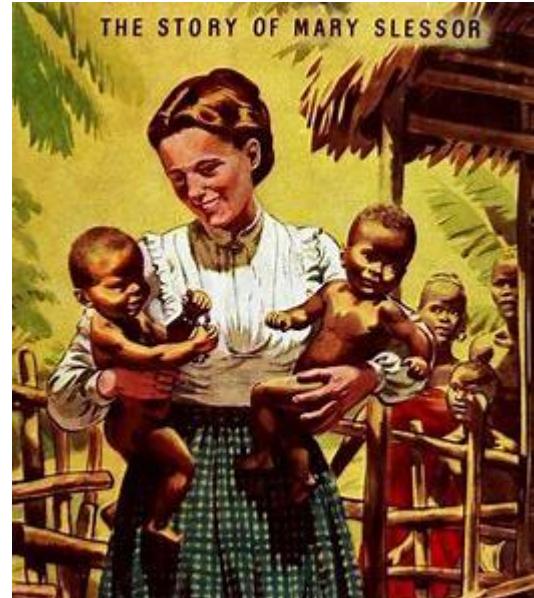


Keeping Our Inward Balances!

(Ordering Our Private World!)

Mary Slessor was a young single missionary who left Scotland at the start of the 20th Century to go to part of Africa. The land was known to suffer from all kinds of disease and great danger. But she was determined to serve God and kept going when lesser men and women would break down, or exit, never to return. She recorded in her journal on one particularly draining and difficult day. Mary found herself trying hard to sleep in a crude jungle hut. She wrote...

"I'm not particular about my bed these days, but as I lay on a few dirty sticks laid across and covered with dirty corn-shells (in place of mattress), with plenty of rats and insects, 3 women and an infant 3 days old alongside, and over a dozen sheep and goats and cows outside, you should not be surprised that I hardly slept. But I had such a comfortable quiet night in my own heart..."



Questions for Group Exploration

1. Imagine you are caught in a similar situation; will it be easy to fall asleep?
2. What kind of irritations, physical and emotional, will you have to cope?
3. What could be Mary's greatest challenge, as a missionary?
4. What could be the reason for Mary saying, "but I had such a comfortable quiet night in my own heart..."

What are the visible signs that indicate our abiding in Christ? Over the years, I've discovered **4 vital inward balances** that go hand in hand with a Christian abiding in Christ, the true vine.

1. SERVICE & JOY!

Psalm 100:2 "Serve the LORD with gladness".



2. PERFORMANCE & REST!

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" Matthew 11:28-30

Restoring Your Spiritual Balances

2. Performance and Rest



A Rest less Worker is a "Restless" Person!

3. WORK & WORSHIP!

"Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God..." 1 Corinthians 10:31

Restoring Your Spiritual Balances

3. Work and Worship



Work is an expression of worship!

4. RITUAL & REALITY!

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men..." Colossians 3:23.

Restoring Your Spiritual Balances

4. Ritual and Reality



Why do I do what I do... For whom do I perform the rituals?