

The SEARLES in THAILAND

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More difficult!

The two years back in the States really took a lot of wind out of our sails. Budding relationships were interrupted and trust was lost. We wrestle on, praying harder and with a lot of introspection. Is there something I am doing or something I am not doing that is preventing the Lord from growing His churches? There is a book that is required reading for military officers. One of the strategies is to get yourself into a **position where you can't lose**, then wait for your opponent to make a mistake. My son Isaac recommended it to me.

Can't lose by Prayer:

Every time Pastor Hughes preached he "rang my bell". I asked him how he did it, and he said that he felt that he was more successful when he met God like a man. He would make an appointment with the Lord at a specific place and specific time and handle it like a very concrete thing. At present, I'm out of the house at 7:00 praying, and passing out tracts for about 5 miles. The Lord has given me 13 people that have come up to me and we have had a conversation about the Lord. Two weeks ago we did have a woman make a profession of faith in Christ.

Can't lose by Memorizing scripture:

As a new missionary I gave up on trying to memorize scripture because I believed that the Lord had not blessed me in that area. I had believed a lie, a fellow missionary Terry Domstad recommended a memory system by Evangelist Ron Hood, now gone to be with the Lord. It works! Now for a long time I have been using it. At first, it was all in Thai. Recently, I've reverted back to English to build myself up spiritually. It takes a long time to memorize in Thai and I need spiritual help now. I need it to defend myself from spiritual attacks and the flesh.

Can't lose by (Remembering):

In Joshua 24, The Lord through Joshua reminded Israel of at least 24 things He had done for Israel. Sometimes I get hung up on what I want to happen now (I think wanting it now is the definition of lust) and I forget the 100's situations where the Lord has blessed me. At least forty five years ago Jean Schnarr told me I should keep a diary of all the things that I would see the Lord do in our upcoming ministry. I didn't realize how good or important that advice was until I recognized Joshua 24. I did go back and list all the times that I had firsthand experience of Gods' presence. In that there is real excitement and joy. It's probable not considered good form to share a Google search <https://www.openbible.info/topics/victory>
To go down through the list and add them to my review list does a lot to ward off dark thoughts. I taught a series on Elijah and the thought occur to me toward the end of his ministry it might be construed that he was not a really happy camper but he labored on. Jacob wrestled on
So things are tough but Ex 1.12, Jer. 29.13, Prov 8.17, and 2Tim 1.7 haven't moved!

Wrestling on

Tim & Maureen
P.S.

The Kids up in NongKhai are doing well and the church up north wants me to get back up there but until I see some movement here I can't divide my time and finances other than prayer.