

introduce them to Christ and demonstrate with her life what it means to be a believer.

Instead, she found herself running copy machines and staplers, and handling the hundreds of little chores that spring up in a busy office.

When she reported to our church, Andrea mentioned some important lessons she had learned from her stay in Colombia. One of them was flexibility-being able to adjust. What we anticipate in our service for Christ may not be what is actually experienced out there on the field.

Because of glowing reports from Christian workers and the aura of miraculous blessing that often accompanies concepts such as "ministry," "short-term missions," and "fulltime service," we often formulate highly idealistic expectations. Then comes reality-and major disappointment.

Maybe you find yourself in a situation where things are nowhere near what you thought they were going to be. Classes are a drag, roommates are difficult, the "perfect job" is turning out to be a big-time pain, or a relationship is not as you anticipated. With the help of Christ, Andrea had the maturity to jettison her expectations and accept reality as it came. As a result, she made a good contribution to some people who very much needed her-and to the cause of Christ.

You can do the same! —DE

REFLECTION

- Do I think believers are sometimes guilty of painting a too-rosy picture of their missions or other experiences? Why?
- Have I found myself in a situation where I'm disappointed with the reality of what's happening? How have I reached out to God or others for help in adjusting to it?
- Have I experienced a time when God far exceeded my expectations? How did I react?

God can turn dashed expectations into glorious realities.

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Please feel free to contact the Pastor for any needs you may have, queries, or questions about our church family.

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Central Mountains Baptist Church

20 SEPTEMBER, 2009

Information for Visitors.

- * We're glad you're here. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the service. You're very welcome to join us for a cuppa after church.
- * a Cubbies programme is normally provided, during the sermon for the **toddler to Kindy age bracket.**

Dreams and Reality

When 20-year-old Andrea Ness left for a 3-month missions stint in Colombia, South America, she was expecting to work at a residential home for homeless and troubled girls in Medellin, the drug capital of South America. When she got there, Andrea learned that the home had been firebombed and that the government had closed all resident facilities.

Now she had to work in the office. How boring!

Through this experience, Andrea learned a valuable truth about Christian service. Expectations rarely (if ever) square with reality. Andrea had envisioned living in a dorm with the girls and doing lots of exciting one-on-one work with them. She was going to help them escape the drug-infested, dangerous subculture of which they were victims. She would



Portrait of a Christian Helper

The Scripture describes four aspects to the recognised Christian helper:

1. A _____, Philippians 2:25, 4:18-19

(Colossians 1:7-8) "as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, {8} who also declared to us your love in the Spirit."



2. A Co-_____, Philippians 2:25, 30

(Colossians 4:12) "Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God."

(Acts 20:4) "And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia; also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia."

(Acts 27:2) "So, entering a ship of Adramyttium, we put to sea, meaning to sail along the coasts of Asia. Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, was with us."

(Philemon 1:23-24) "Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, {24} as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow laborers."

(Colossians 4:10) "Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, ..."

(Acts 18:2-3) "And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. {3} So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers."

(Acts 18:18) "So Paul still remained a good while. Then he took leave of the brethren and sailed for Syria, and Priscilla and Aquila were with him. ..."

(Acts 18:26) ".... When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately."

(Romans 16:3) "Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,"

(1 Corinthians 16:19) "... Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house."

(Romans 16:21) "Timothy, my fellow worker, and Lucius, ..., greet you."

(2 Corinthians 8:23) "If anyone inquires about Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker concerning you."



3. A Fellow _____, Philippians 2:25-27, 30

(Romans 16:3-4) "Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, {4} who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles."

4. A _____, Philippians 2:28-29

(Colossians 1:7) "... Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf,"

(Colossians 4:7-9) "Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. {8} I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, {9} with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here."

(Ephesians 6:21) "But that you also may know my affairs and how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you;"

