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**James W. Moss, Sr.**  
Church Consultant

## People Spot Missile: **Called to Serve**

**I believe that when God calls people to be pastors, He calls us to be servants.** There is a temptation to become confused about the call. We can mistake it to be a call to privilege. Whenever such temptation strikes, employ the words of Jesus and say, “Get thee behind me Satan!” We see the Doctors, Lawyers, Educators, Engineers and others. The temptation is to say that “I have specialized training and am a professional too.”

If the term professional means doing the very best you can, then be professional. If the term professional, is to place a barrier between you and your people and to put yourself in a position of privilege then beware. Pride goes before a fall.

My son, James W. Moss, Jr. pastors at the Eberly’s Mill Church of God. The following is an article he sent to his people on one of his Friday morning emails. It communicates what I try to teach.

“When you’re planning an event, very rarely do things ever work out the way you envisioned them in your head. On those occasions when your dreams actually do become a reality it’s cause for a celebration. I’m still celebrating the success of our *Fireproof* event. For those of you who might not know what I’m talking about, on Valentine’s evening, we served a candlelight dinner and showed the movie *Fireproof* to couples from our church and the surrounding area. It was a great night. I think everybody had a good time. They received some valuable information that can help their marriages. And, on top of it all, we had the chance to meet some new people.

I have to tell you a little bit about my experience that evening. Earlier in the week Darlene approached me and she said, “You know you’re going to get some good food on Saturday.” I said, “Yes, I know that.” Then she said, “But before you can enjoy it, you’ll have to serve it first.” She went on to explain that we were a little short-handed on servers. And I said, “No problem.”

I arrived about an hour ahead of time and I realized early on that our coat rack downstairs was not going to be adequate. So I came up with the idea of taking people’s coats and hanging them upstairs in the sanctuary so that when the movie was over they wouldn’t have to go back to the basement. I had only made one or two trips when one of our young guys saw what I was doing and just started to help me. We had a good time joking around and playing doorman.

At the appropriate time we headed downstairs to start serving. Everybody involved hustled around to serve the meal while the food was still hot. Then we went back to the tables to offer

further assistance – more food, more bread, or maybe something to drink. Of course, some people took us up on the offer. One young lady had a hard time with this, though. She said, “It feels weird talking to my pastor like a waiter.”

I understand where she was coming from, but it shouldn't have been weird. You see, I'm just like you. I know I work here at the church and that I wear a lot of different hats during the course of the week – preacher, teacher, administrator, counselor, confidant, chaplain, comforter, and friend just to name a few – but the most important hat I wear week in and week out is that of servant. The term pastor is derived from the Biblical word for shepherd. As you know the shepherd is responsible to care for his sheep. And that's my job, to care for the people entrusted to me by God. Of course, Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd.” As a pastor I am to follow his example and Jesus made it clear that he saw himself not as a leader, but as a servant. He said, “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.” My role here is to be a servant-leader. I am to serve you first. Certainly I need to provide leadership when it's necessary, but I am first and foremost your servant. At least, that's the way it's supposed to work. I sometimes get confused about my role, but I do my best to get it right. I think I did on that night.

However, I should also tell you that my service at our *Fireproof* event was nothing. Somebody else came up with the idea and did most of the planning and legwork. One of our couples took care of the food and did all of the cooking. For them it involved an entire day's work. Volunteers came forward to watch children for three or four hours. Those are the people who did the hard work. I just ran back and forth to the kitchen for a while.

As I reflect back on that night, it's really amazing to see what God can do when a group of people are willing to give of themselves to serve others. Thanks to all of you...”

I pray God's richest blessings on you as you serve.....

*Most of the People Spot Missiles may be viewed at [www.newlifeministries-nlm.org](http://www.newlifeministries-nlm.org) Click on People Spots.*

*I am now available to present “Starting a New Service”, “Churches Have Personalities”, “People Spots”, “Does Your Church Really Care About People?” and “A Christian Perspective on Leadership Skills.” jm*

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