**Dear Pastors, Missionaries, Ministry Leaders, and Church Staff**,

The old year is behind us, the New Year in front of us, and the time to for analyzing and reporting is now before us.

At the beginning of a calendar year, or ministry year it is wise to set aside time to seek the Lord Jesus in assessing your ministry and direction for the role the Lord Jesus has you serving. When was the last time you set aside a day to seek God for direction? You say, “BUT Brother, what about my busy ministry routine?” How many of your routine weekly activities could easily be postponed with a few calls or a weeks notice? Most? Busyness is not a barometer of productivity, is it? Are your daily and weekly tasks significantly contributing to planting a church, strengthening the church, or training leaders for the church? Did you just answer that question honestly? ? ? Significantly is the key word here. What type of activities consume most of your time? Who is directing your ministry; you or the Lord, your God?

I encourage you to set aside time to look to the Helper, your Holy Spirit to evaluate and contemplate your life and ministry. Do it now! Schedule a day and place now! I too battle the tyranny of the urgent. The next few weeks were my time to “catch up”. However, I just found a quiet little place for a spiritual time away. No mobile phone or email just an isolated quiet place for time alone with Jesus. What about my plans, and work? I am going to do the most effective activity! Too many times my good intentions for an extended time seeking the Lord in reflection and direction were cancelled by the urgent daily tasks!

I will take my Bible to this quiet place, read, and seek the Lord regarding the following matters.

 *Lord, am I clear as to what you want to accomplish through my ministry?*

*Am I clear on my role?*

*Do my gifts and abilities fit the role I am in?*

*Where do I need to personally change and grow?*

*What next steps Lord do you want me to take?*

*Father, what do you want me to pursue this year?*

*Do my day to day tasks and weekly commitments clearly accomplish what you want to do?*

*Am I really pursuing the passion you placed on my heart, Lord Jesus?*

*Or have I become busy with activities that have little impact on souls?*

*Am I being faithful?*

*Father, how would you have me move forward in this ministry?*

*Lord Jesus, what changes would be wise to make?*

I will even in honesty ask and seek answers to questions to serve the Father better than I have done.

*Lord, do you want me to press on with what I am doing now or change?*

*Is there another ministry you want me to be part of that would better fit my gifts and talents?*

So, how about you? When will you schedule an extended time at a quiet place to seek the Lord for direction? Jesus often withdrew to a quiet place in prayer. When will you? Drop me an email and let me know how it went.

Your fellow servant in Christ,