

Being An Effective Leader

Biblical Leadership – Part 1

"Behold, I have made him a leader and commander for the peoples." Isaiah 55:4

by BJ Rudge, Ph.D.

Over the next few months we will be examining biblical principles for being an effective leader. Whether you are in a leadership role or not, this study is essential for every Christian for growth and maturity.

Need for Godly Leaders

One day a good friend of mine came by my office. After ten years as a youth pastor he was ready to leave the ministry. He said that in spite of serving at three different churches, he'd never had a spiritual mentor. He was frustrated that he had not found an older man in his life to disciple him, just as Paul did with Timothy (2 Timothy 1:13; 3:10, 14).

My friend's experience is not isolated. I meet people all the time who say they have no example of a true man or woman of God in their lives. Instead of encountering men and women totally sold out to God, they end up being exposed to "Christian" leaders who often reflect more of the world than of Jesus Christ. Today, we need godly men and women to inspire, lead and disciple younger believers; then motivate them to train others (who in turn will train others) as Paul wrote Timothy:

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (2 Timothy 2:1, 2).

We All Leave A Legacy

What legacy we leave will depend upon the impact we have had on those within our circle of influence. In other words, have we provided our family, friends, coworkers, etc., with an authentic example of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ? Would we want others to follow our pattern/way of living? Paul reminds that we are all in a race. Like Paul, let our legacy be that we did more than run in the race – we ran to win:

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord,

the righteous Judge, will award to me on that Day ... (2 Timothy 4:7, 8).

Whom Do We Trust As Spiritual Leaders?

Many people tell me they attend a certain church because their pastor is a great communicator and storyteller. While an effective pastor employs communication skills, more is required in determining what leader we should follow. Rather than pastors who only entertain and tickle ears, we need shepherds whose ultimate aim is to lead us toward holy and righteous living. We all need discernment in knowing whom we should trust as our spiritual leaders:

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound

teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths (2 Timothy 4:1-4).

Every Follower of Jesus Has An Eternal Calling

We are not in this world to merely pursue temporal rewards. Rather, as Paul says, we run this race for Christ to receive an imperishable crown (1 Corinthians 9:24, 25). Knowing that we have an eternal purpose and destiny, we cannot just sit on the sidelines and be spectators. We need to step out of our comfort zone and make an eternal impact on our world for Jesus Christ.

As believers in Jesus we need to be growing in our relationship with Him and the knowledge of His Word. We need to actively share our faith and be involved in activities that will help others and bear eternal fruit for God's Kingdom.

In future newsletters we will examine the qualities of both bad and good leaders. ☪



John Abram Wilson

8/21/30 - 1/14/17

John Wilson was a neighbor, friend and ministry supporter. He would always greet you with "Praise the Lord!" John was a kind man with a big heart. Everything he had belonged to the Lord. Before failing health he helped cut the grass and plow the driveway at the ministry. John is now with the Lord Jesus whom he loved so deeply and praised so frequently.



Beverly Morrison, CPA works with Lois Greathouse on Quickbooks Desktop Premiere 2017 that she and her husband Dan (Daner Business Solutions) donated to Bill Rudge Ministries. Beverly volunteers her time and talents to do the yearly review and annual financial report. Lois has volunteered her time for over 30 years handling the ministry's records and receipts. (Our financial records are stored locally, not on the Internet, to protect your privacy.)

Also, special thanks to Michael Garofalo of Pompa Properties for providing a computer system for media production which is being used by several BRM staff and volunteers; Matt Kraynak of MK Landscape Supply, Art & Teenie Blystone and Louise Wieneke for providing and planting seven arborvitae trees; Audrey Colombo for donating a space heater; Russell & Karen Knight for donating a dehumidifier; and all our ministry friends for your prayer and financial support.



John Wilson, a Korean War veteran rides his wheelchair to the Bill Rudge Ministries' Veterans Memorial.

In Him Alone

by Bill Rudge

I think most of us, in our youth, expected to find pleasure, satisfaction and happiness in this world. But as we eventually discover they either elude, or are shattered by the disappointments of life: hardship, sickness, injury, tragedy and discouragement.

However, I find peace and hope through Jesus Christ and the *assurance* of having unending peace and joy that transcends the limits of mortality. When all the biblical prophecies are fulfilled, God's Kingdom will be established and this earth restored to the paradise it was originally created to be. The entire universe will display the glory of the LORD.

Then will be fulfilled God's promise of everlasting righteousness, peace and joy. And as the apostle Paul stated, "Death will be swallowed up in victory" (1 Corinthians 15:54).

My prayer for each of you is that you experience *knowing* the Prince of Peace (Jesus Christ) and have the *sure expectation* of all God has planned for those who love Him and obey His Word.

All else will ultimately fail you and leave you empty and unfulfilled – so look to the Lord Jesus Christ and find your hope in Him alone!

Holy Land Adventure 10

Bill is coordinating his tenth Holy Land Adventure for February 2018. It will be an awesome pilgrimage – an amazing adventure and a fruitful mission with ministry opportunities in Jerusalem. If you are interested in going let us know and we will send you a brochure and itinerary.

The size of our group is limited to allow more time to walk where Jesus walked and learn what Jesus taught. We would not want you to say (like many who've traveled with large groups and had little time at each site) "I ran today where Jesus walked!"

In Memory Of

Louise Dunder

by

Dunder Family
Rudge Family
Smith Family

Bill & Violette Fleming

by

Paula Emery

Frank & Anna Krotenak

by Alex Krotenak

John Wilson

by

Jack & Elaine Baker
Vince & Claudia Baker
Nate & Kristen Banick
Paula Chieffo
Jeff & Mickey Clarke
Bundy & Angie Garthwaite
Rudge Family
Smith Family

VICTORY COMES

A couple years ago Bill Rudge shared with Jim Weikal what often happens when the Lord leads him to do something. First is clear direction from the Lord. Secondly, obstacles arise and thirdly – after persevering in faith – victory comes. True to the pattern, the very day our *Holy Land Adventure 9* brochures were mailed out, the conflict between Hamas and Israel began and rapidly escalated. In the midst of this, Bill's wife, daughter, granddaughter, and mother-in-law all had surgeries. People started asking if the Holy Land Adventure and speaking engagements in Jerusalem might be canceled. We assured them that no matter the circumstances, Bill has never canceled a mission trip. It proved to be a blessed trip. The Lord will always be faithful to fulfill what He leads us to do.

Touching Lives Around the World

Imagine how exciting it is to receive a letter from someone you helped spiritually. Nothing can compare with knowing that what you did counts for eternity. Now imagine receiving hundreds of such letters. This is what is happening at Bill Rudge Ministries. From lost and searching people needing help and hope, to believers seeking to grow in their relationship with Jesus, to Christian leaders seeking to enhance their ministries, we are receiving continuous requests for our biblical resources.



More Than One Person

Recipients of our books, pamphlets, tracts, CDs and DVDs often share them with their family members, friends and churches and thereby multiply the message many times.

It has been estimated that every CD we send overseas is heard by more than 100 people as it is played in homes, schools, Sunday School classes, youth meetings, Bible studies and church services. Considering the tens of thousands of tapes and CDs we have distributed (and the countless ones duplicated by various churches and ministries), lots of people are hearing Bill and BJ's messages.

Innovative ways our materials touch lives throughout the U.S. and in over 125 countries:

- An ever growing number of lending libraries – often on mission fields, behind prison walls, on military bases and in churches, ministries, orphanages, schools and colleges – offer our biblical resources. Many have reported that our books and CDs are the most requested and first to go from their lending libraries.



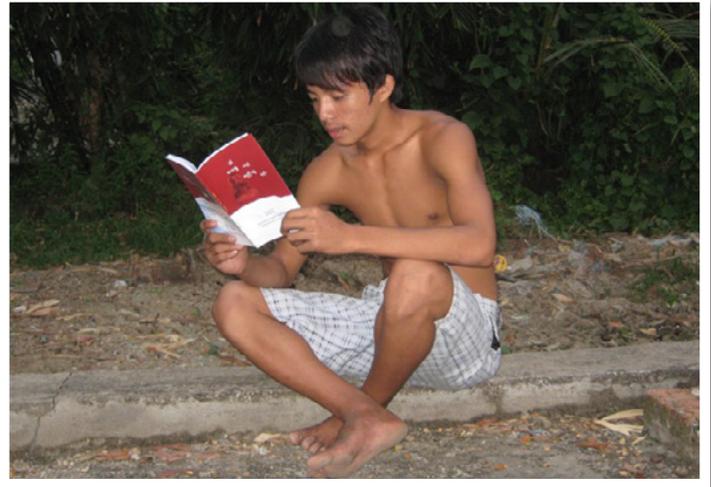
The above family is one of many in remote villages who have received BRM World Literature packets.

- A postal worker in the West Indies wrote to confess he stole one of our packages addressed to someone else. After reading the enclosed book he gave his life to Christ. He requested more of our materials.

- A women's retreat in Texas ordered 300 copies of Bill's book *Fasting for Sensitivity and Power*.
- A pastors' conference in Trinidad requested 500 copies of our book *Not Our Father's Faith*.
- A prison in South Carolina used 750 copies of our book *Reaching Your Maximum Potential in Christ* for a special initiative program.
- A former Grand Master of the Chinese Wand distributed hundreds of Bill's booklet *Why I Quit Karate*, following his lectures and seminars.
- Large quantities of *God's Promise* tracts have been requested by numerous people who pass them out at hospitals, rest homes and to the bereaved.
- A convention in the Himalayas requested 1,000 copies of our book *Overcoming Sexual Immorality* for youth and adult attendees.
- The book *Who Is This Jesus?* continues to touch many Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists...
- BJ's booklet *Faith through the Fire* has been provided to injured athletes throughout the U.S. and overseas.
- Coaches and youth leaders have passed out our posters, pamphlets, books and CDs to young people on their athletic teams and in their youth groups.
- Counseling, pregnancy, fitness and youth centers, as well as personal trainers, provide our materials to their clients.
- Our books are used as part of the curriculum in several Christian high schools and colleges.
- After speaking at military bases, prisons, mission fields, leadership conferences and churches, Bill and BJ leave behind many of their books and CDs for the leaders and people so the fruit of their ministry can continue.
- Requests from chaplains, military personnel and prisoners have resulted in many lives being touched with the Gospel.
- Military Moms and other organizations have included our books and pamphlets in their packages.
- During street ministry and at New Age centers, hundreds of copies of our books, pamphlets and tracts have been distributed.
- BRM books are available through numerous Christian and secular book distributors, and also offered on web

sites of various ministries and organizations.

- Many of Bill and BJ's articles and ministry ideas, as well as quotes and excerpts from their books and messages, have been published in various magazines, journals, newsletters and books, as well as posted on various web sites and blogs.
- Audio and video podcasts of Bill and BJ's messages have been heard or viewed by thousands of people on secular and Christian Internet sites.
- Our web site (billrudge.org) is host to a multitude of articles, E-books, audio messages, videos and slide shows which have encouraged people around the globe.
- Many churches and ministries in the U.S. and abroad reproduce and distribute messages by Bill and BJ.
- Numerous pastors and missionaries have used BRM books and tracts to evangelize their villages and cities.
- Several of Bill and BJ's books have been translated and reprinted by publishers and ministries in Egypt, India, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan and other nations.
- Bill's dramatized testimony on *Unshackled* is available in both English and Spanish.
- Our monthly newsletters to people throughout the U.S. and our e-newsletters internationally provide ongoing spiritual nourishment.
- Missionaries visiting the ministry center often carry our biblical resources home with them in their luggage.



A young man reads a Burmese translation of Bill's *Who Is This Jesus?* book which was translated in Myanmar.

- People traveling in the U.S. or leaving for overseas mission trips frequently take our books, pamphlets, tracts and CDs to distribute.
- Several international mission organizations partner with Bill Rudge Ministries to ship large quantities of our books, CDs and pamphlets to mission fields worldwide.

Our Bible-centered resources are touching countless lives and bearing fruit for eternity in these and many other ways.

**"... Freely you have received, freely give."
Matthew 10:8**

Our mission is to freely offer Bill and BJ's books, pamphlets, tracts, CDs and DVDs as our gift to the world. More than 1.5 million have been given to spiritually hungry people in every state in the U.S. and in over 125 countries. We only ask the recipients to freely share them with others after they read, view or listen to them.

Having heard Bill or BJ's messages on radio, shortwave, the Internet, CD, at speaking engagements, or through a book, pamphlet, tract or newsletter handed to them by a friend, many write asking for more of our materials. Most are unable to send a donation but we try to honor every request as the Lord provides.

The apostle Paul stated:

What then is my reward? That, when I preach the gospel, I may offer the gospel without charge... (1 Corinthians 9:18).

Our staff prays over every package and box before they are mailed. Letters and e-mail from throughout the U.S. and around the world tell how BRM materials are impacting countless lives.

Those who support the Bill Rudge Ministries financially, those who save their change for our "change the world" literature campaign and those who sponsor a package or box are all helping us fulfill Jesus' Great Commission. Thanks for your generosity and faithful support!

Help Us Reach Out

We have packages and boxes of our books and CDs awaiting sponsors so we can send them. Save your change or help with the following:

- **\$25** is all it costs to send a package of our books, CDs and pamphlets to a missionary, pastor or chaplain anywhere in the world, or send a similar package to a U.S. military personnel, prisoner or student.
- **\$50** will sponsor a box of books, CDs, DVDs, pamphlets and tracts for a mission or church that will lend or distribute our biblical resources in their region.
- **\$100** or more will help with the translation and printing of Bill and BJ's books.

May God bless everyone who helps us respond to the cries of the spiritually hungry and thirsty by sponsoring our World Literature Outreach packages.