



A free service, REACT's Partnering Minute is designed for leaders in the non-profit and business communities who are working in partnering efforts. The REACT Services team of specialists paints the pictures of what is happening in the world of ministry collaboration through stories from the front lines, outlining best partnering practices, reviewing key current books, or highlighting case studies. All in about 60 seconds!

Please feel free to forward this Newsletter to anyone you think might benefit from this information.

We offer the following short story this month in the hope that, in the midst of what can often be a hectic and even chaotic season for many people, it can encourage you and your leadership. We believe that the time we are in is pregnant with strategic opportunities for us to make a difference in our communities and nations. May you be blessed in a special and fresh way during this Christmas season.

- The REACT Services Team

Enjoy Your Coffee

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor.

Conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life. Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups: porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

All the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said: "If you noticed, all the nice-looking expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that could be the source of your problems and stress. Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee in most cases, it's just more expensive, and in some cases even hides what we drink.

"What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups . . . and then began eyeing each other's cups." The students sheepishly looked away, but nodded their agreement.

"Now consider this," he continued, "Life is the coffee, and the jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain Life, and the type of cup we have should not completely define, nor change the quality of Life we live. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we can fail to enjoy the coffee that God has provided us."

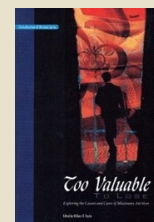
God brews the coffee so enjoy it richly.

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December's Book Recommendation



"Too Valuable to Lose: Exploring the Causes and Cures of Missionary Attrition," Edited by William D. Taylor

For those concerned about the mental, spiritual, and relational health of missionaries around the world, this resource provides an in-depth look at what the world of missions does to the heart of the individual. A compilation of research and anecdotes written by practitioners from around the globe, this book takes an honest look at the underbelly of "member health," as well as offering practical methods of better serving this valuable community.

This was my first member health resource, and has proven to be a "go-to" for a variety of issues. As a missionary myself, suffering with team difficulties, depression and burn-out, I found helpful perspectives that framed my experience as "normal" and "hopeful." Now, as a member health professional, I have had the privilege of conversations with many of these authors, and find a heart of compassion and grace that I believe is crucial to the health and life of the missionary.

One small word of caution: many of these articles are academic, and can be onerous to read. While this is not a "nightstand" book, it certainly is a great addition to the library of every person concerned about the health of

the world's missionaries.

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