

PARTNER LETTER MAY 2008

Dear Partner

Grace and peace to you and yours in our Lord Jesus Christ, the One who loved us, bought us, washed us, and made us kings and priests to our God.

Did you know that when Saddam Hussein was in power in Iraq, if an Iraqi citizen mispronounced his name it was a crime and the punishment meant instant death to that individual?

Think about that; the threat of death for mispronouncing someone's name is extreme, yet it also applies in our society, not in the physical sense but in regard to relationships or perhaps business deals.

No one likes to have their name mis-spelt or mis-pronounced. Over the years I have had to smile at some of the letters and emails I receive from people around the world. One that stands out in my mind was a letter addressed to Dr. **NORMAL** Campbell. I laughed at the time but realized there was a truth in the mistake. The Christian life is the **NORMAL** and everyone else is not normal.

I wonder how Father God and The Lord Jesus Christ feel when we forget The Word or fail to thank them or speak to them on a daily basis.

John 14.26 Amplified Bible *"But the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, Standby), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will cause you to recall (will remind you of, bring to your remembrance) everything I have told you.*

I am aware that as I have become older I find myself in a room in our small home and wonder why I went in there. When I sit down and think about things I then can recall the reason for being there.

My very dear friend Peter also an older person says it is just one of those 'senior moments' when the little grey cells in the brain don't function the way they should and decide to have a rest.

Now I have another friend in ministry and his name is Jerry, he is a singer and now in his 70's. Quite often he seems to forget lines in his songs that he has been singing for 20 or more years. To overcome this memory problem he has developed his own system of going to sing to a group of people for the first time. There may be 20 or 30 people in the group. He makes a point of asking them all their names and then after his performance 35 - 40 minutes later he goes around the group and calls out all their names.

I have never been able to do that, and sometimes I wish I could.

Psychologists say that most memory problems are really due to what is termed '*impression deficit*'. We need to guard against this deficit in our lives and increase our ability to remember names and important things.

Here are 3 simple steps to help in that regard.

1. **IMPRESSION.** Whenever you meet someone, really concentrate on the individual and their name.
2. **REPETITION.** Repeat the name, using it in a conversation and as soon as practical just write it down.
3. **ASSOCIATION.** Attempt to visually associate the individual to a place or time or event.

However it not enough to just remember names, they must be pronounced correctly, remember what happened in Iraq. Elizabeth uses '*memory hooks*' or similar sounding words to try to remember things, this works for her sometimes. I think it is good to try to write some things phonetically or writing them like they sound. In communicating we should try to speak language that most people understand. Try to get an understanding of words.

What about a medical doctor trying to communicate to a lay person in medical terms.

- Cesarean section is **not** a neighborhood of Rome.
- Impotent does **not** mean distinguished and well known.
- Labour pain is **not** getting hurt at work.
- Nitrates are **not** cheaper than the day rates.
- Outpatient is **not** someone who has fainted.
- Seizure was **not** a famous Roman emperor.
- Terminal illness is **not** being sick at the airport.
- Tumor is **not** more than one.
- Ultrasound is **not** a loud noise.
- Urine is **not** the opposite of you're out!

We can smile but words are important and we should try to develop our communication skills by remembering people's name and correctly spelling them.

We are praying for you this month.
Yours Faithfully

Norman & Elizabeth

Dr. Norman & Elizabeth Campbell