



Holy Trinity Hillcrest

News Letter

October 2016



Dear God's people,

We have just completed an amazing Month of Mission in which we reflected on Jesus' commission to His disciples to 'Go.' Each person preaching on this text, at all our services, added a little more to the possible understanding of Jesus' purpose for sending His disciples out. I pray that after all this

we all feel a bit wiser, more encouraged and despite the obvious trepidation, more confident to tell others of God's love for all of God's creation.

I missed one Sunday to go on a fishing trip that we had planned earlier in the year but could not get away for, for various reasons, until we were pushed to either 'use it or lose it'. It is an annual trip with friends and it is to one of the few unspoilt places along our coastline. The name of the village is Khumbuza, in the former Transkei. It is very rustic, it has none of the comforts we are accustomed to in a city. There are no trimmings and is a good place to prepare for times when we are inconvenienced by outages, when the electricity or water is cut off. The people living along the Umtentu River are not stressed when these things happen, because they have not electricity and when the water stops flowing they walk a few hundred meters to the river.

We went on the weekend of the 15 – 18 September because it was less than two weeks to the end of the Shad season and according to the fishing calendar a very good time to fish. As my friend would say, 'the waters were perfect.' But it was the other elements, the rain and wind that made it almost impossible to cast your line and to wait calmly and patiently for a bite. It was the first time in my permanent 'novitiate' as a fisherman that I experienced what is meant by, 'I did not even get a nibble.' The fish were not even interested in our bait – and we used prawns.

As I stood there in expectation that we will get a bite, because the fish too must eat, I was slowly growing more disappointed that they were obviously not hungry. This soon led to frustration that the long hours battling the elements, the sore legs from jumping over rocks, smelling hands from the bait were not being rewarded. I began thinking of the Biblical stories of the fishermen whom Jesus called and appeared to. I recalled Jesus calling them to be 'fishers of men'. So I ask God how I could be a 'fisher of men', (which I think is part of my job description), if I cannot even land a fish but God did not answer? I then recalled Jesus saying to the Disciples, who had spent the whole night fishing, like us, at Umtentu, and had nothing to show for it, to "cast their nets on the other side." So I tried that, I walked to the left of where I originally stood and nothing happened, so I walked to the right of my original position because I wasn't exactly sure where the 'other side' would be. But even there I found no luck. So again I spoke to Jesus and pleaded that he reveal where the other side would be. But to no avail. Then I began wondering if it was a wise decision to go all that way, spend all that

Rector's Reflections

money, sacrifice all our earthly comfort and not, by any definition of fishing, gain any reward. I realised that fishing was not the greatest investment one can make. Then I started thinking of Jesus' usage of this human activity and what it may mean in our religious lives.

Fishing is an expensive leisurely activity and I am very grateful for my friend who saves me the expenses by providing all the tackle. It is obviously a lot cheaper and far easier to buy fish from a fishmonger than we had experienced that weekend. It is frustrating because you cannot see what is happening under the water so when you feel the 'knocks' you have to discern whether it is a fish nibbling or the current knocking your bait against rocks. You have to share space with other fishermen who may cast over your line that causes the tackle to tangle. But beside all these little inconveniences it was an amazing time of mental and spiritual refreshment.

As I struggled with all these emotions and questions I asked, "if fishing is so hard, uncertain, frustrating and non-profitable why did Jesus call His disciples to be 'fishers of men'?" Jesus used this metaphor in a teaching to people who best understood the challenges of catching fish. So what can we learn from it especially on the back of the Month of Mission?

- ✦ Like going to remote places to fish, discipleship requires a lot of **preparation**. The preparation for making disciples requires that we be quiet in God's presence to listen to where God may be calling us and to whom God may be sending us. This may take some time as we discern whether the voices we hear are not the many voices in our heart and mind but God's still, small voice. The best tool in this process is the Word of God, the Bible. As we pray so we must read the Bible. Another important aspect of this preparation is to surrender our wills to God. Think of it in this way, the parent's determination to feed the child and the child's refusal to open his mouth. If we do not consciously surrender then we will be like the child whom the Father desperately wants to feed with all we would need to make disciples.
- ✦ Like waiting for that bite, to disciple someone requires **patience**. Don't expect your word to be warmly received. If anything, our intention to share the good news of Jesus will be rejected outright if the approach is wrong, or we are judgemental, or pushy and expect an immediate positive reply. Remember that as disciples we are the vessels through whom God works. Let us be patient and wait for that ideal moment when God will use us to make another disciple. This does not mean that we lounge around waiting for that call, (the saying goes that the devil finds work for idle hands) instead we should be occupying our waiting with prayer and spiritual and Bible reading.
- ✦ As with the love for fishing a disciple must **persevere**. With all that is entailed in any fishing expedition the true fisherman will go back again and again in the hope of landing the big one. We do not

classify the followers of Christ as big or small but it is sufficient to help one more to come to know Christ. So we do not give up on praying for those whom we hope will come to a knowledge of Christ, we do not slack in our encouragement to gently urge them on and we do not stop behaving as Christians to help another person come to understand the love of God we have come to experience. It may take weeks, months or even years but we persist in our faithfulness of being a servant for God.

As we seek to do what Christ has commissioned us to do let us remember the four key lessons from this month:

- ⇒ To witness is costly
- ⇒ To disciple another includes mentoring them
- ⇒ We cannot teach what we do not personally know

⇒ We teach about Christ wherever we find ourselves.

I pray that we all will become faithful disciples

With my prayers and love
Fr Gary



GRIEF AND GRIEVING

Recently I grieved with a dear friend, whose husband of 81 died after many years of great suffering. Not much later, I once again grieved with another precious friend whose beautiful, strong, healthy son of 46 died suddenly. The first death was part of the natural order of life, the second a terrible shock that was absolutely not in the natural order of our expectations.

In our Western culture we are woefully inept at offering our sympathy to our bereaved friends and loved ones. So often we don't know what to say or we worry that our words will upset them. However, there is nothing anyone can say that would make the situation any more painful than it already is.

Having suffered the timely death of my parents and the untimely death of our beloved daughter, Cathy at the age of 23, I would like to share with you some thoughts on this matter. So I offer you a few do's and don'ts that I think will help ease the difficulty of consoling others.

Do – approach the grieving one with love and offer whatever words you can.

Do – give them a hug if you can't find the words, or if you find yourself overcome by emotion.

Do – assure them of your prayers and

Do – make sure you remember them

in your daily prayers, for it is the loving prayers and concern of others that is the greatest help to them.

Do – focus on them and not yourself and how you are feeling. **Do** – call them regularly after the funeral just to tell them that you are thinking of them.

Do – call or visit them after about 6 months, as by that time everyone has gone back to their own lives and the bereaved is still in deep pain.

Don't – avoid them or even worse, pretend nothing has happened. For a long time the pain of their loss is all encompassing and to pretend that everything is back to normal is devastatingly insensitive.

Don't – say you know how they feel, because you don't. Everyone's grief is as unique as they are. Even if you have also lost a child, husband etc, you still don't know how they feel.

Don't – talk about yourself, even if you too are grieving their loss. This is a time to forget your own pain and comfort the other.

Don't – weep so much that the grieving one must comfort you. Believe me they are battling to hold it together themselves.

Don't – talk about someone else's loss that seems worse than theirs.

Don't – tell them that God wanted their child in heaven because he/she was so special.

Don't – at any stage, tell them that they must get over it and move on. The loss of a loved one through death is one of life's most intense challenges during which the pain can be utterly

overwhelming. It is important to understand the process of grief so that we can grieve well and in a healthy way. It is widely accepted that there are five predictable stages of grieving. May I suggest you Google <http://www.grief.com/the-five-stages-of-grief> so as to learn more about healthy grieving.

These 5 stages of grieving also pertain to all and any loss, be it divorce, loss of a job or even the loss of a limb.

In conclusion I would like to share some thoughts from Dietrich Bonhoeffer on grief.

"Nothing can make up for the absence of someone, whom we love, and it would be wrong to try to find a substitute; we must simply hold out and see it through. That sounds very hard at first, but at the same time it is a great consolation, for the gap, as long as it remains unfilled, preserves the bonds between us. It is nonsense to say that God fills the gap; God doesn't fill it, but on the contrary, keeps it empty and so helps us to keep alive our former communion with each other, even at the cost of pain."

May our loving Father comfort the hearts of all who are grieving and may we support and console all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Submitted by Michele Serfontein



CURRICULUM VITAE

Personal Details

Name : JESUS CHRIST
Address : Ephesians 1:20
Phone : Romans 10:13
Website : Bible
Keywords : Christ, Lord, Saviour and Jesus

Qualifications

My name is Jesus - The Christ. Many call me Lord! I've sent you my CV because I'm seeking the top management position in your heart. Feel free to read my details below. I founded the earth and established the heavens, (see Proverbs 3:19) I formed man from the dust of the ground, (see Genesis 2:7) I breathed into man the breath of life, (see Genesis 2:7) I redeemed man from the curse of the law, (see Galatians 3:13) The blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant comes upon your life through me, (see Galatians 3:14)

Occupational Background

I've only had one employer, (see Luke 2:49).
 I've never been tardy, absent, disobedient, slothful or disrespectful.
 My employer has nothing but rave reviews for me, (see Matthew 3:15-17).

*Skills

Some of my skills and work experiences include: empowering the poor to be poor no more, healing the brokenhearted, setting the captives free, healing the sick, restoring sight to the blind and setting at liberty them that are bruised, (see Luke 4:18).
 I am a Wonderful Counselor, (see Isaiah 9:6). People who listen to me shall dwell safely and shall not fear evil, (see Proverbs 1:33).
 Most importantly, I have the authority, ability and power to cleanse you of your sins, (see I John 1:7-9)

Educational Background

I encompass the entire breadth and length of knowledge, wisdom and understanding, (see Proverbs 2:6).
 In me are hidden all of the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, (see Colossians 2:3).
 My Word is so powerful; it has been described as being a lamp unto your feet and a lamp unto your path, (see Psalms 119:105).
 I can even tell you all of the secrets of your heart, (see Psalms 44:21).

Major Accomplishments

I was an active participant in the greatest Summit Meeting of all times, (see Genesis 1:26).
 I laid down my life so that you may live, (see II Corinthians 5:15).
 I defeated the archenemy of God and mankind and made a show of them openly, (see Colossians 2:15).
 I've miraculously fed the poor, healed the sick and raised the dead! There are many more major accomplishments, too many to mention here. You can read them on my website, which is located at: [www.theBIBLE](http://www.theBIBLE.com). You don't need an Internet connection or computer to access it.

References

Believers and followers worldwide will testify to my divine healings, salvation, deliverance, miracles, restoration and supernatural guidance.

Summary*

Now that you've read my CV, I'm confident that I'm the only candidate uniquely qualified to fill this vital position in your heart.
 In summation, I will properly direct your paths, (see Proverbs 3:5-6), and lead you into everlasting life, (see John 6:47).

When can I start? Time is of the essence, (see Hebrews 3:15).
 Send this CV to everyone, you never know who may have an opening for me !



Comment from the Crowd

Billy liked to tell the story of a pastor who said in a sermon, "Apart from Christ, there was never a perfect man." Someone in the congregation interrupted him, saying, "Oh yes, there was. My wife's first husband!"
 —The Leadership Secrets of Billy Graham by Harold Myra

The Rod

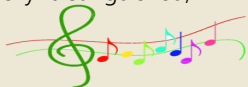
"The Bible warns very strongly that you are to obey your parents. The rod is considered old-fashioned in many homes. Psychiatrists say it will warp your personality. When I did something wrong, my mother warped part of me, but it wasn't my personality."
 —Billy Graham at the 1957 New York Crusade



The Lighter side of being a Chorister

In any choir, there are four voice parts: soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. Sometimes these are divided into first and second within each part, prompting endless jokes about first and second basses. There are also various other parts such as baritone, countertenor, contralto, mezzo-soprano, etc., but these are mostly used by people who are either soloists, or belong to some excessively hotshot classical a cappella group (this applies especially to countertenors), or are trying to make excuses for not really fitting into any of the regular voice parts, so we will ignore them for now.

Each voice part sings in a different range, and each one has a very different personality. You may ask, "Why should singing different notes make people act differently?" and indeed this is a mysterious question and has not been adequately studied, especially since scientists who study musicians tend to be musicians themselves and have all the peculiar complexes that go with being tenors, French horn players, timpanists, or whatever. However, this is beside the point; the fact remains that the four voice parts can be easily distinguished,



THE SOPRANOS.....

are the ones who sing the highest, and because of this they think they rule the world. They have longer hair, fancier jewellery, and swishier skirts than anyone else, and they consider themselves insulted if they are not allowed to go at least to a high F in every movement of any given piece. When they reach the high notes, they hold them for at least half again as long as the composer and/or conductor requires, and then complain that their throats are killing them and that the composer and conductor are sadists. Sopranos have varied attitudes toward the other sections of the chorus, though they consider all of them inferior. Altos are to sopranos rather like second violins to first violins; nice to harmonize with, but not really necessary. All sopranos have a secret feeling that the altos could drop out and the piece would sound essentially the same, and they don't understand why anybody would sing in that range in the first place - it's so boring. Tenors, on the other hand, can be very nice to have around; besides their flirtation possibilities (it is a well-known fact that sopranos never flirt with basses), sopranos like to sing duets with tenors because all the tenors are doing is working very hard to sing in a low-to-medium soprano range, while the sopranos

are up there in the stratosphere showing off. To sopranos, basses are the scum of the earth - they sing too darn loud, are useless to tune to because they're down in that low, low range, and there has to be something wrong with anyone who sings in the F clef, anyway.

Top Ten Reasons for Being a Soprano

1. The rest of the choir exists just to make you look good.
2. You can entertain your friends by breaking their wineglasses.
3. Can you name an opera where an alto got the man?
4. When sopranos want to sing in the shower, they know the tune.
5. It's not like you are ever going to sing the alto part by accident.
6. Great costumes - like the hat with the horns on it.
7. How many world famous altos can you name?
8. When the fat lady sings, she's usually singing soprano.
9. When you get tired of singing the tune, you can sing the descant.
10. You can sing along with Michael Jackson.

Next month we will look at the Altos!

from St. James Lutheran Church. Lexington ;
South Carolina
Submitted by Harold Walker

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