



Cheryl VanZandbergen <cheryl@cityviewcc.net>

Off the pedestal

1 message

Debbie <dlamp@barnabas.org>
Reply-To: Debbie <dlamp@barnabas.org>
To: cheryl@cityviewcc.net

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October 2024

Herb & Debbie Lamp

Removing the ministry pedestal

I have been reflecting upon our early days of missionary service as Debbie and I contemplate our vocational retirement at the end of this year. I still remember when we first went to the field, a well-meaning elderly widow in our church told us that we were her heroes for sacrificing so much to go to a "foreign land." I honestly did not know what to make of that – I certainly did not feel like a hero, rather more like a very young and scared follower of Jesus with little to offer but myself in my call to follow Him wherever he would take us.



Global workers can inadvertently be put upon a pedestal by those who send them. And, yes, it still happens in our current day. (See an article in The Gospel Coalition, [6 Ways to Love Your Missionaries When They Come Home— #1](#) issue was Beware of Missionary Hero Worship.) Even though I myself often tell global workers how great they are for doing what they do (and I do believe it!), problems arise on both sides when this message gets carried too far. Unintentional damage can be done to both the senders and the goers.

On the sender side, people think: “Global workers are not like me; they are superhuman. I could never do what they do.” But on the missionary goers’ side, they think: “A lot is at stake: I need to be superhuman, so I shouldn’t be honest about my struggles.” In truth, senders are just trying to acknowledge and honor the very real sacrifices that cross-cultural workers face. But the pressure missionaries feel to keep trying to be worthy of the money, effort, and prayer invested is real.

When senders say, “You are superhuman” and the goers say, “We need to live up to those extraordinary expectations” it can be calamitous to individuals, families, and organizations and to the Gospel itself.

Yes, we recognize that missions is a superhuman, God-sized task, but God uses everyday people just like you and me. That is why we emphasize the need to pray, pray, pray and support those working cross-culturally. We all have access to the same Spirit filled power to live into the life and calling that He gives each one of us.

And we do ourselves no favor either, for who knows, God may one day call us, whatever our station is in life now, to cross-cultural ministry – whether here at home or abroad. And God delights in using humble and available people just like you and like me.

God at Work: Celebrating our Partnership

This month we continue the process of thanking the donors who have faithfully supported us through these decades of service.& celebrate with them what God has given us to do together. We will be in the Midwest for the first part of October and then return to the Springs to continue to make individual donor zoom calls.

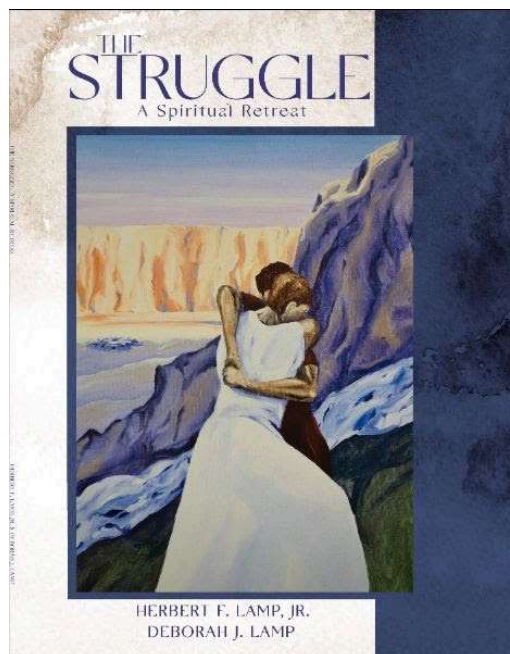
What a joy it’s been to have these face-to-face calls. If you would like to personally zoom with us, please let Debbie know at dlamp@barnabas.org. She will respond and we can set up a time to say thank you and celebrate what God has done.

One note in this regard, for our regular donors and for any who still would like to make a special gift to us so that we can finish well financially, Barnabas is asking that **all donations be received for us by December 15th**. Anything

given designated to us after that date will not go to us, but to other projects in Barnabas. So, if you want to make that last gift toward our final ministry do so before mid-December just to make sure it gets into our account and to us.

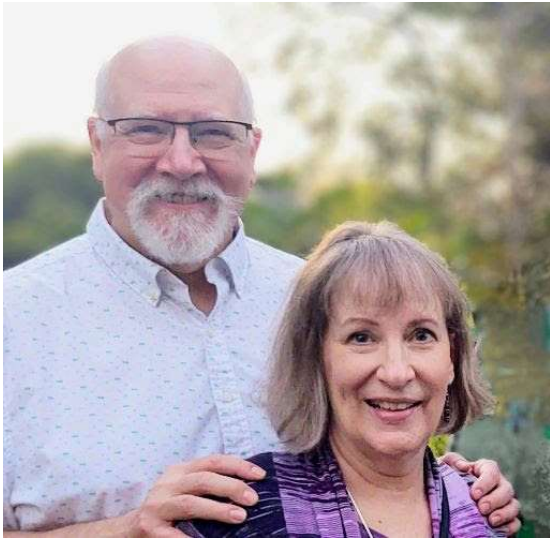
If it seems like we are publishing our spiritual retreat workbooks very close together, you are right. In reality, they have been in the works for quite a while, but, yes, we are trying hard to get all four published by the time we retire at the end of December this year.

If you feel inclined to give toward this project, @\$5000 is still needed to reach our goal.



Praise and Prayer Notes . . .

- **Thanks for praying for The Struggle, our third Spiritual Retreat Workbook.** The final edits are done and the manuscript is in the hands of our design team. We hope for publication at the end of this month. Pray that it will be received as well our other two books: The Prodigal and The Vine. We have just been asked by four ministries if we would consider holding retreats based upon one or another of them in the near future. The Spirit is teaching and leading global workers deeper into the Father's Heart.
- **Please join us in praising God for all He has done through you our prayer warriors and donors.** Saying our goodbyes is not easy (tears have been shed already) and we would appreciate your prayers for us as we try to do the best we can to celebrate you! How we thank God for each of you reading this. (Truly, *you* our heroes!).
- **Please join us in praying for the final bit of financial support needed to finish our missionary careers in good standing.** God has always provided, and we know He will do so now as well. Praise Him.



With much joy and gratitude in Jesus!

Herb & Debbie

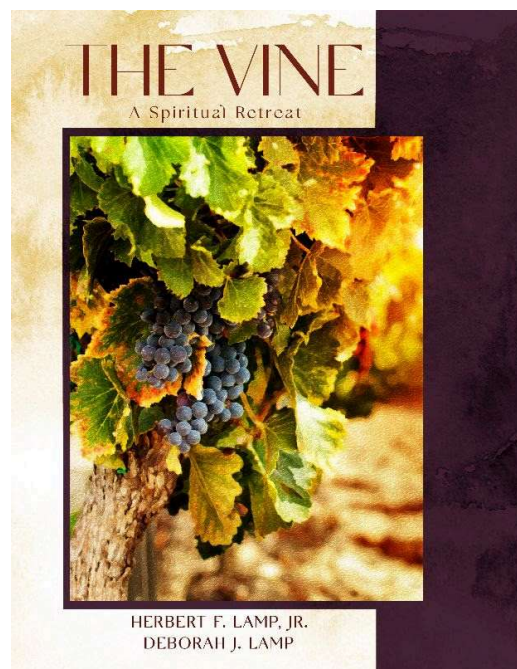
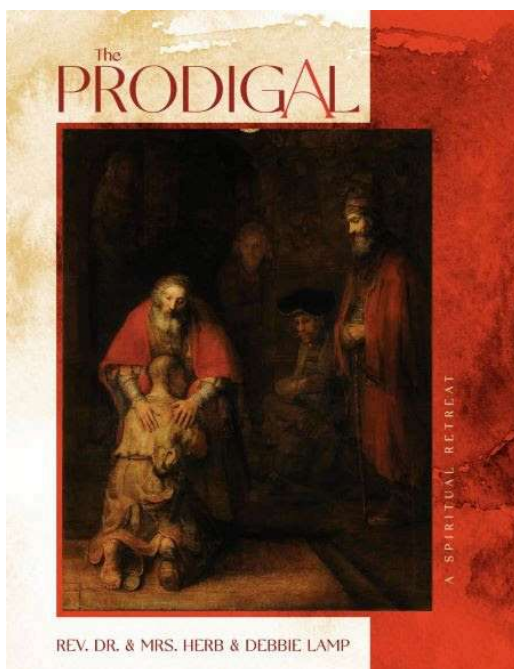
The Lamps

Barnabas International, www.barnabas.org

hlamp@barnabas.org; dlamp@barnabas.org

Lamp's Facebook: see link below

Would you like to go away with the Lord for a day retreat?
Consider either The Prodigal or The Vine.



Amazon: The Prodigal: A Spiritual Retreat

Amazon: The Vine: A Spiritual Retreat

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4980 Shirley Place, Colorado Springs, CO 80920

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