

Another Day

Biblical reflections for busy teachers



Tired

"When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up – one on one side, one on the other – so that his hands remained steady till sunset." Exodus 17:12

Some mornings you wake up and one of your arms or hands feels dead. Whatever else you do, it is vital you don't pick up the cup of tea you wish someone had brought you! It feels as though you hardly slept. The school term seems so long. The challenges you face seem endless. If only you didn't feel so battle weary.

Spare some thought for Moses. The arduous journey out of Egypt has been accompanied by the constant groans of an ungrateful people. They fail to learn, refuse to enjoy the benefits of their liberation from slavery and have a list of questions as long as the proverbial dead arm! Moses pleads with God, *"What am I to do with these people?"* (Exodus 7:4) Sound familiar?

Then the unexpected! An attack from the Amalekites no-one saw coming. Defeat is not an option. As an inspirational leader, Moses positions himself on a hill above the battlefield. As long as he holds his symbolic staff up with both hands, his people are in the winning position. As his arms grow tired and the staff falls lower, they begin to lose their edge.

An African saying says, *"The chimpanzee fights because he counts on the help of the gorilla,"** meaning that those who are insignificant in themselves can accomplish much when greater power is on their side. We call this synergy. It's like rock star Bono says, *"Being in U2, each of us is more than he would be if he were one whole of something else."***

A wise leader and teacher, like Moses, knows that by depending upon God and two supporting friends he or she can do far more than when acting alone. Who will hold your hands up as you face each day? *"We are God's fellow workers,"* (1 Corinthians 3:9) and need both God and faithful prayer partners.

* Tokunboh Adeyemo (2006), *Africa Bible Commentary*, Kenya: WordAlive Publishing/Zondervan, 107.

** Michka Assayas (2005), *Bono on Bono Conversations*, London: Hodder & Stoughton Ltd, photo caption after p. 150.