Society of Mentors Zoom Meeting

January 4, 2022

Theme:

This call was centered on Missionary Attrition. Guest speakers were Austin Gardner, Jeff Bush, Chris Gardner, Sam Wilson.

How to NOT quit:[[5:10]](https://www.societyofmentors.com/products/membership/categories/2149393016/posts/2154299340?wtime=5m10s)

You don’t get to quit. You are probably sure that you’re the one who is not going to quit.

There are no legitimate reasons for leaving Jesus. Some people have actually left Jesus when they leave the ministry.

No one goes to the field thinking; I’ll just go back and get a regular job at a business. Some leave for legitimate reasons, some don’t. For some, spiritual suicide was their only option.

Chris: Being a missionary requires different disciplines. Most careers don’t advance like that of a missionary.

Understanding that we raise our own money, which is a discipline. You become successful in one thing.

Language school: You were successful in your career, i.e. getting support with ease. Then you go to language school, where you are starting all over again. Zero to hero back to zero.

Being a missionary is a journey of up and downs and we need to learn to navigate that reality. Don’t look at a veteran and think it is a straight line; it is not a straight line.

Sam: All who have served on the field have seen others quit. Some for legit reasons. So many men landed on the field and they were all in/excited about the work, but their families were not surviving on the field. You have to help your family not just survive on the field, but help them so they can live and bloom in the environment.

Good guys came to the field with a real desire to do a work for God, but when they got there they didn’t know how to start and do the work. They didn’t have the proper training.

They didn’t know how to create something from nothing. Many never figure out how to start something, and then they get ‘called’ to some other place.

Every 18 months or so, there was a crisis( (political etc) and the missionaries believed they had to quit. However, going home is not an option, crises come and go, find a way through, find a way to stay. You have to know that’s where God wants you.

Reasons for Quitting: Jeff Bush [[16:16]](https://www.societyofmentors.com/products/membership/categories/2149393016/posts/2154299340?wtime=16m16s)

Mental - discouragement, doubting God’s call/purpose for your life. People can’t question God’s call on your life. However, because people are not sure of that call, they get on the field and begin to doubt it. Unmotivated, cultural/language barriers, etc. A lot of mental battles that gone on. Many people are affected because of the mental battle.

Marital - This could be a larger issue, or it could simply be the constant disputes that happen. The greatest test of our Christianity is in our home, but our spouse/children know who we are. Resolve the conflicts that you have within your family.

Monetary - not enough support or debt you have; misuse or poorly handling your funds.

Moral - pornography, extra marital affairs, etc. These issues happen with little decisions, character/personality issues, little things that we let happen in our life. Moral issues cause a lot of people to quit.

No one wants to be eliminated. Look at these areas so that we can lift up the shield of faith. The minute you put the shield down, the devil swoops in and gets in the weak area of life. Don’t become another casualty.

Austin: [[22:50]](https://www.societyofmentors.com/products/membership/categories/2149393016/posts/2154299340?wtime=22m50s)

You have to know God called you there. If God wants you there, you don’t have the right to leave. You have made a commitment to God. Knowing that God put you where you are. You really believe that you are following and obeying God. Remember who you are. He loves you. Nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Before you start your day, write down things for which you are thankful. Pray yourself happy. Get ready for the battle. Get straight in your mind that you are happy in the Lord. Pray through.

Work on your family relationship. Your favorite person in the world should be your spouse. When it all comes down to it, all you will have is your spouse and children.

Don’t be lonely. One purpose of this society is so we can get together so you don’t feel lonely.

Understand spiritual warfare.

Support is key. If you don’t have enough money, you are going to be in trouble.

If you don’t know the language, you are not going to be happy.

You have to learn the culture.

You have to know how to build a work. You will be doing the work. You are the Man of God.

Chris: [[32:04]](https://www.societyofmentors.com/products/membership/categories/2149393016/posts/2154299340?wtime=32m4s) No one knows what they don’t really know yet. You need to have adaptation points.

Always measure what matters. Don’t measure how many bushels you have; measure how many seeds are in the ground. Measuring what matters is not comparing ourselves to others.

Put in a system for each personal/ministerial cul-de-sac in your life; not everything is going to work like you thought it was going to work.

Be careful not to struggle with the Cinderella syndrome; which says that at some point in time, everything is going to change. This is a daily battle. There is not a moment in time where everything magically changes. We are in a race and a battle.

Read: Atomic Habits.

You will never arrive. You will be doing ministry for the rest of your lives.

Don’t get lazy. If you lack discipline, you will not reach your goal.

It is Important to Know WHO You Are Serving: Sam Wilson [[40:07]](https://www.societyofmentors.com/products/membership/categories/2149393016/posts/2154299340?wtime=40m7s)

Many are confused about who they are serving. You feel like Pastors are breathing down your neck, your supporters, mission board, your own expectations that you have set for yourself, etc.

Much of this thought process is self imposed. You are not being held to a set of unrealistic standards.

Get to a place where you know you are serving God, you are serving to please Him; not to please them. He knows where you are and He understands the challenges. God provides for your needs; not the supporters. Get focused on who you are there to serve. You can’t make everybody happy; just make Jesus happy.

The comparison game is the most dangerous game we get into.

[[46:58]](https://www.societyofmentors.com/products/membership/categories/2149393016/posts/2154299340?wtime=46m58s) We know so much, but we need to learn to apply what we know to our lives.

Proverbs 4:23 - guard your heart. Many problems we face are from within. The struggles within our own hearts. Daily feed ourselves; daily fuel yourself. Repeat to yourself what you already know.

Let Your Schedule/Calendar Be Your Boss: [[50:47]](https://www.societyofmentors.com/products/membership/categories/2149393016/posts/2154299340?wtime=50m47s)

Plan your week. Work with a block schedule.

Don’t overwork yourselves. You will burn out on Jesus if you overwork yourself. Make a whole week’s schedule

Read: [[53:30]](https://www.societyofmentors.com/products/membership/categories/2149393016/posts/2154299340?wtime=53m30s)

The Index Card Business Plan

Executive Toughness

Setting Goals/Priorities: [[54:26]](https://www.societyofmentors.com/products/membership/categories/2149393016/posts/2154299340?wtime=54m26s)

Ask a trusted advisor what are your blind spots, that you are not aware of, that can help you. What are the pillars of success that will help you do what you want to accomplish?

Know yourself. Set goals or set blocks of time. Find out what you need to do to accomplish your goal. Find your big goal.

Set your goals based on your priorities.

[[59:33]](https://www.societyofmentors.com/products/membership/categories/2149393016/posts/2154299340?wtime=59m33s) 1st priority should be your walk with the Lord. Ministry will take up the majority of your time, so be intentional about making sure you take care of the things that aren’t ministry. Don’t neglect your walk with God because you are so busy with the ministry.

You have to make time for your family. It is important and yet most common to fall. You can not have a ministry if you lose your wife and children. Do not neglect your family for the ministry. Be intentional.

In order to be the missionary you want to be, you need to find what is important in order to meet those goals.

Write your goals in pencil. Make sure your priorities are set in stone.

Priorities - your integrity, character, your walk with the Lord.

If your goals are not changing, you are not working. Change your goals; not your work ethic.

Links:

Recommended Books

1. **Donald Miller** - Building a StoryBrand: Clarify Your Message So Customers Will Listen. [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/Building-StoryBrand-Donald-Miller-audiobook/dp/B072J8WRND/ref%3Dsr_1_1?crid=3VWMY6X98R1XI&keywords=story+brand&qid=1641316328&s=audible&sprefix=story+brand%2Caudible%2C90&sr=1-1)
2. **James Clear** - Atomic Habits: An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones. [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/Atomic-Habits-James-Clear-audiobook/dp/B07RFSSYBH/ref%3Dsr_1_1?crid=BY368YKIPWSX&keywords=atomic+habits&qid=1641315979&sprefix=atomic+habits%2Caps%2C225&sr=8-1)
3. **Brian Margolis** - The Index Card Business Plan For Sales Pros and Entrepreneurs: How to Use the Pillar System to Simplify Your Strategy and Magnify Your Results. [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/Index-Card-Business-Sales-Entrepreneurs/dp/0692074112/ref%3Dsr_1_1?crid=3CDTAPB34MMQR&keywords=The+Index+Card+Business+Plan&qid=1641316177&s=audible&sprefix=the+index+card+business+plan%2Caudible%2C207&sr=1-1)
4. **Jason Selk** - Executive Toughness: The Mental Training Program to Increase Your Leadership Performance. [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/Executive-Toughness-Mental-Training-Leadership-Performance/dp/B09B197CTV/ref%3Dsr_1_1?crid=3RCR6E9HNFYE7&keywords=Executive+Toughness&qid=1641316230&s=audible&sprefix=executive+toughness+%2Caudible%2C84&sr=1-1)

Upcoming Meetings/Topics:

January 18th @ 9 AM EST - Ideas for the 5 to 6 months prior to starting a new church

February 1st - Seth Austin is a Story Brand certified trainer. He will give advice to help create websites, prayer letters, and what to promote in your emails, fundraising, etc.

February 15th - How to organize the annual church calendar so that you can grow your church.

March 1st - Language Learning: David Gardner, Missionary to Peru, and Austin Till, Missionary to China, will discuss how to successfully train new missionaries in a new language. Language school and attitude.