



March/April 2012

TECH INTERCESSOR

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Serving with Joy

*The women of TECH share
the blessings of their
calling and service*



***“There is joy in serving Jesus
As I journey on my way,
Joy that fills my heart with gladness,
Every hour of every day...”***

As disciples of Christ, the Women of TECH are called to serve, to be ‘bondservants’, voluntarily giving up freedom to live selfish lives as they pour their lives out in love and gratitude to Christ who “for the joy set before Him endured the cross” (Hebrews 12:2). They know from Scripture and experience that as voluntary bondservants they find their deep and true joy as they serve others.

Missionary TECH Team serves like-minded Christian ministries and churches with technical assistance and know-how. TECH Women are an integral part of this exciting and challenging God story that stretches around the world and benefits hundreds of ministries. The visible part of the staff is comprised of personnel with specialized training doing specific tasks. However, many more are filling behind the scenes support roles of service.



The women of TECH are in and fill both of these roles with grace and joy. Some are full-time staff performing technical assistance responsibilities,

while others serve part time with their roles changing over time as different needs arise. Others work to help support their husband’s ministry, some are homemakers and some homeschool their children. The roles are varied, but the hearts for the Lord and the ministry are the same.

Now, there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. (1 Corinthians 12:4-6 ESV)

This TECH Intercessor article is a compilation of personal discussions with several of the women of TECH wherein they have shared their insights, ministry, and joys of serving.

We all have found that in anything we DO, it’s really all about our BEING. Joy (not happiness) is available to anyone anywhere doing anything. Obedience, gratitude and abiding is the three-strand passion and pathway to joy. If we are abiding in Christ (dying to self), obeying His commands and choosing to rejoice and be grateful in ALL things, there’s a joy unspeakable! It’s all about HIS glory!!!

Most of us TECH women are wives whose primary role is to support our husband’s work for TECH, whether our husbands are staff or board members. Our heart’s desire is to do whatever

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can to adapt to our husband. THAT is JOY! He received the original call to Missionary TECH Team, and there is nothing to compare to the joy of serving God by serving our spouse and seeing him fulfilled and content in what God has called him to do. As this adapting is done, God has also blessed us abundantly by using our gifts and skills AND developing other skills as we walk in obedience.

Others of us are full-time or part-time staff members who have received the call to work at TECH. For us, this is a dream come true—to use our abilities and training to do work that is not about earning a paycheck but is about serving directly the work of Christ. As we interact with various missionaries and serve through TECH, we are blessed with a continuing expansion of our understanding of the profound work that God does around the world.

Many of us, whether in a staff or a support role, have had the joy of doing considerable meal and overnight hospitality in our homes. Often it is for other team members, interns, other missionaries or board members who are in the area for a brief time. Even for the women who do not officially serve on staff this has allowed them to be a part of the Team in a tangible way. In addition, TECH now has several housing facilities for volunteers, interns and missionaries. Through the maintenance of these homes we have had the privilege of serving some of God's choice servants whom TECH is serving as well as our own Mission family and prospective ministry partners.

We have all spent time traveling, some for weeks, to represent TECH, recruit, encourage appointees and develop ministry partners. While exciting and even fun, this activity is challenging and exhausting. Again, learning to focus on the joy instead of our weaknesses has given us another opportunity to see His strength made perfect in our physical weakness. Through these and other experiences we have become convinced that *"faithful is He Who has called you, Who will also do it."* (1 Thessalonians 5:24).

STEALING OUR JOY

You may have noticed that we keep talking about how we have learned to have joy in being a servant of Christ and serving others. But, if

not careful, we have found that this can become a very joyless service. We can fall into feeling sorry for ourselves because by leaving family, friends and financial security we have given up the "American Dream" in order to live as missionaries on faith-supported incomes.

We find, as you may have, that joy disappears when we try to focus on self, instead of the fact that we are dead and God can do what He wants through us. When we adjust our thinking and attitude to *"I can't do that, but God can do it through me"*, we are stretched way beyond our wildest imaginings. In the process we have been blessed to learn new skills and impact lives for eternity! We have also found that living as a faith-supported missionary and being available to do any task, whether it fits our skills or preferences or not, means that in a highly practical way we have to trust God. We have to trust Him to stretch our budget and to give us strength and grace to serve in the roles we would never have envisioned

or desired for ourselves. It brings us great joy to see the unusual and creative ways that God provides for our needs: spiritually, financially, emotionally and physically.

If we lose sight of the fact that the unseen is more real than the seen, we will quickly lose our joy. But when we "look full in His wonderful face, the things of earth grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace."

ENCOURAGING PROSPECTIVE MISSIONARIES

We often challenge people to keep asking God the question, "Lord, do you want me in missions?" and then to wait for Him to answer. When you know for certain that God wants you in missions, it will be the 'stone of remembrance' when the enemy tries to steal, kill and destroy your joy with many and various attacks. Unrealistic expectations are one of the biggest killers of joy. Listen to God's voice instead of telling God how you want it to be and look.

In Matthew 25:23 *"His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'"* This is the verse that burns within us all; that we all desire to hear. Consider what it means in your life to be a bondservant and to serve with joy.





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*"Prayer is the greatest power God has put into our hands for service - praying is harder than doing, at least I find it so, but the dynamic lies that way to advance the Kingdom." **Mary Slessor***

Our theme for this **TECH Intercessor** expresses the impact of Godly women in our lives. Please join our staff in prayer that the character qualities of these influences and words of historical missionary women would be exemplified in ALL of our lives.

- 1. Alice Englund** - During our early child-rearing years and living far from our own parents, I had the privilege of having for a neighbor "Auntie" Aubrey Wetherell. She was a gifted Bible student who gave illustrated Bible lessons to the then American Sunday School Union Sunday Schools in the mountains of Northern Idaho. She was also a mentor to me at a time when I needed to start growing spiritually. Pray that not only will each of us grow but also be a mentor to someone who needs encouragement.
- 2. Kay Meadows** - Praise God for the testimonies of godly women such as Corrie Ten Boom who lived more than 40 years faithfully serving God in ordinary ways before her remarkable ministry at saving Jews during WWII. Her trust in God's care and her words of wisdom have inspired me.
- 3.** *"It's not my ability, but my response to God's ability, that counts."* **Corrie ten Boom** (Dutch Holocaust survivor)
- 4. Patrick Schnell** - Last year both of my grandmothers passed away. Growing up they encouraged me to pursue my dreams and to love God. Their love has taught me how to better love others. Thank you God for the lives they led, and the legacy they leave behind in me and in our generation. One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. Psalm 145:4
- 5. Ruth Wood** - Through our time here at TECH there have been a number of women (single/widowed) who have supported us financially and with prayer. The faithfulness of these ladies, knowing some of what they have been through, is a great example and encouragement to me personally.
- 6.** *"Lord, I give up all my own plans and purposes, all my own desires and hopes, and accept Thy will for my life. I give myself, my life, my all utterly to Thee to be Thine forever. Fill me and seal me with Thy Holy Spirit. Use me as Thou wilt. Send me where Thou wilt. Work out Thy whole will in my life at any cost, now and forever."* **Betty Scott Stam**, (martyred missionary to China)
- 7. David Leventry** - I am grateful to have a Godly wife that encouraged me to serve the Lord with my interests and abilities and then was willing to pull up her roots over 20 years ago and come with me to be a part of Missionary TECH Team.
- 8.** *"Even if you forget everything else I want you to always remember that you are a person of value, and you have a friend who loves you enough to give you his most valued possession."* **Bette Greene**, co-founder of MAF
- 9. James Wood** - Throughout my life there has been one lady who has always prayed for me. The knowledge of that fact has encouraged me in a number of areas, and in some cases stopped me from a foolish act. There is no stronger force in this world than a praying mother. (Thanks Mom!)
- 10. Joel Kreider** - Virtue, purity and modesty, - based on merit of their acceptance in society - should be held precious as diamonds. If faceted by humility and self control, their name becomes Hope... whose rarity can be found on display in museums. This is an encouragement for all the Godly women who have influenced our lives...Thank You.
- 11. Birne Wiley** - I praise God that my birth mother chose to give me up for adoption rather aborting me. Likewise I thank God for my Mom who rather insisted that she and Dad adopt a child. God in His gracious providence allowed me to be their "chosen child" and be brought up in a godly home!
- 12.** *"Whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, takes off your relish for spiritual things, whatever increases the authority of the body over the mind, that thing is sin to you, however innocent it may seem in itself."* **Susanna Wesley** (mother of John and Charles Wesley)
- 13. Dan Harding** - I'm grateful for the woman that started a Bible study on *Experiencing God* at my job in Minneapolis, clearing the way for God to direct me eventually to Missionary TECH Team.
- 14. Joyce Daniel** - I praise the Lord for my dear friend, Mrs. Phillips. She has prayed faithfully every day for our family for many years. She has sent me encouraging notes and has been like a mother to me. For several years we spent about ten days in her home when we went to Memphis for the Missions Conference. She is a very Godly lady and has had a tremendous impact on my life and is one of the many other Godly women who have impacted my life the last 20 years.
- 15. Teri Comroe** - My mother is one of the primary people that taught me the joy of serving with excellence. She is a homemaker, mother and wife. She worked hard in all areas but the thing that impacted me the most was how she served my father's business by being his secretary and keeping everything organized and flowing along. Her dedication to excellence in the tediousness of the work along with the joy she took in serving my dad greatly impacted the way that I view serving God.
- 16.** *"Blessed the man and woman who is able to serve cheerfully in the second rank - a big test."* **Mary Slessor** (Scottish missionary to Nigeria)
- 17. Les Brown** - I am thankful for how Gina has supported my ministry here at TECH. My commute to Longview for two days a week has required that she handle some extra duties at home, which she has graciously accepted. She is now beginning her counseling internship, which is her last step to completing her

Master's Degree in Counseling. Please pray that this would go successfully and that she would gain the experience she needs.

18. Tim Meadows - I praise God for a cranky old woman named Mabel. She wasn't terribly spiritual but she made the best pie (on her wood burning stove) that I have ever tasted. Better still is the fact that she passed this ability down to her daughter and granddaughter. I also thank God for that granddaughter, my wife Kay, who has diligently worked on passing down to our kids things that are much more eternal.

19. "God is God. Because He is God, He is worthy of my trust and obedience. I will find rest nowhere but in His holy will that is unspeakably beyond my largest notions of what He is up to." **Elisabeth Elliot** (missionary to Aucas of Ecuador)

20. Renee Harding - I praise the Lord for the people that the Lord puts in my life to encourage us and help us to grow. As Proverbs 22:17 states, "As iron sharpens iron, so one man (woman) sharpens another."

21. Doug Shively - One woman who has tremendously blessed me I've known for many years. She has always been such a big blessing and encouragement to everyone she meets. I know she is "grounded" in the Word, so this is probably just one reason why she is such a great example for all of us.

22. "When we are in the place of God's will, He will never put us where His presence cannot sustain us." **Darlene Deibler** (Missionary wife in the jungles of New Guinea, captured by Japanese forces and sentenced to die. She was later rescued.)

23. Katie Selden - The single most important female influence on my life was, not surprisingly, my mom. The selfless nurturing she poured into me was priceless and every day I am grateful for her example of a Christ-centered life. EVERYONE who knew her agrees that any life she touched was enriched by her presence. I struggle to achieve her level of patience; it is not something she could give....it has to be learned. Currently, I am fortunate to have a team of dear friends who continue to encourage and support our ministry. My praise goes to God!

24. Joe Comroe - I would like to take this opportunity to give praise to my wife, Teri, for her loving care and patient persistence in keeping me going through the trials of the last year and a half. I know I wouldn't have made it without her!

25. "We doubt not but you pray much for us in this miserable land, deprived of all Christian society. We need much, very much grace, that we may be faithful, and bear a faithful testimony . . ." **Mrs. Adoniram (Ann) Judson** (missionary to Burma)

26 Jim Englund - Let's remember to pray for all of the women who teach Sunday School classes. They are "Handmaidens of the Lord", doing a "job" that needs to be done. One of them was my Aunt Emma, my father's sister, who taught faithfully for many years. On our once-a-year visits she always had a new Bible verse for me and helped me learn it. In my later years I have come to appreciate her input to my life.

27. Lynella Wiley - Undoubtedly, my Godly heritage has had tremendous impact in my life. My paternal grandmother graphically instilled an incurable anticipation for the Lord's return

while instilling a passion for the salvation of those not ready. My maternal grandmother, whom I last saw when I was 3, left all to care for Arab and Israeli orphans in Bethlehem, Israel, where she is buried. My mother consistently modeled joyfully living by faith and supernaturally loving any person with any problem or status in life.

28. "If you would live in victory . . . you must refuse to be dominated by the seen and the felt." **Amy Carmichael** (missionary to India)

29. Ken Selden - It has been over 53 years since I first met the love of my life. All these years she has stood by my side whether I made a right or wrong decision. She has supported me when I was down and lifted me higher when I rejoiced. Her faith in me has never faded. Most of all she has shared my faith in our Lord Jesus. Yes, we will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary this coming October. My wife and best friend Katie.

30. Bill Daniel - I praise the Lord and thank Him for my wife, Joyce, whose determination to live "Godly in Christ Jesus" is a blessing to Paul and me and an encouragement to press on in our life for Christ.

31. Molly Ackerman - I grew up the youngest of four girls. God put each woman in my family to direct me differently toward Him: my mom pushed me to use my gifts fearlessly and challenged me to not only memorize scripture, but also to memorize long passages (she has memorized entire books of the Bible)! My oldest sister, Jessica, actually led me through confessing Jesus as Lord when I was young and prayed for me like crazy when I was rebelling against Him. My next sister, Katie, taught me not only to be honest with Jesus but also how to desire to run from my sin. Finally, Sarah taught me what it looks like to disciple people through faithful friendships and true compassion.

BECAUSE YOU PRAYED

Good contacts were made during the Cedarville and LeTourneau University mission conferences. It is encouraging to find young people desiring to make their lives count for eternity.

An application has been received for a person desirous of serving in a key administrative position. Continue to pray for mutual wisdom by them and the Board in the days ahead.

Leadership training being well received and applied - Thank God with us for the special ministry that Roger Farr is having as we learn how to be better leaders regardless of title or position.

We currently have two definite summer interns, with other inquiries that seem promising, and are praying that we will be a blessing to them as we are confident they will be to us.

