

## A MEMORIAL DAY MISSIONARY MEMO

Our calling is to provide camps for youth where the program allows counselors to teach Christ.

campsinternational.org

It's just another Monday in Mexico. Dawn will break in a few minutes. The sounds of morning birds announce clear skies and warm temperatures. But as for me, a graft into the Mexican society, I am again confronted with being a dual citizen. Today, back home, it's a special day; a day of remembrance. So I meditate on not just the sacrifice of Americans who died for their country but I think on the missionaries who have *fought in battle* for service to the King of Kings. Particularly, I reflect on those who did not fare well.

I am mindful of a ministry where college age young people were greatly used to reach into difficult places with song, drama and preaching. The head of the ministry was greatly overworked and severely under compensated. Too much transition and not enough reserves finally broke them. The family is a causality of ministry. The husband's diverse abilities were relegated to an obscure job back in the USA.

I lament.

MIA... A super talented family committed to building relationships and helping educate the young in a poor neighborhood. The poor we still have; the family returned to the USA. The undaunted task still looms at large.

I question.

Hero, victim or AWOL sinner? He was obedient. He exercised faith and experienced miraculous provision from HQ (God). He pushed the front forward in nearly a dozen places by planting churches in inaccessible mountainous terrains. He left his wife.

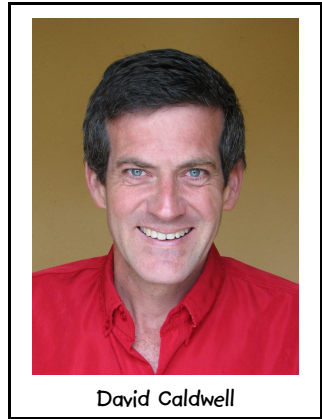
I weep.

A well equipped regiment suffered high casualties due to mis-management, personnel not properly deployed and provisions not reaching the front lines. The fighting wounded were discharged with dishonorable records. At least one was then shot by friendly fire.

He who has ears to hear, let him understand.

“LET THE DEAD BURY THEIR OWN DEAD, BUT [DAVID] GO AND PROCLAIM THE KINGDOM OF GOD.”

So what did I do to support the troops? My interaction did not sway the tide of deception and “death” that overcame missionaries on the field of foreign service. Is



the cause of Christ worthy of the carnage? Is Christ, the Chief Commander, really leading people to suffer such loss?

Yesterday's text at a church we visited included Jesus' words, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God." The congregation was challenged to consider a higher commitment and more church attendance. Not exactly motivating. But would it be motivating to be told to risk health, finances, oneness to your spouse, reputation, personal direction and connectivity to your home land, all for a supreme cause?

So just because I have willingly and joyfully plowed half a field, do I have to plow until I drop? Is the task too much for God to ask if it ruins the lives of some who are so dedicated?

Obliviously it is not God's intention to ruin lives. However, I write to let you know that real danger exists. I am writing to let you know I do not want to be defeated. Our role in camp development has taken hits and detours. But I am going on. We could never have come so far without the help of so many. Keep praying and keep giving because I believe the potential in what we are about is God-size huge.

As you reflect on those you have known, Christian soldiers who have fought for a Christ centered world, remember David and Karen Caldwell. Remember their six kids. Remember that in reality they are weak. Remember that the drills of devotion, worship and fasting are greatly enhanced with comradeship. Remember that pulling the trigger here is more effective when there is your air support (prayer) from behind.

Please reflect too on the fact that we all have been asked to pay a 10% tax and as a result, many can live free from guilt. Tithing and evangelism go together. And for us, it is the extra gift and sacrifice of good people that God uses to propel us another day. We are grateful to those of you who go the extra distance to send a donation. It is like you are sending a care package to those under fire.

If you haven't given recently, now would be a perfect time. We need funds to build camp so kids can come to camp.

God bless you all.

David Caldwell

Serving the King

Developing Christian summer youth camps and retreat centers with RYCCA in Mexico

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#### CONTRIBUTIONS

Camps International

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Camps International is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

Please make checks payable to "Camps International" or donate online at:

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