastor Barry Silverback, CRC Churches International Seaton, South Australia: January 1, 2014

² Quoting Pastor Bill Vasilakis in the Preface *ibid* p3

Chapter 1 His Master's Voice

Welcome to this **Great Mission Challenge**. Our prayer is that YOU may be inspired to be a missionary, either short term or full time...and be open to the Holy Spirit speaking and challenging you about your life directions.

This series is based on the book called **Papa Barry** by Pastor Barry Silverback. This book tells of his amazing missionary in PNG from 1968 onwards, pioneering hundreds of churches in that country and also in other nations such as Africa and India. His influence is impacting nations today. There are copies of the book available for those who would like to read it.

In this series, we have 7 sessions to grapple with some very important topics about **a life of discipleship as well as being a missionary**, so hope you can make it to all the sessions so you get the most out of it.

So let's get into it:

1. Lead in with a game/**icebreaker**. e.g Go around the group as they answer this question: 'If I was a full-time missionary, I reckon the thing I'd miss most would be.....' or 'If I was a full-time missionary, the thing I'd fear most would be.....'
2. **Pray** for the Lord's presence and guidance in this session. It's the Lord Himself who helps us give up what we don't want to give up or overcome the things we fear.
3. **Introduction**: This first session's challenge is this: **God is calling, will you respond?**
4. **Play video**
5. **For discussion**:
 - **God is calling, will you respond?**
 - People hear God's voice in different ways. Talk about a point in your life when you heard the Master's Voice and what it felt like or sounded like to you personally.
 - Read together 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
 - What does this tell us about our unique mission in life as Christ followers?
 - **The challenge to follow.**
 - Read together John 6:60-68 What was Peter's response to Christ, when many others were leaving.
 - What does it really mean to be a disciple of Jesus?
 - Papa Barry said 'I enjoyed the adventure of the unknown and the unexpected'. Does this statement resonate with you? Maybe explore why /why not?
 - **Everyone has a story but they might all be quite different. Share your story.**
 - What desires or whispers has Jesus placed in your heart?
 - Discuss in pairs and practice sharing your story about what the Master has spoken to you about your life. Take time to give feedback to each other.

6. Close in prayer for the Lord to speak to us about all that he wants for our lives.

Leader's take the opportunity to pray for youth who want to respond to their Master's voice by beginning their life journey with Him or to hear from Him more clearly about His plans and purposes for their lives. Pray expecting the Holy Spirit to lead and guide.

Chapter 2 The Broken Biscuit

1. **Pray** for the Lord's presence and guidance in this session.
2. **Introduction:** Today's focus is the importance of staying humble and staying hungry before God Almighty.
3. **Play video**
4. **Discussion:**
 - This video talks about ***being like a broken biscuit***.
 - Give each participant a cracker biscuit and have them break it-
 - Then ask participants to share in their own words what they think 'being like a broken biscuit' means?
 - What do you think 'humbling yourself before God' might mean?
 - How might this relate to being like a broken biscuit?
 - 'We can achieve nothing without the power and strength of Jesus'. (video) Clearly there are many things we can do without the power and strength of Jesus. So what do you think this statement is talking about? (Put up these scripture verses below on a power point & suggest that 'they might help your thinking'):

Psalm 127:1a TLB *If it is not the Lord who builds a house, the builders are wasting their time.*

1 Peter 5:6 TLB- *So be humble under God's powerful hand. Then he will lift you up when the right time comes.*

5. **For reflection:** In the video we are encouraged to 'stay hungry and stay humble'

Divide the group into 2 and get the participants do a quick bible search on verses in scripture that refer to ***humility*** and ***hunger*** (1/2 group takes 'humility', the other 1/2 takes 'hunger') and have each person read out one verse (different ones, if possible)

- Based on these verses, why do you think 'stay hungry and stay humble' is a good thing to remember throughout life?

Some possible verses:

Humility: Proverbs 11:2; 15:33; 22:4 Zephaniah 2:3; Acts 20:19; Philippians 2:3; Colossians 2:18; 3:12; Titus 3:2; 1 Peter 6:5 ; Matthew 18:4 ; Luke 14:11

Hunger: Matthew 5:6; Luke 6:21; Revelations 7:16; Proverbs 107:9; Matthew 15:32; Luke 1:53; John 6:35 Romans 12:20

6. This session talked about the importance of brokenness and surrender in order for God to shape us into the people He wants us to be.
 - Do you have areas in your life that you find difficult to surrender to God?

To help participants to think about this, have them look at: *'what does the way you now live your life reveal about what is most important to you? (your priorities, what takes up your time, what you waste time doing, what you wish you didn't do, what you'd like to do better).*

7. **Close in prayer** for the Lord to speak to us all about what he wants for our lives. Take some time over this and ask the Lord for some prophetic wisdom and gifting in this regard.

Chapter 3 If this is Missionary Work...

1. **Prayer** for the Lord's presence and guidance in this session.

2. **Introduction:** Today's focus is **not giving up** when things aren't going to plan.

3. **Play video**

4. **Discussion:**

- Pastor Barry said "I'm going Home" – (this story is on p39 of the book).
 - What happened that stopped him from giving up?
- When things go wrong in your life or difficulties arise, what is your first reaction? (e.g. anger, blaming others, putting things off until later, feeling down, being critical of yourself, depression, feeling hopeless, ?)
 - How do you move beyond these initial responses?
- Why might some people give up and walk away from being a disciple of Jesus?
- **Let's read Isaiah 40:28-31**
 - Have you ever used these verses as 'a go to passage' when faced with difficulties? Are there other passages that you go to for encouragement?
- What connections do you see between hard work and growing as a disciple of Jesus?
- How might we fan into a red hot flame a passion for others to know God?

4. **Conclusion:** As a way of reinforcing some hard truths quoted below from this chapter, *project these points on a power point* & have different people read them out:

- "I didn't become a pioneer because someone prayed for me or because I had a special gift. It came through hard work..." (p 37)
- Ecclesiastes 9:10 says "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your strength."
- God is always with us when things are hard. "God- if it cannot be easier then please help me to be stronger". We need to take the opportunities which God gives us.
- I never said no to any job that was offered to me, and if I did, I knew I needed spiritual attention - the work needed to happen, but it was just a means to an end.
- Just because God is guiding you, it does not mean it is going to be easy.
- God reveals his presence when we are pushed to the limits. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 12:9 "My grace is sufficient for you. For my power is made perfect in weakness." But it is worth it!
- Just because it hasn't happened yet, doesn't mean He won't do it.
- Difficulties showed the importance of prayer and intercession
- Pastor Barry recognised that he needed to listen to God - really listen.

Which of these statements really speaks to you? (do a quick go around)

5. Close in prayer: pray together in pairs for anything that was raised for each one in this session.

Chapter 4 Beginning of Bethel (God gets the Glory).

1. **Prayer** for the Lord's presence and guidance in this session

2. **Introduction:** Today's focus is on our need for dependence on God including the importance of prayer, waiting on God's timing, trusting the Lord to fulfil His plans and this will result in giving Him the glory.

3. **Play video**

4. **Review & discussion of the key points** (display the main points listed below on a power point)

A. The priority of prayer

Pastor Barry taught us the following key points about prayer.

- Prayer undergirds everything that we should do.
- Prayer shows your dependence on Christ. Where there is little or no prayer, self-reliance and self-sufficiency will develop (i.e. we rely on ourselves and our own capacity to achieve things for God)
- Strategic prayer is greatly important. We need to pray and wait on God.
- You can never pray too much!

Which of the above statements challenges you most right now?

B. Waiting on God is important as we do not always get what we want in our timing.

Read this out loud: Prayer and waiting on God's deliverance was Pastor Barry's compass. He trusted deliverance would come in time and just kept working. He worked while he waited. He didn't beg God to deliver him but thanked him that the answer was on its way. He was always sure of God's provision. Prayer and waiting was what matters.

- *In what ways is it difficult for people when they don't get what they want in the time frame they want?*

C. Trusting the LORD is a key to your faith and ministry.

- How strong is your trust muscle?
 - On a scale of 0 to 10 give yourself a rating of how much you really trust the Lord. (0 being not at all - 10 being totally).
- Share on ways that you think a person's trust muscle might grow stronger.

D. Building connections with people.

Pastor Barry saw the ministry as simply 'serving'. Both serving Christ and serving people.

- *In what ways do you go about building connections with others?*

E. Never despise small beginnings.

- *Have you ever had a go at starting small? Can you give any examples?*

Wrap up with prayer: Let's trust the Lord now to guide us in prayer for the person next to you (*pray in pairs*)

- Ask the person what they would like prayer for from today's session.
- Ask the Lord how you might pray for the person, trusting that He will guide you.
- Pray for the person, believing that the Holy Spirit will help you to pray.

Swap over.

Chapter 5 Trust and Obey: God's purpose and the miraculous.

1. **Prayer** for the Lord's presence and guidance in this session.
2. Do a **quick go around the room** inviting people to respond to the question: 'the thing that has impacted me most so far during these sessions has been'.....? (short answers please)
3. **Introduction:** Today's focus is the necessity of trusting and obeying what the Lord tells us to do and what He wants to change in our lives.

4. Play video

4. **Review and discussion:** Display the main points listed below on a power point.

A. Understanding your part in ministry

Leader states: We have the privilege of partnering with God in His wonderful work. God does his part, and we do our part. Don't mix it up. Let God do what only God can do and you do your part. "Can God grow potatoes" Yes – But man does his part."

Object lesson: Give each person a potato.

- *So how do we work out what is God's part in growing that potato and what is our part?*
- *What might stop a person from growing that potato? (e.g. can't be bothered looking after it, no soil or space to grow it, too busy to water it, can't afford to water it, it's not worth it to me because I can easily buy a bag of potatoes, not at all interested in growing potatoes, I hate potatoes!)*
- *How do these answers relate to ministry - anything you can relate to?*
- *Does fear of what might go wrong stop you from growing your potato?*
- *What do you think happens if we get it wrong?*

B. Trust and Obey

Leader states: "Ps Barry looked back on the series of challenges in his life, and he could see that these were tests."

- Read together 1 Peter: 1:3-9 *Leader states:* 'This is a very impacting scripture so let's look at it carefully.'
- Any comments on how this relates to the challenges Pastor Barry faced?

C. Have faith and believe in the supernatural

Leader states: "Stories are simply the miraculous workings of God and not of me. My part was trusting and obeying God and stepping out in faith. He did the rest."

- *Anyone got a story they would like to share on a miraculous working of God they have seen or heard about?*
- *What do you think it means to step out in faith? What do you think might prevent people from stepping out?*
- *What is spiritual warfare?*

- *Read Ephesians 6:10-18*
 - *What does tell us about spiritual warfare?*
- *Daniel 11:32 says in regard to attacks from the enemy (from 3 different versions)*
 - *“... but the people who know their God will display strength and take action” (NASB).*
 - *“but the people who know God will firmly resist him” (NIV).*
 - *“but those who know God and obey him will be strong and fight back.”(ERV).*

What do these scriptures tell us about **surviving** spiritual warfare and **helping others to be set free** from things that hold them down?

6. **Close in prayer** for the Lord to speak to us about all that he wants for our lives.

- Reflect on which of these areas you struggle with most: understanding your part in ministry, trusting and obeying, having faith, believing for miracles, healing, being set free.
- Now pray together in pairs for the Lord's help, revelation (Godly insight/understanding and wisdom in regard to these matters).

Chapter 6: Knowing Him in difficult times.

1. **Pray** for the Lord's presence and guidance in this session.

2. **Introduction:** Today's focus is **how to stay strong despite opposition and difficulties**. Tough times will happen so we must build our confidence that God is good even when we cannot see why things happen.

Every believer needs to strengthen their inner world to be able to handle the outer world. Be strong on the inside and you'll be strong on the outside. The more we **know Him, the more we understand ourselves and find hope for today and strength for tomorrow.**

3. **Play the video**

4. **Discussion:**

Display the following key points on a power point.

A. Expect to face difficult times.

Display these verses and have different people read them out:

Hebrews 12:2 *"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

2 Timothy 2:3 *"Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus."*

James 1:12 *"Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him."*

1 Peter 4:16 *"For if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear the name."*

What do these scriptures tell us to do during hard times?

B. Strengthen your inner world

Proverbs 4:23 *"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."*

Leader states: Guard your heart above all else. Ultimately what is in us will come out, and that will either help us during tough times or undermine us. Our heart is shaped by our beliefs. We all hold beliefs about God, ourselves, the people around us, how the world works etc. We can choose our beliefs, no matter what has happened to us. However we often have automatic responses that may need to be addressed.

Over to you:

- How does a person guard their heart?
- How are you building strength for difficult times?
- Why is it so important not to give up in difficult times?

C. Be firmly convinced that God's purposes are good & fair, even in hard times.

- Let's read aloud Psalm 19 and as we read, think about what it teaches us about knowing Him more.
- Invite people to share their thoughts on keys to knowing Him more and more.

D. Trust in God's timing is a sign of wisdom.

- Do your actions show trust in God even when you don't see things happening when you want them to happen, or do you tend to 'spit the dummy' or give up?

5. Close in prayer for the Lord to speak to us about all that he wants for our lives.

Chapter 7: Seek to Sow

1. This is our last session together.

- Go around the group with each person sharing briefly on **one way** the great mission challenge has challenged them.

2. Pray for the Lord's presence and guidance in this session.

3. Introduction: The focus for today is on how we can each be involved in Jesus' Great Commission... 'to go into all the world and preach the gospel and make followers and baptise them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, teach them to obey everything I have told you.' (Matthew 28:18-20). **Seek to sow.**

4. Play video

- What is your response to what you have heard in this video?
- What does 'seek to sow' mean to you?

5. Read slowly through The Great Commission in Matthew 28:16-20

- What is 'a commission?' (Is it a great idea, an interesting thought, a noble notion???)
- What does Jesus' Great Commission tell us about the purpose of the church and your role in that purpose? (break it down and explain each part of the statement)

Taking the next step

Here are a few key points from this chapter. Display them on a power point.

A. Be outward looking

- Have you ever asked the Lord what you can do for Him? (rather than focusing on what He can do for you)

B. God works with all people – including you.

- It's not about what you bring to the table - it's that you come! God will bring the provision as you trust in Him.

C. Ask God what is next.

- 'I would often pray strategically' - pray with a searching heart. We can ask God to show the plan, instead of just worrying about it. .
- Do what God has placed within your heart to do.

Now for the great mission challenge:

How can you be involved in the latest CRC 5-year strategic directions? Give each person a handout (p16)

- EACH ONE REACH ONE
- EACH ONE TEACH ONE
- EACH ONE RAISE ONE
- EACH ONE CONNECT ONE
- EACH ONE PLANT ONE

6. PRAY together, expecting to hear from the Lord as you reflect on this...

Your mission challenge:

What is the Lord saying to you about your next steps (both individually and as a group) in partnering with what God is doing:

- in your life - at your school/work/in family - sharing/caring, being available.
- in the church - serving/ministry development.
- in the wider world - showing and sharing God's love.

During the next week, continue to pray and write down on the enclosed sheet what you think the Lord is saying to you.

7. Conclude:

Go around the group & share:

- One step I'd like to take next is ...
- One step I'd like to see us as a group take is ...

Ever thought about?

- Going on a mission's trip? (Overseas or cross cultural).
- Participating in Pathway to Missions? (seminar or intensive).

Talk to your pastor or youth leader about it & contact Pastor Jeremy Steel.

My next step (s): For my personal reflection and response

Pray for God’s will to be done in my life.

This is not meant to be a one-off prayer but ongoing prayer regarding the following matters. As the lessons from Pastor Barry have shown, waiting for God to move, not leaping ahead and taking things into our own hands is an important part of learning to be a disciple of Jesus. But at the same time playing your part and continuing to sow.

Think in terms of the CRC 5-year strategic directions and how you can outwork this.

- EACH ONE REACH ONE
- EACH ONE TEACH ONE
- EACH ONE RAISE ONE
- EACH ONE CONNECT ONE

This is what I think I am hearing from the Lord about my mission challenges:

About my life	Sharing/ caring/ being available to others
• At school/work	
• In my family	
• The future	
• With friends	
In the church	
• Serving	
• Ministry development	
In the wider world	
• Community	
• Other nations	
Anything else?	

Date.....

Share these thoughts with your Youth Leader /Pastor.