

## THANKS TO PAUL HIEBERT

Michael Jaffarian  
Missionary Researcher, WorldVenture  
Senior Research Associate, Operation World

Thanks to Paul Hiebert, my wife and I are still missionaries today, instead of selling automobiles.

There have been two times in our missionary career we have told our mission we were considering resigning. No need to tell the unhappy stories, but trust me on this, both situations were serious. These weren't just seasons of discouragement like we all have, but situations we thought called for departure. Both times I pictured myself leaving our mission, leaving the cause of missions, and starting a new career in a different field. Maybe selling automobiles.

But when both of those occasions came, we remembered one piece of wise advice from Paul Hiebert, from our time under his teaching at the Fuller (then) School of World Mission. Dr. Hiebert warned his students that the day would come, years down the road, when resigning would seem the right thing to do. He encouraged us, on that day, to go ahead and write the letter of resignation, but then to set it aside for 30 days. In the meantime, he said, pray, think, listen, and seek the Lord. After 30 days, look again at the decision.

"How much better to get wisdom than gold, to get insight rather than silver!"  
Proverbs 16:16.

We remembered Dr. Hiebert's wise advice, and followed it. Both times. Instead of saying to our mission, "We resign, and this is why," we said, "We're on a 30-day countdown toward resigning, and this is why." On both occasions, the Lord told us to stay. But - had it not been for that nugget of wisdom, given to us before our long-term missionary service began, I might be selling automobiles today, instead of serving God in missions.

If you don't believe this is a true story, you can look at [www.jaffarian.com](http://www.jaffarian.com) !

"Sing to the Lord, all the earth;  
proclaim his salvation day after day.  
Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous deeds among all peoples." (1 Chronicles 16:23-24).

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