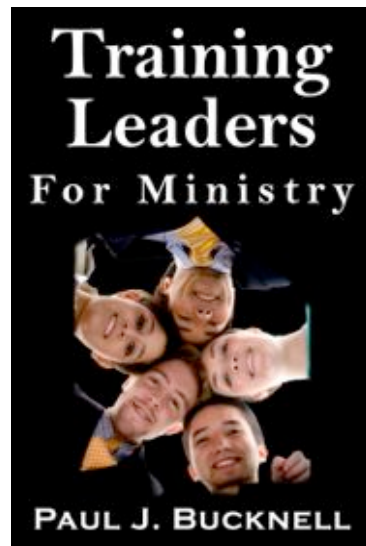


Training Leaders For Ministry



PAUL J. BUCKNELL

Training Leaders for Ministry



**Effectively mentoring those
entering full-time or tentmaking
ministry!**

Rev. Paul J. Bucknell

Book Information

Training Leaders for Ministry: Effectively mentoring those entering full-time or tentmaking ministry!

by Paul J. Bucknell

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Train Up Leaders for Ministry

The process of caring for those who have committed themselves to full-time service.

Some exciting ministry experiences can be confusing. I remember a group of excited individuals, mostly students, return all invigorated from a mission's conference. I was very glad to see their enthusiasm, but as a pastor I was not very sure what to do with them next. Many leaders, like myself, are not very clear on how to mentor and train others for any kind of service, let alone full-time dedication to tentmaking or ministry.



On a different level of frustration, we may wonder about some individuals who claim to be called by God. “How will this young person ever be effective in the ministry?”

We might even catch ourselves quietly pondering about their personal flaws. We hope the flaws will remedy themselves because, after all, God has called them. In the end, we trust that their dedication to full-time service will work out for the best. This is not the best response, though.

Due to unresolved thoughts like these, we often end up more confused, especially when they ask for a referral from us.

By supporting the people that God calls, we are supporting God's work.

They need some kind of training, but we are not sure how to continue working with them. Whether you get confused like I was or have the process fairly well worked out, we hope that through this book, *Train Up Leaders for Ministry*, you will gain extra insight into the practical steps that you can take to train up new leaders right in your own church.

Supporting God's Work

Those that go forward to dedicate their lives to full-time service are typically not ready to go. They are usually extremely burdened for some work that God has put on their heart. There is a high probability that they feel that they should be doing something about it right at that point, but more often than not, they will need further training before they are able to do what God wants.

God's burden precedes the opportunity to serve so that they can give adequate shaping time to properly prepare themselves. These individuals usually do not realize the importance of this training that must take place before they become effective workers. They usually follow the cues given to them from their pastors, missionary committee and others, but admittedly, they do know little of the process.

While at times, we find some of the most winsome brothers following the path into full-time ministry, this process usually is not so clear. Sometimes God presents before us what seems like the most unlikely individuals talking about their burden to serve God. We appreciate their burden. At least they are willing. Many are not. Usually, however, we wonder how they could be effective.

I personally was one of these unlikely candidates when God called me—young, inexperienced, from a broken family, raised in a liberal church, no formal training, etc. Here I am, though, decades later. Even though these individuals might seem unprepared for such a great work, it does not mean that God has not called them or impressed upon them the great need of the harvest field to stir them up and steer them in that direction.

We should not simply dismiss anyone who claims God is working in his life. Instead, allow time and opportunity to test him. In the meantime, we should in full faith provide the training necessary for that person to serve the Lord. The training will be a good testing ground. This is our responsibility. We do not want to be a stumbling block for that person. We are to use our position to help build discernment in them and help them to grow. When a leader takes personal concern for an upcoming leader, that person is greatly strengthened and encouraged. By supporting the people that God calls, we are supporting God's work.

A Leader's Project

Write down the name of each person that recently dedicated him or herself at the mission conference, and if possible, write down what God has called them to do. Pray for each one by name. You might pray for them weekly. That is a good start, but these people are the ones Satan also wants to discourage the most. Maybe we could put them on a special 'hot' prayer list and get others to pray for them at least several times a week.

The Struggle with Responsibility

The question that faces us is, “How does a church leader best help a person who comes forward at a mission’s conference in response to God’s call to full-time service?” Let’s think about this a moment. The decision he or she has made to go into full-time service is very important. This person has put his or her life into God’s hands.



More often than not, however, they do not really know what this kind of decision practically means. They have no idea the challenges of being pastor or missionary nor the required skills to effectively serve. Unlike many around them, they are not usually responding to the job opportunity

but to the Lord Himself and His truth. God has impressed certain truths very clearly on their minds and hearts and so that they are willing to make that decision public.

I personally was studying at the University of Maine to be an engineer when God called me. I had to grapple with many decisions. No one was there at my side to help me discern these issues. This was partly because of my quiet nature but also because there was no one there to discuss these deep spiritual issues.

As a leader in the church, believe that God has given you and others about you sufficient wisdom, resources, experience and grace to help this person get to where he needs to go. You might feel inadequate for this assignment. If you haven’t been to seminary, you don’t know how to train them. If you have been to seminary, you might miss out on your training opportunity by simply suggesting that they attend a school like yours and share how you were helped by your seminary experience.

Both of these responses will unfortunately keep you as God’s leader from rightly carrying out your faith–building role. God chooses to give birth to a child through the mother because she is capable to nurture the child. In the same way God will

give you wisdom to encourage these upcoming leaders as you depend upon Him for help.

A Leader's Project

Take a step of faith and entrust yourself to God as He leads you to help those seeking after the Lord's will. Confess your weakness and acknowledge His wisdom. Let this be a journey of faith for you as much as for them. They have a lot to learn from you, but if you are like many leaders, you don't very well understand the process of passing experience, insight and knowledge on to others. Our good mentor, the Spirit of God, is there to lead us.

Inward and Outward Confirmation

You may still be thinking about that one person who seems rather unfit for full-time service. He eagerly talks to you about his commitment. You feel awkward, yet he is excited. You want to hold him back while he wants to go forward. How do you handle such a person?

There are two kinds of people we meet up who have a burden to serve God, those that seem capable and those that do not seem right for ministry. Fortunately, we use the same method to approach these individuals.

If you do not sincerely believe that God is calling a person, the worst thing in the world would be to send such a person to seminary or the field. We need to detect the specific reasons we have difficulty supporting him. Is it because of personal or relationship problems or simply a lack of giftedness. Are they faithful? It is critical that we work through these issues. We do not want to cause more problems by sending someone inappropriate into the ministry!

First spend some personal time with the individual listening to what God is doing in their life. Afterwards, simply tell him that you are excited about what God is doing in his life. Explain that there are two parts to a call, both an inward and outward call.

The **inward confirmation** describes how God speaks to a person in such a way that they feel burdened about some ministry. The individual feels called to serve because God spoke to his own heart through one of many means. This is difficult to contest. We listen and remember.

The **outward confirmation** describes the circumstances surrounding the individual that affirms his calling. This should include an assessment from his own church leadership that affirms God is really calling him to full-time service. A person's character, circumstances and overall abilities need to be examined. Inward and outward confirmations should complement each other.

A special diagram, *Charting Your Steps into Service*, has been designed to help the mentor identify the special equipping God has done in an individual's life as well as what still needs to be worked on. See appendix 1 and 2.

Notice how Paul in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 refers to both kinds of confirmation. The inward confirmation is spoken of in 1 Timothy 3:1 (this is seen from the top left list) while the outward confirmation (the bottom left list in diagram) in verses 3:2-7.¹

Inward Confirmation	Outward Confirmation
<p>“It is a trustworthy statement; if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do” (1 Timothy 3:1).</p>	<p>“An overseer, then must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ...” (1 Timothy 3:2-7).</p>

The inward confirmation reveals the way a person ‘aspires’ to serve the Lord. He aspires to serve in this or that way. This deep desire or burden reflects the way God has privately spoken to the individual. It is also the time that God through some verse or word reveals something about His person that builds up their faith to follow through.

The outward confirmation focuses on a person’s observable character qualities, gifting and includes situations such as his family and the way God has used him in the past.

A Leader’s Project

It is always best to openly share these two aspects of both inward and outward confirmation with these ‘called’ individuals. Sometimes people are confirmed on the outward but not the inward. At other times, they are sure God called them (the inward) but lack the confirming circumstances. Share with them your excitement and briefly introduce your plan of action. Don’t let their qualifications, relationships, gifts, good or bad, disguise the necessity of securing both of these confirmations.

Explain how you and other leaders will work with them in the next years to confirm their gifts, strengthen their faith, purify their lives, and encourage them in their walk with God. You may be able to share an experience from your own life on how God helped you grow in some certain area of your life to prepare you for ministry. In any case, you do not need to affirm they will be a minister for God but only a

¹ All Bible references are from the NASB unless otherwise noted.

willingness to work with them to train them and better discern what God is doing in their lives.

The Training Process

God wants great leaders and good shepherds. We can be one hundred percent sure of this. The Lord came along Joshua's side and showed him how God wanted him to succeed as a leader (see Joshua 1). He desires that every leader would do wonderful so that His sheep are well-fed and guarded.

God spoke harshly against lazy or selfish shepherds in the Bible ([Ezekiel 34](#)). Great leaders are sensitive to God's desires. They want to obey Him. They are there to serve others. I am sure you have seen wonderful examples of these hardworking shepherds that prioritize the needs of others like the Great Shepherd the Lord Jesus. Behind the various gifting, we are looking for dedication and faithfulness.

We need to strategically help these shepherds-in-training to prepare for ministry nearby or in a faraway land across the seas. We have seen too many men go into ministry only to give up after a few years of service. They were not well prepared.

Seminaries and Bible schools are not designed to train a person's character but advance their knowledge. Nor does it train them on how to relate to others with whom they disagree. The place to train individuals such qualities is in your own church before they attend any formal training.

We need a
general and a
specific plan.

We would also expect a seminary to excel in training students on how to train others, but unfortunately this is the exception unless they are to become a professor. They can often do some deep exegetical study in the original language but have not learned how to disciple a person or start a church.

Many church leaders want to pass this responsibility onto others because they have never been trained themselves. They might not know how to equip another or help another improve one's personal character. Let's trust God to use us to help better prepare these young (and maybe not so young) ones going into ministry.²

² [The Godly Man](#) has many free resources and studies on how to deepen the leader's character.

Fortunately, we work under the Lord. As we seek Him, God will help us know what steps to take. Even if we have been involved in much training in the past, we still need to humbly seek God for His wisdom and direction for every individual concerned. We need this specific direction to guide us in taking practical steps to help him or her. We will speak more of this later.

A Leader's Project

Ask God to teach you to be an effective trainer and teacher. First, identify what training you have gone through in the past. Then list what training you have learned from experience. You will use these experiences to help encourage others. Lastly, identify areas in which you need to learn more. Make steps to do this as the Lord provides.

Specifically, ask the Lord to help you understand the training process and a specific plan to help each individual seeking full-time service. Remember God is in control, and you are His assistant.

Experience/training

Identify and gain the essential skills and knowledge one needs to enter full-time ministry and to serve in the area most burdened. Other training comes along while in the path of service.

Character/spiritual

Acquire the moral character and effective spiritual disciplines to maintain a close and intimate relationship with the Lord and proper attitudes toward others.

Agency/support

Make the proper contacts with a mission or denominational agency so that requirements are understood and met in a timely manner, including the raising of needed support (prayer and financial).

Church relationships

Carry on good and proper relationships with those in the home church, making sure clear communication is occurring.

These four items are designed for a person planning to be a full-time missionary. They differ somewhat for those going into the pastorate, teaching or other parachurch ministries but largely overlap.

If any training in any one of these four areas is lacking, then the person in training will often get confused and make wrong decisions. And so will the church!

The person concerned will need to grow in knowledge, skills, and relationships and through this process make important good decisions. When we share these four areas of development that full-time workers need, then they will also know that they will be expected to grow in these four areas. Clear communication eliminates many misunderstandings and clarifies individual expectations. This, in turn, provides a framework upon which the trainer and trainee expend their time and efforts.

Some people are more mature and need less training.³ They perhaps need more opportunity to mature as they serve. Other individuals need more training. That is fine. Whatever the Lord wants should be done. Just don't forget to work with the individual and see how he really measures up.

If we bypass a person because he is, for instance, the pastor's son, then we will tend to neglect proper training which will have long-lasting negative consequences.

³ Everyone needs training, but this training is received in many ways. A good family behind the scenes helps establish the character quality needed for service. Those without a godly family background will need to learn personal skills and character qualities in different ways.

Don't be partial but faithful. More information on these four areas and helpful starter questions for the individual to think about can be found in the book, *"Taking Your Next Step."*

A Leader's Project

For each individual that is seeking full-time service, buy a folder supplied with five pages. One page has general information about the individual. The other four pages will resemble the four points mentioned above (or however you divide them). Track a person's progression in each area. Personally, I would make this an open folder for the person to see.

Open it right in front of him. Give him a copy. It will remind him of the inward and outward steps needed to confirm his call to the ministry. A pastor, elder or missionary chairman can oversee this process. We only ask that he would be a mature man in the faith. A woman should not oversee a man's development.

The Specific Plan

You might feel a bit more apprehensive about the specific steps of training, having such a busy schedule as you do. After reading this, we hope you will not feel so inadequate. From Ephesians 4:11-13 we read of God's gifted people in the church. They are to equip God's people to serve. Sometimes, we conclude that only the pastor is to do all the work. The pastor, however, does not have all the gifts and wisdom to do the proper job. Nor does he have the time!

The Coordinator

First, you need to find someone who will coordinate the training. This person will see to it that the process continues on with periodic evaluation. During an initial evaluation, specific areas of need are discovered. The most significant ones should be mentioned. Others can be brought up with discretion. We do not want to overwhelm the individual.



After a special area of need is brought up or discovered, there needs to be plan of action. This person can be the pastor, elder, deacon or missions chairman. You might even have a furloughed or retired missionary at your church. They can help. If your church is small, see if you can pool resources with a few other church. Just remember to go over the four points above so that you are thinking the same way.

Your goal is to see growth in each of the four areas. It would help to have the person under training to report to someone else in leadership to make sure the mentor relationship is going well.

The pastor should periodically review the folder with the person who is mentoring to keep connected. Remember that the end purpose of training a missionary is to send him out. The church needs to take proper steps to think how to support that person in each area of his life. If well supervised, these individuals can become a great asset to your church during this training.

One of the first things to do is to give a copy of '[Take Your Next Step into Ministry](#)' to each person heading into full-time or



tentmaking ministry. They are to read and study the book.

After going through the book with them, ask them to identify all the obstacles that they are facing before they can get to the mission field. This list should include uncooperative parents, a spouse with a different heart and loans. They also need to identify needed areas of training such as discipleship methods, overcoming temptation and character development.

After a general discussion with him over those two broad categories, you and he/she have a much better understanding of the needs that God wants attended to in this training period. You yourself will have your own observations, but start with their list.

As you talk with him, you will be thinking through several issues:

- What are his or her specific needs?
- Where do we want to bring this person?
- How long might it take to work through these issues?
- Which areas are the most urgent?
- Which areas of training can be done at the same time?
- Who has experience in dealing with these areas of training?
- Are there any good reference materials regarding these subjects?

The training process, though overseen by one person, can best be done by several people over a period of time. When we really do not have someone to train a person in a certain area, then we can find outside resources that will help.

For example, what do we do when we find that a person worries a lot? This worry interferes with his or her decision making process. God doesn't want him to worry. To be effective in ministry he needs to overcome his worries. This particular need should be marked down on the page addressing moral qualities. The overseer then needs to start looking for individuals who have overcome worry that can share with him. Or perhaps the pastor has a series of tapes on the topic.

If resources are not found in the church, then one can look for outside resources. There may be a conference that he can attend or study material on God's way to

[overcome anxiety](#). Please do not make the mistake of having them take a secular course! As a good shepherd you must make sure that changes in people occur by applying biblical principles.

Find areas of need.
Trust God for wisdom.
Design learning opportunities.
Keep them accountable.

It is imperative to keep that person accountable to applying and practicing those principles until they become his or hers. In other words, this person should not just attend a conference or read a book but meet God in such a way that he has learned to overcome those personal struggles.

Here are a few other examples.

- ◆ If you find that the trainee is not regularly meeting with the Lord each day, then you need to train him how to have proper devotional times. Poor devotions reveal a lack of appreciation for the way God strengthen and leads His people.
- ◆ If they don't regularly come to prayer meeting, then someone needs to work with them on the importance of a strong prayer life. These are the foundations of Christian living and without faithful Christian living there is no effective Christian ministry.

What about skills? Has the person done visitation? Does he know how to lead people to the Lord? Who has he discipled? Does he know how to do these things? These are things that he should easily be able to learn in the church. Leading worship, teaching children, youth and adults, and preaching are other skills.

As a special need or opportunity of service comes up, you might need to find another mentor for the trainee in that area. Do not just assign him as the youth director but assign him as youth director with a mentor.

The mentor will focus on developing one specific area, but he also needs to be sensitive to other particular problems that the trainee might face. If a serious problem arises that requires another major area of training, then one should probably find another mentor to help. If that one mentor feels comfortable addressing that situation, a new progress report can be initiated in that particular area.

You will start looking at your members in a different way when you start overseeing someone's training. Your congregation members will become resources to help others grow. You will also see specific areas in which they can by God's grace grow. No one is perfect, and yet God has already grown the people in your congregation through many different life events.

These individuals might not be the person who will oversee the one in training, but many will have special insights and stories to contribute. You might encourage a couple to have dinner with the couple you are mentoring and have them share how they have come to have a good solid marriage. Just give inexperienced mentors specific assignments so they know what is expected of them. Be a mentor of mentors.

Please remember to keep the person accountable, not only of what they have learned about a certain issue, but how they are applying it to their lives. For example, if his parents are resolute against him going into full-time service, we need to carefully pray and monitor his relationship with his parents. We should expect a change to occur in their hearts. This opposition could well be a sign from the Lord that this individual must improve on his relationships with his parents.

A Leader's Project

Start talking to the people who went forward to commit his or her life to full-time participation in the Great Commission. Ask him or her to make two lists.

- (1) They are to list all the obstacles hindering from being that person God has called him or her to be, and
- (2) List the different areas of training that they need.

You might see other needs but start where they are. As you pray, think about individuals who can help in this process. Start off with one area and yet follow through and be consistent. Don't try too much at once.

Too many people!


You might be one of those blessed churches that have several people who have committed themselves to full-time service. Now you wonder if it is a blessing! How can you possibly train them? This is not as difficult as it seems at first. Remember, God is in charge. If God is calling several individuals from your church, then you can handle the training.

Our church has started a group for those interested in full-time ministry. The pastor does not do this alone but with other trainers. It is a time to share encouraging stories about how you and others have been led by the Lord, a time to share with each other what God is doing in their lives and bring up many of the questions those pursuing full-time service ask. Some attendees might have gone to a special conference; some might not have. In any case get them together. From there you will help introduce certain areas of training all at once.

A Leader's Project

If you have two or more people who have dedicated their lives to serve the Lord or are strongly contemplating doing so, get them together for a meal and have them together share their experiences. You might have your pastor share first.

Get them all together on a somewhat regular basis. Use their own energy, excitement and love for God to encourage each another. We suggest that you set a regular monthly meeting (e.g. 3rd Tuesday).

One night you might have them list the obstacles that they face and then have them each share three of these obstacles that God needs to help them overcome. You can start off with your own personal account and end with joint prayer. Tape the session for those who can't attend so that they can hear it later. 

Much more can be said regarding any of these issues, but this general and specific plan helps organize church leaders into being enriching mentors rather than frustrated leaders.

Conclusion

We have gone a long distance in this book. Here are a few key points.

- When God calls someone from your church, then it is a special blessing to you all.
- God holds the church leaders responsible to train new leaders that God calls.
- God will help church leaders train up new godly leaders.
- The training process is not mysterious.
- Learn and teach the overall process of training for ministry (inward and outward).
- Identify obstacles to overcome areas of training needed.
- Appoint specific mentors for training different areas of needs.
- Keep the trainee accountable for what he or she has learned.

Not everyone will go into full-time service, but those that are trained well will faithfully serve God wherever the Lord leads them. Different churches have varying resources, but now with the web online courses, good training can be found fairly easily. They are worth investing in so that those being trained will not lack any good thing.

Many of those going into full-time service will need formal training because many denominations and mission organizations require it at this point, but high financial costs and ineffective training will continue to put the pressure on churches to first prepare their own.

As we keep track of the training process, the church and the trainee should be very encouraged. When the outward confirmation matches the inward, then one can be sure they are ready to enter the ministry.⁴

As for the one who does not show himself faithful or gifted, the church does not need to feel awkward toward them. They have clearly explained to the individual the steps of needed growth and can wait. In the meantime, focus on those who are faithfully growing.

⁴ We do not demand a perfect marriage, but one in which the couple has shown a commitment to improve their marriage. This commitment is noticed by issues they have already worked through.

State that you are committed to them but without serious progress in their assignment area, that mentoring is not being most effective. Once resumption of the training takes place, then the mentoring relationship can continue.

One day you will send these men and women out to serve. Or maybe they will serve right in your own church! Wherever they serve, the most important thing is to know that they are equipped to serve God wherever He sends them. You have been faithful and they will replicate your commitment to them on to others. They are people you can trust and would want in ministry besides you.

Other BFF Resources

“The Flow Explained” ([video](#)) describes the overall process God wants to use training in your church to equip your people for service. When a ‘flow’ is developed, well-trained leaders naturally emerge. What a blessing to have such people in ministry with you!

[‘Overview of Discipleship Materials’](#) provides both an understanding of the three different stages of discipleship as well as free practical resources that can be used for training.

Appendix 1 Your Timeline Chart

View next page or [click here](#) for pdf download.

Charting Your Steps into Service

Inward Direction

"If any man aspires to" (1 Timothy 3:1)

Charting your desire and willingness to be involved in God's service.

3) Identify 3 next steps

Explore missions; read mission biographies

Develop experience by exercising skills

Develop character & relational skills

Spiritual journal; God and you.

Commit yourself to mission/church.

Devise a plan of training with mentor

Speak with mission agencies now.

Disciple others.

Maintain excellent daily quiet times.

Take up extra opportunities to serve.

Improve relationships with your parents.

Pray specifically to overcome obstacles.

Privately study God's Word in depth.

Confess and repent from sin.

Commit to right living.

1) Sense a calling

- Born
- Saved
- Burden to serve
- Mission's Conference
- Past experience
- Scripture passage
- Preacher's message
- Parent's encouragement
- Other

Inward conviction must be accompanied by outward confirmation. Both are crucial parts to discerning God's will for your participation in missions. (1 Timothy 3:1-7)

2) Confirming a calling

- Contact mission boards
- Short term mission trips
- Active in evangelism
- Received special training
- Meet mission committee
- Disciple others
- Sent by church
- Regular spiritual disciplines
- Regularly pray for lost
- Attended seminary
- Raise support teams
- Other



Outward Confirmation

"An overseer, then must be ..." (1 Timothy 3:2)

Gaining an objective assessment of your call into His service.

Appendix 2 Sample Timeline Chart

View next page or [click here](#) for pdf download.

Charting Your Steps into Service

Inward Direction

"If any man aspires to" (1 Timothy 3:1)

Charting your desire and willingness to be involved in God's service.

3) Identify 3 next steps

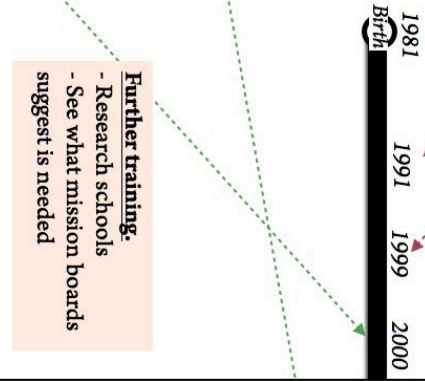
- 02 Explore missions; read mission biographies
- 02 Develop experience by exercising skills
- 02 Develop character & relational skills
- 02 Spiritual journal; God and you.
- 02 Commit yourself to mission/ church.
- 02 Devise a plan of training with mentor
- 02 Speak with mission agencies now.
- 02 Disciple others.
- 02 Maintain excellent daily quiet times.
- 02 Take up extra opportunities to serve.
- 02 Improve relationships with your parents.
- 02 Pray specifically to overcome obstacles.
- 02 Privately study God's Word in depth.
- 02 Confess and repent from sin.
- 02 Commit to right living.

SAMPLE

- ### 1) Sense a calling
- Born
 - Saved
 - Burden to serve
 - Mission's Conference
 - Past experience
 - Scripture passage
 - Preacher's message
 - Parent's encouragement
 - Other ...

Inward conviction must be accompanied by outward confirmation. Both are crucial parts to discerning God's will for your participation in missions. (1 Timothy 3:1-7)

Clarify guidance.
Talk to parents more clearly after significant prayer and fasting.



Character training.
Get angry easily.

- ### 2) Confirming a calling
- Contact mission boards
 - Short term mission trips
 - Active in evangelism
 - Received special training
 - Meet mission committee
 - Disciple others
 - Sent by church
 - Regular spiritual disciplines
 - Regularly pray for lost
 - Attended seminary
 - Raise support teams
 - Other ...
- Further training.**
- Research schools
- See what mission boards suggest is needed

Gaining an objective assessment of your call into His service.
Outward Confirmation
"An overseer, then must be ..." (1 Timothy 3:2)

Appendix 3: More on the Author

Paul served as an OMF church planter in Taiwan during the 1980s, pastored during the 1990s and now actively training and writing at *Biblical Foundations for Freedom* since 2000.



Paul has been married 30+ wonderful years and blessed with eight children and two grandchildren.

Rev. Paul J. Bucknell, president and founder of *Biblical Foundations for Freedom*, travels internationally giving seminars on Christian leadership development, discipleship, marriage, parenting and other topics to pastors and Christian leaders. He has written more than 10 significant books on applying the transforming power of God's Word to the Christian's life.

[\(More on](#)

[Paul and the ministry\)](#)

Appendix 4: Books written by Paul J. Bucknell

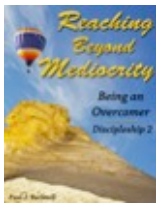
Check out the many challenging materials designed to further your spiritual growth. [www.FOUNDATIONSforfreedom.net](http://wwwFOUNDATIONSforfreedom.net)

Overcoming Anxiety: Finding Peace, Discovering God

Stress, anxieties and their related fears can not only be managed but actually overcome. People worry because they were never designed to handle the stresses of life on their own. God wants to help you. Your Creator has designed a way to experience His inner peace while walking through the stresses of life. The bridge illustrates ten steps leading across the pathway to His peace. Regularly experience the peace of God. Questions included.



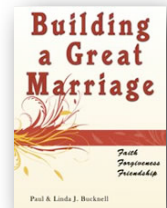
Reaching Beyond Mediocrity: Being an Overcomer



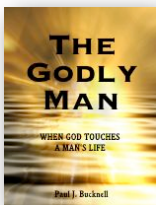
Reaching Beyond Mediocrity shows the importance of hope and how to gain a strong confidence in God's Word so that His people can move on in their spiritual maturity towards the image of Christ. The first four lessons develop the overcoming principles while the other lessons use those principles to overcome anger, lusts, pride, anxiety, and depression. The last chapter helps the reader apply these same principles to other struggles not specifically treated. Loads of exercises included.

Building a Great Marriage

Building a Great Marriage's ten chapters provides the foundation to build a great marriage as God has promised. Three main sections, faith, forgiveness and friendship provide the foundation, recovery principles and the way to gain a deep enriching marriage. Study questions included! Handouts and powerpoints available.



The Godly Man: When God Touches a Man's Life



Men around the world are pursuing God. They are tired of the world. They are sick of their sin. They want God. They insist on godliness. *The Godly Man* encourages, instructs and, by God's grace, brings His people close to Him through a number of various approaches to important topics. Study questions included. Answers and advanced questions available.

Godly Beginnings for the Family

Godly Beginnings for the Family helps parents start right: filled with lots of practical advice for pre-birth, birth and post-birth accompanied with reading, handouts and clear illustrations on early training. Paul and Linda share what they have learned training our eight children. Study questions included. Powerpoints available.



Christian Premarital Counseling Manual for Counselors



Christian Premarital Counseling Manual for Counselors aids pastors, elders and other church leaders involved in premarital counseling to challenge and prepare engaged couples to have good and godly marriages. A six week course with handouts and exercises.

Principles and Practices of Biblical Parenting

The idea is simple. God is the Designer. Parent His way. We are not experts or perfect parents. We are humbled by our past failures. Our confidence is that by applying God's principles to family life He will restore any family to its glorious design. *Principles and Practices of Biblical Parenting* explains not only what God says about raising a godly family, but why those principles from God's Word work. With eight children Paul and Linda have had a lot of hands-on practice! Study questions included.



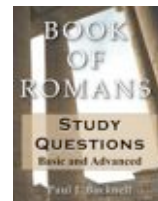
Cross Training Basic Discipleship



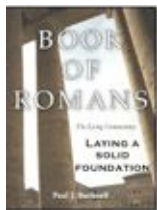
Designed for new Christians or Christians that need a good grounding in the Christian faith. This twelve-week series is founded upon Jesus' summary of all the commandments, 'to love God' and 'to love others.' Much too often basic discipleship materials focus on the vertical relationship with God and have not sufficiently shown or challenged the individual on how Christ's commands relate to personal relationships. A perfect solution to those having trouble relating to others. Teacher's guide available.

Book of Romans: Bible Study Questions

The Roman study questions help you or your small group reach down to the intended meaning of the Roman Bible passages. When the text is particularly difficult to understand or apply, advanced questions help you dig down deeper and better able to communicate the message to others in a very relevant way.



Book of Romans: The Living Commentary



The Living Commentary series is designed for those who want to understand and use the Word of God in their life and ministry. This study series is designed to help the Word of God shape the disciple's heart and mind. The Book of Romans is a great companion book to the Bible study questions. Charts and diagrams as well as other resources make the Book of Romans interesting and relevant to the lives of His people!

3 X E: Discipling One to One

Finally a discipleship booklet that is meant to be used in the church! This 7-lesson basic discipleship booklet around 3 E's: Exaltation, Edification and Evangelism and is designed for new Christians or those needing to start afresh. Both teacher and student booklets available.



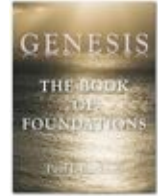


[Walking with Jesus: Abiding in Christ](#)

Explore what happened when Jesus took the author for a walk with Him! Each study closely follows what Jesus said and did through the perspective of the disciples. He is waiting to take you along too for this fantastic – absolutely never boring – journey.

[Genesis: The Book of Foundations](#)

Genesis: The Book of Foundations includes many resources for teaching and personal study for the Book of Genesis. Maps, genealogy charts, overview themes, outlines, handouts, diagrams, Bible study questions and treatment of many passages are all included.



[Old Testament Biblical Training DVD](#)

The BFF Old Testament DVD includes a library of media-enriched materials! What a handy reference and great gift. Biblical book overviews, intros and outlines, maps, diagrams, Bible studies, extensive articles, powerpoints, audio/videos, many graphics. Biblically sound. A computer resource DVD.



[New Testament Biblical Training DVD](#)

The BFF New Testament DVD enables you to have a New Testament library right on your computer. Biblical book overviews, introductions, outlines, study questions, maps, diagrams, extensive articles, powerpoints, multi-media, many graphics. Biblically sound. A computer resource DVD.

[BFF Discipleship Training DVDs](#)

BFF Discipleship Level 1, 2, 3 Training DVDs has an amazing number of top quality Biblical-based articles on discipleship and Christian spiritual growth including pdfs, powerpoints, audios, videos, discipleship training courses, etc. Each level of spiritual life is included! Our many discipleship books and materials are available on this one DVD. Print and use! A computer resource DVD.



[BFF Marriage Training DVD](#)

BFF Marriage Training DVD includes all BFF's marriage books and articles including *Building A Great Marriage* and *Christian Premarital Counseling*. Available videos, audios, powerpoints and handouts are included. A computer resource DVD.



[BFF's Parenting Training DVD](#)

BFF's Parenting Training DVD has two main series along with many other parenting articles including a mini-series on restoring teens. Each series not only has handouts but graphic-filled powerpoint slides and reading. *Principles and Practices of Biblical Parenting* has nine audios and videos from an actual seminar. A computer resource DVD.

