

# What do you fear? (Have you told anyone?)

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## ***WITS (Walking In Their Shoes) International***

*providing supportive counseling and training to the international  
Christian expatriate community*

**----- focusing on the ministry of Lee and Carolyn Baas**

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I received a Skype call from a missionary in Asia.

She said, "I am so afraid. I rarely have a night when I can sleep for more than a few hours without waking up in fear. I try to go back to sleep but I am afraid that I might not wake up if I go to sleep. Sometimes I feel that I don't want to wake up if I go to sleep because I don't want to face a new day."

Can any of you relate to that kind of feeling? Afraid of what lies ahead? Afraid of what the new day might bring? Or afraid that you might not wake up and you wonder if God will accept you?

I am often asked, "What problems do missionaries have?"

A nice easy answer that I often give is that everyone is different - just like all of us. Yet, I don't just brush off that question because I want to dialogue with those who are interested in the wellbeing of international missionaries.

I have just returned from a conference where I was able to spend almost a week talking to missionaries. Most of the time I met with individual missionaries. Sometimes my appointments began before breakfast – and on two of the days, my last appointments went until 9 P.M.

No, missionaries don't have more problems than their peer group in the U.S., and they struggle with the same issues that you and I struggle. Yes, they are also fearful – just like us.

Many of them live in countries where there is political unrest. Some are living in towns that are suffering from violent mass demonstrations. And they wonder, "How can I stay out of this mess?"

They wonder about tomorrow – just like us.

They wonder about the what their kids and grandkids will have to face - just like we do.

Often, missionaries do not have the support services that we enjoy in the country where we live. Some are in areas where they have good internet and can talk to family and friends as often as they want. But when they get off the internet, they feel alone.

That is the world of the missionary.

And they join me in telling you that they would not change what they are doing because they **KNOW** that despite the problems that they face, they can bring a **LIFESAVING MESSAGE** to others. They want to be where they are privileged to work. They know the Message they present is true. They know they will "make it".

*"There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...If God is for us, who can be against us? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship...danger or sword? ...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For we are convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any power, neither height nor depth, nor anything in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8)*

A missionary couple I talked to last week were facing some major difficulties in their ministry. Humanly speaking, it would have been easy for them to throw up their arms and resign from their ministry. We talked, we prayed, we looked into Scripture together. We cried and laughed. They said, "Now we know why we came to this conference. And we know why God brought you to this conference." Yes, they will still face some issues but they have "tools" to help them to better resolve their life issues.

I was there because you are holding us up in prayer, encouraging us, and supporting us so that I could travel.

As soon as we can after the New Year, we will send you a report of this great year of ministry that the Lord has provided. (Actually, my overseas work is not finished yet this year as I have one more trip scheduled in December. I plan to be back before Christmas.

With our prayers for you and our thanks for holding us in your hands of love, Lee and Carolyn Baas

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