

Demanding absolute submission: Telling staff not to pray about important life decisions

The following is an email thread where Danny P. repeatedly instructs Cassie H. *not* to pray about a major life decision of moving to the other side of the world, but rather to simply go without question if leadership asks, as though she is a minor child with GFA as her guardian. The thread reads chronologically in order, but some timestamps are in US or India time and some are in NZ time (across the date line). The pertinent portions have been bolded.

On Mar 23, 2013, at 2:12 AM, Daniel P. wrote:

>> Hi Cassie, I had some time to talk Brian and Gina and my dad about you staying longer there in NZ. I know your visa will end at some point and you need to work on another one to stay there longer. We all feel it would be good for you to stay there longer and **continue serving the Lord**. I've asked Brian and Gina to talk to you and see what are the details that need to be worked out for this. I really believe the work there is going to grow and you being there is going to play an important role for this to happen.

>> Danny

On Mar 23, 2013, at 0:53, "Cassie H. wrote:

> Hi Danny,

> Is leadership asking me to consider staying here indefinitely? If they want me to stay--essentially move here--then **that's something I'll have to pray about**.

> Cassie

> Sent from a mobile device

-----Original Message-----

From: Daniel P.

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2013 3:43 PM

To: Cassie H.

Subject: Re: Visa

Cassie, I don't think it's indefinitely, but I'm thinking another 6 months to a year. We usually don't assign someone to a country indefinitely unless we just have a clear guidance from The Lord. Also we normally go 6 months at a time to give people the time they need to grow into their responsibility. **I know this sounds a little forward but we normally don't ask people to pray about an assignment asked of them.** At the same time if there is some really pressing reason why something is not a wise idea we do listen carefully and will seriously take it into account.

Danny

From: Cassie H.

Sent: Tuesday, April 02, 2013 10:49 PM

To: Daniel P.

Subject: A few questions

Hi Danny,

As I'm thinking and praying over the possibility of staying in NZ longer, I have a few quick questions. These are more practical issues, but just off the top of my head I was wondering.

1. What am I supposed to do about transportation? GFA doesn't have a vehicle, and since Andrew is coming back, I won't have one available to me anymore. I can't afford to buy a second car, and just put a lot of money into my car back in the states and can't sell that yet.

2. Would GFA ship my stuff here? I can't afford to furnish an apartment, but I can't afford to live in a furnished apartment either.
3. Actually I can't afford an apartment period. Housing here is very expensive, so would I get a cost of living increase?

I have a lot more questions I'm sure, and am **still praying**. But I would appreciate knowing a bit more about GFA's thoughts on how this would work.

Thanks!

Cassie H.
Gospel for Asia New Zealand
www.gfa.org.nz

On Apr 6, 2013, at 10:14 AM, Daniel P. wrote:

Hi Cassie, I got your email a few days ago and your skype message asking if you should talk to Joe. You don't need to talk to Joe about these things. It's better to have one point of contact and reference to keep things less confusing. David and I are your point of reference, but at the same time we are not your go between to Brian and Gina.

In terms of your questions about where you would stay and transportation and the cost of living there. My suggestion is that you would talk with Brian and Gina and figure out what it would look like if you would have a different place to stay and a car – if that means a gfa car or your own car that I don't know. Also about furniture those things can be answered after looking at living options. If there is a need based on Brian and Gina's recommendation to increase your support in order to facilitate your stay then that is a no brainer.

Cassie, I know you are asking these because it's important for you to get all your facts and ducks in a row to make a decision. **But I want to remind you again what I mentioned before that when we ask for someone to serve in some area of the office we are not asking the to pray about the decision.** The flip side is yes we do take all concerns into consideration and sometimes that will be something that will change our decision. But I need to be clear with you, that in answering your questions that is not a prerequisite for you to now decide yes or no about staying or not. All of us in minister serve the Lord for the simple fact that we get to serve and love Him and nothing else. If we have any other reason for the motivation besides love and that it is a privilege to serve the Lord we will find our hearts continually dissatisfied and frustrated. It is when we give up our own rights and embrace the call of God, the Cross and the willingness to do anything the Lord asks of us that we find Joy and in that we find True ministry beyond just a job.

Cassie I'm praying for you. David and I have much hope for you and we know the Lord is and will continue to use your life as you trust him and allow him to work in your life. He has you there for a reason beyond what you or understand.

Danny

On Apr 5, 2013, at 20:15, Cassie H. wrote:

Danny,

For me, answering my questions IS a prerequisite to making a decision. It helps me to know the details before I make a decision based on half of the information, or just guesses because no one is communicating. **If GFA has a problem with me asking God what I should do with my life, then there are some much bigger issues here.** I definitely want to serve God and make sure I'm doing His will for my life. If I wanted just a job, I've had plenty of opportunities to go out and make money. Just because I don't blindly accept everything GFA says without taking time to pray and consider doesn't mean my

motivation for working in ministry is wrong.

I find it strange that I'm basically being chastised for asking questions about how all this is supposed to work.

Cassie

Sent from a mobile device

From: Daniel P.

Sent: Friday, April 05, 2013 11:49 PM

To: Cassie H.

Subject: Re: A few questions

Hi Cassie, **I know in your heart it's important to pray about things.** That's not a problem and you are not being chastised for asking questions. I also do understand the way you think and process things that you cannot see the possibility of making a decision or moving forward in a responsibility without having all the information. Please talk to Brian and Gina and work out the details of your questions of what would need to be done to stay there. Then we can work on what would need to be done on this side. Cassie I do see the Lord working in your life and I know this is a struggle for you, I know if you push through this struggle the Lord will use this in your life.

Praying for you.

Danny