



# GREETINGS FROM THE GRIFFINS

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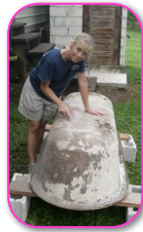
## Introducing the "Bathtub Principal"

This principal is not new, it is just that we have given it a name that fits well with all aspects of foreign mission work. It can be readily applied to fund raising, ministry opportunities and work projects. You name it and the "bathtub principal" will work. Now let us explain this in detail.

I get the fantastic idea to give my wife a bathtub for her Christmas present. FIRST PRINCIPLE- God gives you an idea. It is November 2011 and Cindy is spending two weeks in the U.S. visiting friends and family. I think how neat it will be to surprise her with not only a bathtub, but also a remodeled shower. I start fixing up the inside of the shower building (which is outside of our house) and start asking around for an inexpensive bathtub. I quickly find out there are none of those in our area of Belize.

At church one day I ask a christian brother if he knows where I can get an inexpensive bathtub. He replies that he has one but it is old and has feet, and I am welcome to it. What he doesn't know is that the tub I need HAS to have feet to work in the shower building. Only God and I knew that. SECOND PRINCIPLE- God knows what you need and lines up the person to give you what you need.

I pick up a friend and we get the tub home. It is old and needs to be redone. Unfortunately I underestimate the amount of work that needs to be done with the time I have to find her shower half done the yard. I give her my "Merry Christmas honey, Being the good wife she is, thank you. Now I give her one to scrape, clean, and need to move on to the



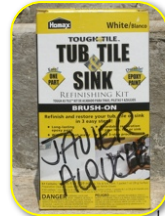
do it. Cindy arrives home and an old dirty tub in biggest smile and say here is your present." she smiles back and says the bad news, she is the refinish her present. I completion of the inside.

THIRD PRINCIPLE-there is always work that needs to be done to receive Gods blessings. Cindy is a trooper and starts right in on the scraping, but soon realizes it is too much for her. The tub sits waiting, and time goes by. Bill comes to the rescue and purchases a grinder from the U.S. A mission team coming to Belize is willing to bring it for us. FORTH PRINCIPLE-it is necessary to incorporate fellow believers to accomplish the work the Lord gives us. We need each other.

Grinder in hand Bill cleans off the outside of the tub in thirty minutes. FIFTH PRINCIPLE-there is a hard way and an easy way. When God provides the finances and the fellow workers the job is completed in less time and more thoroughly than when we attempt it on our own. Once the outside is cleaned we head into town to purchase the paint to finish the outside and the epoxy paint for the inside. We find Rustoleum at the local hardware store: \$28.50 per quart.



But at least we can purchase it. The epoxy is a different story all together. No one in town carries it. SIXTH PRINCIPLE-not everything can be gotten where and when you need it, or at the price you can afford to pay.



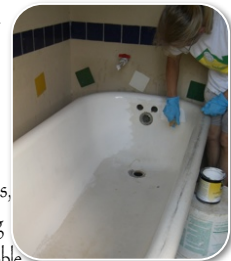
A friend is traveling to the U.S. and is willing to purchase the epoxy paint there and bring it back for us. Great news... except customs confiscates it and once again we don't have the paint. The same friend returns again to the U.S. and this time ships the paint to us. Fantastic...except the paint can't be applied to bare steel. Now we wait to find a way to repair the broken porcelain. SEVENTH PRINCIPLE- God often brings problems that require faith in Him, perseverance and patience.

Many months go by while we contemplate the patch problem, since there appears to be no solution within our reach. In the meantime no tub. Then my mother and stepfather (Jay) come for a visit. After explaining the tub problem Jay casually mentions "Use JB Weld". How silly of me! Of course that will work and it is readily available in town. EIGHTH PRINCIPLE- often the answer is right in front of us and we can't see it because we are concentrating in the wrong direction. God brings someone into our lives with the simple answer and we are often surprised by the ease of the solution.

With all of the obstacles apparently out of the way, Cindy starts the process of refinishing her Christmas present.

The tub is a success. It is beautiful. From the time I came up with the idea to the time it was completed was fifteen months, and involved no less than five people to assist us with the project. Some with donations, some with ideas, some with muscle, and some with encouraging words. In the end God showed us that He is able to provide what our heart desires as long as we wait on Him. He will bring everything into the situation for the completion of the project to His Glory. Which is the NINTH PRINCIPLE- everything is done to the glory of God.

There is no way we could have accomplished this without Him, or the willingness of His children to get involved. So much of what we do is exactly like this bathtub project. We have the God-given ideas but not the necessary components to accomplish them. We need finances, muscle, ideas, encouraging words, prayer, and above all we need God. We wait on the Lord to stir up one or more of His children to get involved with us. We need to work together to accomplish what the Lord has called us to do, and we need you to come alongside us in whatever way the Lord asks of you.



Together we accomplish what the Lord desires of us.