

1. New growth in leaders. . . .
2. New daring in planning. We are now expecting to have at least five couples come to Africa over a two-year period.
3. Finances are rapidly beginning to improve. . . .
4. New zeal in our whole mission and evangelism program.

You also have my prayers as a dear band of beloved brothers and sisters in Christ. We love you in Jesus.

In Him,
Jack



To a young missionary in Uganda who is just beginning his work there.



August, 1985

Dear Bill,

Just a few quick thoughts for you, dear brother. Remember first that I love you and keep right on loving you. We all have you in our hearts. Not because of your faithful work—which is truly wonderful—but because you belong to us in Jesus. You are first His work, and we praise Him for that.

My second thought is to make sure you are enjoying yourself and not taking your work too seriously. You don't have anything to prove to us or the world. The work is finished at Calvary, and that work alone has unlimited meaning and value. Keep your focus there. And then read Robert Ludlum and/or go on vacation.

My third thought is help others relax and enjoy the work. Like the American Express TV ad, "Relax, American Express is on the way." The checks will be replaced, eh? as we Ugandans say.

Fourth, major in giving thanks for what has been accomplished and don't spend more than one-half hour looking at your sins. Keep the praise constant. Imagine, in a little over two years a green mission has fielded a whole new team in Uganda and is now fielding another in Ireland. Amazing, really!

Fifth, do some evangelism with someone every week. Watch out for the saying "There is a lion in the streets, and therefore nothing can be done today." Don't wait till it is perfect, just go. Jason White [a retired executive who had been working with Jack and the staff at New Life] tells the story of the young executive who replaced the veteran head of the corporation board and asked the veteran the secret of his success. The older man replied, "Good decisions." The younger man said, "Fine, how do I make good decisions?" The older man replied, "Bad decisions." Bear with me if I have told you that before, but no question we have to make our share of mistakes and learn how to turn failure into training for making better decisions.

Sixth, remember the only real leader you have is Jesus Christ. Unless you are daily taught of Him you will not be able to make the right decisions. To get to Him you need to pray, but it needs to be prayer of a unique quality. You can pray all night and all day and still not be in touch with His will. Prayer is not full and effective unless it adds up to our learning to wait upon the Lord for Him to make known His will. He needs to break down our tendency to cry out in

prayer, “Your will be done,” and then to get up and still try to impose our will on circumstances.

Finally, remember that almost any time you feel the need of a good confab with me we can meet in Switzerland or London and wrestle through issues that burden you. That is a sincere offer, and one you should take me up on when the need arises, for you do have some tough issues before you on many an occasion, and I wish to be responsive to your need to talk some things over.

In general, here is a way I would suggest we proceed. The smaller decisions really are yours and the team’s. The main thing is to try to hold to the plan. But suppose the plan needs major modification. The thing for you and Ed [a missionary Bill was working with] to do is, in cooperation with the team on most occasions, draw up a proposal and get it to me and the leadership here.

My only real concern about your working with other churches and groups is simply that you take the time beforehand to get to know the territory, wait on the Lord, and don’t form any hasty covenants with the Gibeonites. The goal of the work is to establish churches that hopefully will be faithfully pastored after you leave and not put into the hands of the hirelings. Compared to that value, money is worth nothing. We must love the dear sheep for whom Christ died and not, if at all possible, leave them to the tender mercies of hirelings or wolves. But how to fulfill this goal is not so easy. My feeling is that as you wait on the Lord, and cultivate people in a gracious and respectful manner, over a period of time you will discern the spirits—who is open and teachable and who wants merely to bring our team into a Babylonian captivity, to paraphrase Ralph Winter.

We are still praying that you will be able soon to work out regular itineration into the mountains—even if you have to walk more than you ever dreamed. Keep plugging away.

So you have many of my thoughts here. God bless you and yours.
Other letters will contain news and updates.

Most affectionately in Christ,
Jack Miller



To the same young missionary in Uganda. This letter shares many of Jack's thoughts on the connection between church planting and prayer. Jack believed that many churches were doomed from the start because of the prayerlessness of their leaders.



January, 1986

Dear Bill,

Tomorrow I fly on to the U.S. and leave Ireland behind. It has been a delightful time, and I do not know when I have found a warmer welcome here in this dear land of chilly weather and warm hearts. I do believe that I have found a new openness to Christ's gospel here. For instance, Wednesday morning, Richard [a missionary working in Ireland] and I were waiting near a pool in a shopping mall and struck up a conversation with a young unemployed Irishman named Sean. We talked for about an hour concerning Christ and His salvation. He was willing to make a commitment, but I suggested that