



ON THE GRAPEVINE

Ebenezer and Pantymwyn

June 2019

THE NURTURING WORD by David Cook Keswick 2018 week 3.

Refer to Acts 19 & 20 & Revelation 2:1-7

Precis by Olive Peters: for full text go to Keswick David Cook week 3 2018

Acts 19 sets out Paul's pattern for ministry which he rehearses in chapter 20 for the church leaders from Ephesus. They met Paul in Miletus at the time of his departure for Jerusalem before he went on to Rome. Paul reminds his eight friends of the pattern of Apostolic Ministry that every church should keep in mind, especially when calling a new pastor. Paul's strategy was to preach, declare, testify, teach and proclaim publicly and from house to house, holding nothing back that would profit the church plant in Ephesus. (Acts 20:20) He warned them (with tears) of wolves that distort the truth and that they needed to be prepared for persecution for the sake of the truth. John Wesley is quoted as saying that God may vary his messenger but he never varies his message. That message is Spirit-empowered and unstoppable.

Paul expected his pattern of prayer and ministry as found in Acts 6 to be carried on by the leaders he was leaving behind. **They were expected to get their people ready for persecution** (Acts 14:22) "that we must through much persecution enter into the kingdom of God" What we have taken for granted over the last five decades is being quickly eroded away. Christians who will not 'affirm diversity' that is, agree with diverse views of marriage and abortion will lose their jobs or not get one in the first place. A pastor needs to paint a realistic view of the world we live in today with the knowledge that the word of God matures God's people. Eric John Hewitson Nash* is quoted as saying that the difficult part is not bringing people to Christ but nurturing them in a faith that lasts. Twenty percent of Christians are recorded as reading the Bible every day. What is not recorded is how much time is given to thinking about what we read. The advice is to read for 1 minute and think thoughtfully and prayerfully for 4 minutes. In other words, give four times as much time to thoughtful prayer as you do to reading the Bible, asking questions of the text and finding out what it means and how it applies to you personally.

These are dark days and we need to be, like Paul, single-minded, serious and self-effacing, making the main thing the main thing; being sure our people are committed to God and not the preacher. We need to keep watch over ourselves so that we are in a position to care for the flock. When the oxygen masks drop down in an airplane the advice is to put your own mask on so you can help those around you. A child cannot help you if you pass out while helping him to put on his mask.

Pastors are expected get their people ready to die well. Would you follow your pastor into battle? The greatest need of our children/church is to see parents/pastors living a real Christian life. This passage is important for us all so we can recognise right pastoral leadership, be informed and vote biblically. Nice and charming will not do. It's like a comedian who is not funny. What's the point? If you cut your pastor he should bleed the Bible.

Did the church at Ephesus have a happy ending? Sadly, no. Read Rev. 2:1-7. Within 30 years the church at Ephesus was commended for working hard, discerning the truth and enduring. But they had lost their first love. If we work hard without love we get dry duty. If we discern the truth without love we get bigoted arrogance. If we endure without love, it will be joyless fortitude through gritted teeth. Zeal without love is empty. How does this happen? The first generation is Godly, the second is knowledgeable and the third worldly. We must keep watch over our souls and watch over the transitions of our children as they pass through the various stages of life.

Luke ends Acts with the assertion that God's purpose is unstoppable, so we live boldly and unhindered under God's sovereign grace; Spirit-empowered, carrying the word of grace to the world, trusting in the merits of God's Son, the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

*Nash: (22 April 1898 – 4 April 1982), popularly known by the nickname "Bash", was an Evangelical Church of England cleric. His work of Christian evangelism and camp ministry in the top thirty public schools of the United Kingdom from 1932 onwards was highly influential in the post-war British Evangelical resurgence. Over 7,000 boys attended camp under his leadership including John Stott.

ANSWER SECRET MESSAGE: BE BOLD AND STRONG

Bible Reading

We do not **have** a soul. We **are** souls living in human bodies. Gen 2:7 "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." (KJV)

Matthew 10:28-31 (NIV) ²⁸ Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. ³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."

1. Consider: What is more precious to you, your body, your possessions or your soul?
2. Have you ever been threatened, mocked or humiliated for your faith?
3. No one likes pain! What does Jesus tell us about fearing those who can hurt us?
4. Whom should we fear? Why?
5. What is your reaction to seeing a dead sparrow?
6. What is God's view of a fallen sparrow?
7. How does this comfort you?
8. Why is it a comfort to know that each one of your hairs has a number on it?
9. What was Jesus' attitude towards his own suffering? Hebrews 12:2-3 "keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."
10. How should we pray when we are under pressure to keep quiet about our faith?

"After being threatened for their faith Peter, John and the church prayed "Now Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness" Acts 4:29

Pantymwyn Diary

BBQ- 3 August 2019

Time- 1:00

Place- Pantymwyn Village Hall

If you are free to help please see Sandra Mitchell

Also need a Piano Stool for monthly services at Pen y Fron

The Bible in 50 words

God made.	Prophets warned.
Adam bit.	Jesus born.
Noah arked.	God walked.
Abraham split.	Love talked.
Jacob fooled.	Anger crucified.
Joseph ruled.	Hope died.
Bush talked.	Love rose.
Moses balked.	Pharaoh plagued.
People walked.	Spirit flamed.
Sea divided.	Word spread.
Tablets guided.	God remained.
Saul freaked.	Christ's return
David peeked.	

Word Search from Matt 10:28-30

D B E B O C L S F D A N D S T	AFRAID
R I O N A G P P A L K B I D N	FALL
D E A R K U E A L O V Y A U S	HEAD
S A E R D X N R L M G Y M G Y	NUMBERED
L R E I F V N R F G N B N R O	SOLD
D B E H G A Y O B A E T N O D	WORTH
Z A N H H L B W M R B A A U O	CARE
H O B T T W B S E J R W O N E	FATHERS
Y T H D D A A D O G H G U D Y	PENNY
D A R J X P F U U Q K L T U A	SPARROWS
E I V O Q U S O L D L W S P E	DON'T
R Y Y H W O P Y S H O T I P K	GROUND
O M S O O I G M B A R D D X O	MORE
M J I N D K L A P Q Z U E I R	TWO
O F B T W A I T I H Y A M H R	MANY
	OUTSIDE

SECRET MESSAGE



Using your God-given gifts

Book review by Steve Potts

‘Prodigal Prophet’

by Timothy Keller

256 pages Hardback ISBN 9781473690509

In the forward Keller says the message of the book is "God's love for ... people beyond the community of believers, about God's opposition to toxic nationalism... about how to be in mission in the world despite the unavoidable power of idolatry in our own lives and hearts". Keller unfolds this message over twelve chapters.

For me Keller's great insight is his ability to apply the gospel to the heart. He repeatedly shows the deceitfulness of 'Christian idolatry' and shows that the solution is to come to the real God who gave his son in loving sacrifice and so loves us unconditionally.

Let me finish with another quote from the book "God releases Jonah from the fish even though his repentance is only partial. Yet the merciful God works with us, flawed and clueless though we are".

I always get a great deal from Tim Keller's book but I think this an appropriate read for this time when we need to distinguish between patriotism and nationalism. Look out for copies in the church library.



Many of our readers will remember Ebenezer's dear, faithful friend Lavinia Hawkins (1920 – 2017) Cherry found this letter amongst Lavinia's papers. It is one of her first prayer letters, written from Bible College before going to Africa as a missionary/midwife. The truths of her testimony still encourages and instruct us 67 years later. Can we all say Yes! to her big question? [Missionary Nurse in Vom and Molai in Nigeria 1954 – 1966 Faithful member of Ebenezer 1969 – 2017]

Lebanon Missionary Bible College
Berwick on Tweed
December 1952

Dear ...

I expect you will wonder who has dared to send you a typewritten letter, but I am sure you will excuse me doing so as it will enable me to keep in touch with all my friends. As you can guess, time at Lebanon is fully occupied, so I must from now on answer most of my letters during the vacation.

My first term here has been a real inspiration in many ways and I can only be grateful to God for showing us his leading so plainly when other roads were open to me. I know this is the place of His appointment.

There is quite a variety of students here, for in spite of a small family of twenty, there are representatives from Switzerland, Holland, Germany, Ireland, British Honduras, Scotland and of course England. We are also a mixture of denominations, but are all one in Christ Jesus and the fellowship of unity and love can only be appreciated by those who share it.

Our Principals, Mr and Mrs Lambert have twin daughters of twelve who join us at intervals and are two grand girls with a wonderful sense of humour. Mrs. Lambert was a missionary in the Sudan until her health forced her to return and now both she and Mr Lambert are finding fulltime service for the Lord in running this college. Their example is a great inspiration to us all.

As you can see from the enclosed prayer card, Lebanon is a lovely old house. It is wonderful to hear about its beginnings and how every need has been supplied. There are about 3.5 acres of land which we students attend to, keeping our own vegetable plot, flower garden and chickens. Nothing like home produce!

There has been quite a variety of speakers this term; missionaries from Japan, Algeria, Transvaal, Nigris, an Indian pastor and others.

Of the lectures, I think the elocution ones have caused the most laughter, quite often at my expense too. It has become a byword this term that I do not open my mouth in more ways than one!!

During the past few weeks I feel two things have been of particular importance to me. At one of the student services the phrase 'submit with joy' caught my attention. When I thought about it, I realised the importance of 'with joy'. It is often difficult to submit to discipline, but for a Christian it also demands 'with joy'. So, the Lord has been teaching me that by his grace this is possible.

Then, the greatest day for me was Friday, December 8th, when after a message by our Principal on full salvation, I realised that the question of sanctification which had been something of a mystery that was granted to certain individuals, was available to

me also! The question was asked several times during the message, "Have you received this anointing?" and I felt I could not answer in the affirmative. Such was the impact of the atmosphere that evening that for me, at last, it became a reality. I expect you remember how God encouraged the faith of the Israelites by the separating of the waters of the Red Sea so that they could cross over into the Promised Land. Isn't this a picture of salvation? God goes out to meet the sinner and provides the Way over. Then, for the Israelites came the crossing of the Jordan, but their faith had to be put into action first, for not until their feet were placed into the sea were the waters opened. So does God give to all who claim it, the blessing of sanctification? I'm telling you so that the joy which I have found be yours also if you have not already received it. It is so easy to be content with God's second best. To every converted soul there must be this deeper longing after the fullness of God and there is no abiding rest until you can say:

Leaving all to follow Jesus,	Naught reserving on this altar	Praise his precious name forever
Turning from the world away,	All I lay and wait the hour	That his blood has made me free
Stepping out upon his promise	When the fire from Heaven descending	Now my soul shall joy to tell it
All I have is his today.	Shall attest his glorious power	Through the long eternity

So, I am proving at Lebanon how God can strengthen weak hands and teach me to 'open my mouth' and tell of his faithfulness.

Christmas greetings and may the Lord bless the coming year for you,

Lavinia Hawkins

WHAT DO GIDEONS DO?

The Objective of GideonsUK is to introduce others to the Lord Jesus Christ in a Christ-like, business and professional manner by:

- Placing, presenting and/or distributing the Holy Bible, or portions of the Holy Bible, in various areas of everyday life.
- Engaging in personal witness
- Associating together for service and encouragement
- GideonsUK place and present Scriptures in many different areas of life, most often testaments which include the New Testament and Psalms (Proverbs now being added) but also copies of the full Bible. Some example are:-

SCHOOLS Remember/our Creator *in the days of Your Youth...Ecclesiastess 12:1*

The highest number of Testaments distributed annually by GideonsUK is Youth Testaments, either through a school assembly talk or through Religious Education lessons. A school assembly talk offers the opportunity to encourage pupils to accept a Testament, to inspire them to read it and to show them how to use it. Preaching or proselytizing is not permitted. More recently, in many schools, Gideons are now being asked to take Religious Education lessons. A special training programme to help Gideons involved in school lessons to be confident in teaching in accordance with the national curriculum, has been developed by NATRE (National Association of Teachers of Religious Education). NATRE has also provided help for school assembly presentations.

"I'm in year seven and a couple of months ago we were given the red 'New Testament and Psalms'. I looked into the 'where to find help' page and I found exactly what I was feeling. Even though I hate to admit it I was close to suicide but it really did help. When I felt like I had nowhere to turn and nobody to speak to I had God." Luchio

Other Organisations Hospitals, Fire and Ambulance Services, football clubs, rugby clubs, cricket and other sports clubs, The Fishermen's Mission, Railway Mission, St John Cymru, Scouts, Girls' and Boys' Brigade and other similar organisations. By God's grace, the opportunities for these seem to increase daily. Testaments are presented to prison officers, prison staff and prisoners. Bibles are often provided for prison cells.

ENGAGING IN PERSONAL WITNESSING Personal witnessing can be challenging and daunting but, when we are open to God, He will empower us to take advantage of the opportunities He gives us to share our faith in Him with others.

WHO CAN BE A GIDEON?

Gideons are men and women, who by their lives, their work, church and other relevant experience, seek to introduce others to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Applicants for membership must:

- Believe in the one true God, revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the eternal Son of God.
- Have received the Lord Jesus Christ as their Lord and personal Saviour.
- Believe in the Holy Bible as the inspired, infallible and inerrant Word of God.
- Believe that unrepentant sinners will be condemned to eternal punishment.
- Endeavour in their daily lives to follow the example and teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ, as revealed in the Holy Bible.
- Be a member in good standing of an evangelical protestant church or assembly.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT? Members of GideonsUK pay an annual membership subscription that covers the costs of the Association and Branch costs and to help purchase Scriptures for local use and around the world, as they feel able.

If you would like to be part of this essential Christian work contact
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