



A Call To Arms!



Now that I have your attention, let me quickly point out that I am not calling for you to "take up arms" but rather to "link arms" with our currently appointed UPCI missionaries!

The Bible tells us that *"two are better than one."* (Ecclesiastes 4:9) *"And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight."* (Leviticus 26:8)

It's all about God's multiplication tables! This is what we're called to do. One can do exponentially more in God's economy when linked together with one more!

The following illustration is not particularly spiritual, but it does illustrate a very important concept:

A traveler stopped to observe the curious behavior of a farmer who was plowing his field. A single mule was hitched to the plow wearing blinders, and the farmer was yelling, "Giddyap, Pete! Giddyap, Herb! Giddyap, Ol' Bill! Giddyap, Jeb!"

After watching the farmer carry on like this for a while, the following dialogue ensued. "Say, mister—how many names does that mule have?" "Just one—his name is Pete." "Then why do you call out Herb and Bill and—"

"It's like this," explained the farmer. "Ol' Pete is blind, and if he knew he was doing all this work alone, I couldn't make him do it. But if he thinks he's got three other mules working alongside him, it takes the pressure off, and he pulls to his full potential."

I have been receiving Social Security for 11 years now. Someone asked me, just last night, "Are you enjoying your retirement?" I replied, "Well, I'm sure I will when, and if, I ever decide to do it."

The fact is, many of our VGMA Members have reached that magic age of retirement. While there is no evidence that retirement necessarily equates to death, people still talk about it happening. However, adaptable individuals have found great satisfaction in exploring new avenues of interest after retirement.

One reason for the reduced lifespan among retirees, of any age, may be the abrupt change in lifestyle. Although you may not choose the age you retire, **you can decide** what to do with the extra time on your hands.

“Volunteering provides a sense of meaning, has been shown to reduce stress, and can help you maintain social contacts.”

Retiring doesn't have to be a death sentence. You can create a second life after your active ministry is over in hundreds of different ways.

Our “front-line” missionaries have taken on the primary tasks that the Veterans have done so well - for so long.

However, any military expert will readily explain to you how important the auxiliary and support forces are in maintaining wartime readiness.

No one understands the reality of “battle fatigue” more than we do! The greatest thing that our currently appointed missionaries need is not a “hand out”, it's a “hand up!” A mighty army needs “boots on the ground.”

Some will say, “Well, no one has invited me.” What if I could show you 98 “open invitations” to come and help our currently serving missionaries? I'll do that in just a moment.

These are invitations for Training; Construction; Work Teams; Teaching; Prayer Teams; Bible School Teachers; Home Bible Study Teachers; MK Home-Schooling; Discipleship; Media Ministry; Ministry of Helps; Social Work; Evangelism; and Administration.

No one has Trained more National Workers; Built more Overseas Church Buildings; Constructed more Church Pews; Prayed more; Taught more Bible School Lessons; Home Bible Studies; and Home-Schooled more MKs than VGMA Veterans.

No one has Organized more National Church Offices; done more Social Work and Administrated more than VGMA Veterans. In short, **no one** is more qualified to volunteer for Short-Term Missions than we are!

What are we waiting on? An invitation?

Well, here you go. Go to www.gmstm.net. “Click” on “Go!Center” and 98 personal invitations from our current missionaries will open up to you.

When we respond to these requests, we are “freeing-up” the hands of the missionaries to move on to other pressing matters.

What now?

If you want authorization to raise funds and solicit offerings from Individuals and/or Churches to underwrite your trip, you will need to apply to Global Missions for an “Associated Minister” appointment. It is not a complicated or difficult procedure.

If you seek authorization for an overseas term of more than 2 months you would need an additional "AIM appointment." Once again, a simple and uncomplicated procedure.

Airfares can be expensive, but you might be pleasantly surprised at how inexpensively one (or two) can live in certain Foreign Countries.

VGMA Members have already performed with excellence in dozens of countries around the World!

How about an encore?



Pictured below are just a few of our VGMA Veterans "in action" recently.



Pictured from left to right: Bennie and Pat Blunt; James and Karen Crumpacker; Jerry Burns; Stephen and Yvonne Nix; William Turner; Ed Tilley; Alan and Valerie Demos; Darline Royer and Dorsey Burk

Join us at www.gmstm.net

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Check out the new Videos posted on the VGMA Website!

www.vgmaupci.com

To view a short video of some "Spirit-filled" scenes from the 2023 VGMA Retreat, just go to **VGMAUPCI.COM**. Click on "Retreat Videos" and then click on "2023 VGMA Retreat" in the drop-down tab.

Save the Date!

**VGMA Annual General Conference
Banquet and Business Meeting**

**Friday September 22, 2023
@ 2:30 PM**

Room #124 in the Indianapolis Convention Center

**RSVP is required via email or text only.
Please indicate your choice of
entrée—Beef or Chicken**

**You may RSVP to vgmasec@upci.org or
(314) 625-8321 (text only)**



The VGMA welcomes New Members:

*Ed and Mary Simmons
Kirby and Mary Parker*



*The VGMA extends their sincerest and heartfelt
condolences to the Family of :*

Louis Louw

Who was recently promoted to his Heavenly Home.

