

**Psalm 39:12 “Hear my prayer, O Lord... for I am a stranger with You...”**



**Balance:** To maintain equilibrium, steadiness, to stay upright, to keep steady.

How about this one? “a state in which various elements form a satisfying and harmonious whole and nothing is out of proportion or unduly emphasized at the expense of the rest”. Or this one? “a state of emotional and mental stability in which somebody is calm and able to make rational decisions and judgments”.

Sometimes a rough ride is not the result of a rough road. Sometimes it's just a tire out of balance or out of alignment. Granted, the roughness of the road (or poor driving habits!) may be the initial cause of the problem. But if the problem isn't corrected, eventually the wear and tear will send you to the side of the road where you'll have the joy of calling 1-800-AAA-help and tying your nice, clean, white hanky to the antennae.

I know, you're probably thinking, “Hey Mister-know-it-all-back-in-the-office, any bright ideas how I'm supposed to balance seven full time jobs all at once? How is anyone supposed to find balance in the face of language acquisition, cultural acquisition, family responsibilities, field team responsibilities, neighbors in need, family needs back home, physical-spiritual-emotional exhaustion, financial needs, and systemic slowness in anything and everything?”

Short answer: “Nope!” But one thing's for sure, if you can't find the balance, you're not going to survive long-term. While I am not going to prescribe a specific cure from long distance, I do have good news, however. God has given us clear priorities and the responsibility to make tough decisions every step of our journey. The priorities are the spiritual disciplines: Worship, prayer, scripture reading-study-memorization, quiet solitude and meditation, fasting, serving, witnessing and encouraging one another.

Let me ask you to do the following as a first step in one more *spiritual-four-wheel-alignment*:

Read Psalm 27 and write down David's desires and experiences, and your thoughts. (Send them to me if you want to.)

Read Psalm 18 and write down every description of God and what they mean to you in your present situation.

Read Psalm 46 and write down the contrasts and what they mean to you, today.

Pray these scriptures back to God quietly, and honestly ask Him to restore your balance by resting squarely on Him.

Refresh your list of “musts” and remove whatever is keeping you from the real necessities of life. (Be careful not to over react on this one! To over-correct for imbalance is just as dangerous as making no corrections! Get some good advice and counsel from mature, balanced servants who have made it through these tough times of adjustment.)

And yes, I know some of you are thinking about my own obsessive, compulsive behavior and insane schedule. Pray for me too, OK? Finding and maintaining balance is never easy. But I'm committed to continuing adjustments, since losing balance is just way too costly, in every way.

Remember, you are being prayed for. We love and appreciate you, too. Adios, Ron