

MY MISSIONS TRIP TO RWANDA



NOVEMBER 2011

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TRIP 23

BACKGROUND: (a brief history)

Rwanda was a feudal Tutsi monarchy, which continued through German colonial occupation (1899 - 1916) and Belgian mandate (1916 - 1962). A Hutu revolt overthrew the Tutsi government in 1959 with many Tutsi killed or driven into exile. A Tutsi invasion from Uganda in 1990 led to conflict, many deaths, and the displacement of thousands of people. Hutu extremists seized power in 1994 and began the genocide of the Tutsi minority and Hutu moderates. In 100 days, ONE MILLION perished. The more disciplined Tutsi-led forces gained control and over 1 million Hutu fled to surrounding countries. Hutu and Tutsi rebels and militias remain at large in Congo, a real thorn in both countries sides. The government made massive strides in ridding ethnicity from politics and society, making the country safe and rebuilding infrastructure. Rwanda, a former Belgian colony, joined the British Commonwealth and enjoys improving relations with France and today Rwanda has one of the fastest growing economies in Africa. After years of waiting, I will now finally visit Rwanda and conduct a Pastor's Conference in KIGALI wow! This is a long-cherished dream being realized.

ANSWERS TO PRAYER

1. Rwanda has made great progress in many areas since the tragic events of 1994/95.
 - a. The nations' infrastructure was brutalized during the conflicts. Political stability since 2000 allows for rebuilding and developing roads, buildings, government services, water and sanitation, education and communications systems. It is amazing to see.
 - b. Financial recovery is encouraging with Rwanda becoming one of the future growing economies in Africa. Eco-tourism is flourishing, as is the tea and coffee industry.
 - c. The presence of women in leadership, so that half of the elected parliament are female (also many of the pastors are women).
 - d. Give praise for the commitment to reconcile and peace, and to move away from such a terrible past and toward a brighter future.

2. Evangelicals emerged from the ashes to grow rapidly after 1994. Rwanda has been reshaped by the 1990's. A country in which 80% call themselves Christian, and yet allowed and perpetrated such atrocities, might have been Christianized but not converted. So the East African Revival of the 1930's began in Rwanda, let us pray for a new revival to break out, one that places tribalism and revenge at the foot of the Cross and is characterized by repentance and reconciliation. Sadly, today some evangelicals seem concerned only with numerical growth rather than discipleship and transformation.

So I am now off to this amazing country, will lead and preach at the Pastor's Conference, visit the genocide museum and try to get into Burundi where a denomination has approached me to train all their pastors. But first, some books you may want to read which I found so challenging



BOOKS READ RECENTLY

A) BIOGRAPHIES AND MISSIONS

1. THE PIGTAIL AND CHOPSTICKS MAN (By Jim Cromarty)

Not long before he died, the missionary Hudson Taylor commented:

*"there is nothing small and there is nothing great:
only God is great and we should trust Him fully."*

This was the testimony of a man who lived this out in full as he devoted his whole life to serving God by taking the Gospel to the people of China. His unflinching faith and total reliance upon God to sustain and keep him during the extreme difficulties and opposition, and his unflinching desire to reach the lost throughout that dark and distant land, was proved on many occasions. He truly was a unique and remarkable man and an example to us all. In this book, Cromarty relates details of Hudson Taylor's sacrificial life in an exciting and lively style for today's readers, especially young people. Not only does it

highlight the spiritual and practical lessons we can learn, but also it is useful for parents to read with their children. This excellent biography makes the story of Hudson Taylor come alive and shows us in addition the formation of the China Inland Mission.

2. THE APOSTLE FROM AFRICA (by David Bentley-Taylor)

Born 700 years after Plato and dying 400 years after Jesus' crucifixion, Augustine was an outstanding Christian thinker. Around the Mediterranean, leading men hung on his words. At times his errors were deplorable, even horrifying, yet Augustine grew up to be the man who has influenced the Church more than any other extra-Biblical writer:

"after Jesus and Paul, Augustine of Hippo is the most influential figure in the history of Christianity."

Augustine is cherished as a father of the Roman Catholic Church but also greatly influenced the Reformation - not only because Luther was an Augustinian Monk, or that Calvin quoted Augustine more than any other theologian did, but because the reformation witnessed the triumph of Augustine's doctrine of grace. He was such a brilliant teacher that by the time he was 30 he had been a professor at three universities. His knowledge of history and literature, personal experience of human distress and his strong convictions gave him the Roman Empire as his congregation.

In this brilliant book, we learn how he was overwhelmed by sexual immorality as a teenager yet once he became a Christian he attained an astonishing mastery of the Scriptures - encouraging him to spend the next 40 years as a preacher, bishop, author, and pastor. B.B. Warfield said of him:

"Augustine entered both the Church and the world as a revolutionary force, and not merely created an epoch in the history of the Church ... but ... determined the course of its history in the West up to the present day."

This was an excellent biography, a must read for those interested in Africa.

3. THE LIFE AND TIMES OF WILLIAM ROMAINE (by Tim Shenton)

The 18th century was fertile ground for the great Evangelical Revival. The lack of morality among the laity and clergy moved many to the pursuit of genuine godliness. William Romaine, an often-neglected figure of the period, was one such individual. Through his broad and extensive ministry, Romaine reached thousands for the cause of Christ, calling them to walk deeper paths of holiness. Drawing from original and often little-known sources, Tim Shenton has provided a clear, consistent, and remarkably fair portrait of Romaine and the times in which he lived. From Romaine's early years as a student at Oxford University, to his appointment as a rector in the Church of England, to his profoundly influential ministry in London, to his numerous inspiring relationships with such figures as John and Charles Wesley, George Whitfield and Henry Venn, to his final post at Blackfriars the author guides the reader to a deeper understanding of the 18th century evangelical scene. This wonderful biography is more than a bare record of events. It is the story of a Christian who was able to persevere as a shining light in a dark and confusing world.

If ever we needed "pillars of iron" in the Church, it is in our own day, when compromise and worldliness are sapping its spiritual power and eroding its influence. Now listen to two great quotes from Romaine:

Reading
the Bible

"I have just finished my reading of the Bible for 1783. It has been a season of great teaching; I never went through it with more delight or with more profit. My soul has found it more precious than gold and it is really sweeter than honey ... I never dug deeper, nor found more precious jewels than upon this last perusal."

Keep
Going
forward

"our motto this year was GO FORWARD. All in a wrong way till set right. He who sets us in the right way has provided everything needful to keep us going, pressing on, till he bring us to the end of our journey to which He encourages us by promises, by example, by setting before us the shortness of the journey, and what awaits us at the end of it ... going forward till we finish our course with joy."

It was a magnificent biography of an outstanding preacher.

4. J.C.RYLE - (That Man of Granite with the heart of a child)

by Eric Russell

John Charles Ryle was born into a comfortable English family background - his father was a politician and businessman. Ryle was intelligent, a great sportsman (captain of the cricket at Eton and Oxford) and was set for a career in his father's business, and then politics - a typical well-to-do 19th century family. Then - disaster - the family awoke to find that their father's Bank had failed; taking all the other businesses with it. Ryle had lost his job and his place in society. One moment a popular man with good prospects and the next the son of a bankrupt man with no trade or profession. Almost as a last resort, he was ordained in the ministry of the church. Who could have thought that such an uninspiring entry into the ministry could have such an impact on the spiritual life of a nation.

Ryle's reputation as a pastor and leader grew until he was appointed the first bishop of Liverpool, a post he held for 20 years. He also was an author who is still in print today, a man once described as "that man of granite with the heart of a child". He changed the face of the English Church. Ryle stands as a colossus at the junction of two centuries - 100 years after his death he still stands as an example to Church leaders today of how to combine leadership, a firm faith and compassion.

If you have never read a biography on this great man, this one will certainly fire you up - *it was magnificent*.

5. BEHIND THE RANGES (by Mrs. Howard Taylor)

As a science student at London University, young James Fraser saw a life of promise opening before him. Mathematics and music were his strong points, perhaps especially the latter for he studied under the best masters and was urged to make music his career. How in the full flush of young manhood he was arrested by the inward call of Jesus to FOLLOW ME; how he arose and followed even to the remotest parts of inland China where the old Burma road crosses the mountainous borderland; how there his heart was won by the disposed, neglected children of the ranges, the numerous aboriginal tribes and especially the Lisu people; how his life was given for their salvation, with a love that broke down all obstacles, is the story of this

fantastic biography. 'He saved others' was indeed true, yet it was a life full of achievement, rich in its rewards and crowned at last with God's best earthly life, a perfect human love. Lessons, which Fraser learned in the school of prayer, are now passed on in letters to his friends and make for amazing reading. Listen now to some of his thoughts:

**SO FEW
MISSIONARIES**

"it does seem a terrible thing that so few are offering for the mission field; I can't help feeling that there is something wrong somewhere. Surely, God must be wanting His people to go forward Yet 100's of millions of people who have never yet had the Gospel brought before them and a mere handful of missionaries.

**HIS
BOOKS**

He writes about the room he stayed in.

"it is really an out-house made of bamboos and thatch, all tumbling to pieces. But it has not come down on top of us yet!! It leaks badly, but a friend has patched it up by putting plantain leaves over the rotten roofing But his COMFORT consisted chiefly in his BOOKS, for he had gone to lavish expense to bring some of his treasures; including study books and his Greek New Testament."

PRAYER

on Tuesday, February 1, 1916 he wrote in his diary:

"prayed in the afternoon for about three hours, but not enough grip or intellectual method as if I have arrears of prayer to make up."

I found it a very blessed and extremely challenging biography.

6. THE CHURCH AND MISSION (by Harold Le Roux)

This book explores the crisis in mission today. The old Christendom and doing mission on the back of colonial powers is over. The Church in the west is declining in influence and numbers, whereas there is phenomenal growth in the majority world, especially in AFRICA. Listen to what he wrote:

"in 1900 Muslims outnumbered Christians by a ratio of 4:1. But in 2000, the number of Christians represented about 48% of the approximately 1 billion African population. The Catholic population in

Africa increased by an unbelievable 6,708% and all Christians grew from 8.8 million in 1900 to 382 million in 2004. He notes too that scarcely anything is known of the people responsible for this astonishing growth, usually unknown catechists and evangelists."

This book analyses the reasons for these dynamics and examines the heart of mission in the Bible, theology and history. It searches for a relevant definition of mission and what is meant by the missional Church. An excellent book for those interested in MISSIONS ...

7. DOMINICANS IN AFRICA (by P. Denis)

This is the story of the Dominican Friars in sub-Sahara Africa. They have been here since the 15th century. Today the Order has communities in at least 12 countries. The story is recounted here by many voices, the majority from Africa itself. It was an extremely interesting book, a story of courage of these dedicated people who came to Africa and gave their all. I found it very interesting.

8. BEING MISSIONARY, BEING HUMAN (by Prof. W. Saayman)

Willem Saayman presents a brief overview of 350 years of Dutch Reformed Church, mission history. He attempts to write DRC mission history into Afrikaner history and find four distinct waves of mission corresponding to four important events and turning points in Afrikaner history. Here is some wonderful reading:

THEIR START

"Thus despite the then common high attrition rate as a result of death and illness, by 1909 there were 21 DRC missionaries at work in Mashonaland and in 1910, 12 were at work in Northern Rhodesia. In 1914 there were already 81 missionaries at work in Nyasaland ... foreign mission had taken strong root in at least the Cape and Free State synods of the DRC." Phenomenal!!!

MINISTERS SUPPORT TO MISSIONS

"ministers played an important motivating role - Andrew Murray, A.C. Murray, Andrew Louw, Stephanus Hofmeyer, the new wave of mission enthusiasm was directly related to

the reality that ministers became more actively interested in missions..."

BY

1954

*"at the DRC seminary in Stellenbosch the number of missions students among the DRC theological students at that time went up from 10% of the total number of students to 30% of that number. In 1954, the DRC had eight missionaries, in 1960 there were 29 working on 25 stations in the Transkei. In the Northern Transvaal the number of missionaries nearly doubled from 44 to 80." **Fantastic!!***

I found this book deeply moving and an enormous challenge.

B) BOOKS ON AFRICA

1. THE STATE OF AFRICA (by (Martin Meredith)

I wish I had read this book years ago, it is brilliant, the very best I have ever read on Africa. In fact Bob Geldof said:

"you cannot even begin to understand contemporary African politics if you have not read this fascinating book."

The fortunes of Africa have changed dramatically in the 50 years since the independence era began. As Europe's colonial powers withdrew, dozens of new states were launched amid much jubilation and to the world's applause. The circumstances seemed auspicious. Independence came in the midst of an economic boom. But today Africa is spoken of only in pessimistic terms. The sum of its misfortunes - its wars, its despotisms, its corruption, and its droughts is truly daunting. No other area of this world arouses such a sense of foreboding, and few states have managed to escape the downward spiral. What went wrong? How did Harold Macmillan's "wind of change" turn into Tony Blair's "scar on the conscience of the world"? What happened to Africa, so rich in resources, culture and history, to bring it close to destitution and despair in the space of two generations?

This magnificent history of modern Africa focuses on key personalities, events, and countries since independence in the 1960's. From the giddy enthusiasms of the 1960's to the disaster of tyrants and rapid decline, this outstanding book is essential reading for anyone seeking to understand how Africa came to this ... and what, if anything, can be done. This is a ***must read***.

2. THE POISONWOOD BIBLE (by Barbara Kingsolver)

I have been trying for months to find this book. The author tells us in her note that this is a work of fiction. Its principal characters are pure inventions with no relations on this earth, but the Congo in which she places them is genuine. This book is the story told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce conservative Baptist missionary who takes his family away from their home in the U.S.A. to the Belgian Congo in 1959. This 650-page novel is then their tragic story, the story of one family's undoing, all set in the context of the Congo as it went through the dreadful and violent years after their independence in the early 1960's. While it was a book I could not put down until I had finished, I found a cloud of sadness coming over me as I read it - so sad to see this family coming apart in the political turmoil around them. But read it ... you will get a glimpse of missionary work in the Congo during the Simba uprising and all that followed, even through the eyes of a novel.

MY DIARY

WEDNESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER

Woke up to a beautiful KwaZulu-Natal morning, setting the alarm earlier so that I can meet with God in the reading of His precious Word. Following McCheyne I read today from 2 Kings, James, Jonah and Luke. This pattern of reading through the Bible each year, which I began in 1967, is wonderful. Afterwards I close with Oswald Chambers in "My Utmost for His Highest" and today he wrote:

"Beware of 'the cares of this world', because they are the things that produce a wrong temper of soul. It is extraordinary what an enormous power there is in the simple things to distract our attention from God. Refuse to be swamped with the cares of this life."

For this trip, I have brought some outstanding books to read in between all the meetings. The first one is on BISHOP JAMES HANNINGTON the first bishop of what used to be known as Eastern Equatorial Africa (Kenya and Uganda), it really looks fantastic. He went into the Church of England ministry but was unconverted. Listen to what he wrote in 1874:

UNCONVERTED MINISTER

'as he visited the sick and dying or read prayers from the Prayer Book in the uncared-for county churches, and held up his manuscript sermon to his eyes in the presence of sleepy audiences of tired labouring folk, he realized he was not giving them the Word of Life. How could he, when he did not himself possess the secret of that life? He began to understand as he had never understood before that he was not right with God. God's ordained messenger with no message to deliver ..."

Even more, he was asked to attend the Church missionary prayer meeting and this is what he wrote:

1ST MISSIONS MEETING

"I went to my first missionary meeting at Parracombe. I was made to speak, much against my will, as I know nothing about the subject and take little interest in it.

BUT then by the grace of God this unconverted minister, with no interest in missions got converted. Listen, it is glorious to read:

HIS CONVERSION

"His search for the hidden treasure had been long, continuous, and painful. But he placed his trust in the finished work of Christ and wrote 'I was in bed at the time of reading. I sprang out of bed and leaped about the room rejoicing and praising God that Jesus died for me.' From that day on I have lived under the shadow of His wings, in the assurance of faith that I am His and He is mine".

Wow now I feel challenged, blessed, humbled and ready to fly up to Rwanda. I have been waiting so long for this trip. Caught the early flight from Pietermaritzburg to Johannesburg where I have to wait a few hours before flying on to Kigali. So let me begin the other book I brought ENCOUNTERING THEOLOGY OF MISSION (by C. Ott and S. Strauss). Listen to how he begins:

OUR MISSION

"The living God, maker of heaven and earth, lover of our soul, the eternal Father, sends His people on a mission in this world. Having redeemed us by the blood of His Son, having given us His message in the Bible, and having equipped us with the Holy Spirit, He sends us to become His instruments for fulfilling His purposes in history. The more one contemplates this thought the more awe inspiring and

overwhelming it becomes; the deeper our sense of privilege, unworthiness and inadequacy, the greater the urgency to make sure that we get it right. Theology of mission can be reduced to the wonderful yet challenging task of unpacking just what that means - to be sent by God on His assignment into the world."

How I long for that in my own life ... to be sent by God on His assignment into the world, for me, especially into Africa. But here is a warning:

WARNING

"If our mission practice and passion are based solely on catchy slogans, trendy strategies, or contemporary social scientific discoveries, and not on sound Biblical foundations, mission practice will be reduced to pragmatism, enthusiasm, or even political correctness. Evangelical warnings of the 'de-theologizing of missiology' must be taken seriously.

Because missions is rooted in the very nature of God - God is a missionary God - theology of missions has an important role to play in the broader disciplines of theology."

**THE
LOCAL CHURCH
PRIORITY**

"If one wants to maintain a specifically theological meaning of the term mission as 'foreign missions', its significance is, in my opinion, that it keeps calling the church to think over its essential nature as a community sent forth into the world. Seen in that light missionary work is not just one of its activities but the CRITERION for all its activities. It is exactly by going outside itself that the church is ITSELF and come to ITSELF."

**THE
BIBLE**

"The Bible is from start to finish a missionary book, for it is the story of God Himself reaching into human history to reconcile a fallen and rebellious humanity to Himself and to re-establish His reign over all creation. In this sense God is a missionary God - a God who sends His missionaries, messengers and ultimately His Son as agents in the story of salvation."

**FOR
ALL
PEOPLE**

"the language of Revelation 5:9 and 7:9 is unmistakably comprehensive. The terms are piled up: PHULE (ethnic group, tribe), GLOSSE (language group), LAOS (people), ETHNOS (nations, people). Clearly no matter how the human family might

be categorized, divided, or related, people from all categories will be reached, and some from each will become part of the new people of God."

Isn't this fantastic to be part of, reaching all people for the Lord and soaking my mind with this missionary book, the Bible. But where does the PASSION come from?

THE
PASSION OF
A MISSIONARY

"the passion of a missionary - as distinct from that of an evangelist - is to plant a worshipping community of Christians in a people group who has no access to the Gospel because of language and cultural barriers."

CHURCH'S
PURPOSE

"The church remains God's primary agent to accomplish His purposes in this age. The planting and growth of Christ-centred, Bible believing, Spirit-filled churches is God's chosen way to multiply a witness to His kingdom on earth."

Wow ... what a great morning of reading ... NOW ... off to KIGALI where I will arrive at 8pm to be met by all the church leaders ...



Enjoyed an excellent flight on RWANAIR, arriving safely in Kigali where I was so warmly met by PASTOR MIRIAM RUKATA and all her church elders.

The airport is magnificent, stunning, and so well run. I must admit it was such a real surprise after some of the other African airports I have been to. Tim, her son then took us down the main highway, which again was as good as any in South Africa, to her home ... such a beautiful, comfortable home where I spent the night. African hospitality is so incredible, you are made to feel like a king, so after an excellent supper, I hit the room to read, pray and get some sleep for the busy day tomorrow when I will be speaking to all the pastors. How better to end another amazing day in THE HEART OF AFRICA than by quoting part of the covenant, which John Wesley taught the early Methodists to pray:

"I am no longer my own but yours. Put me to what You will, rank me with whom you will, put me to doing, put me to suffering: let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you - let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing - I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now this covenant made on earth let it be ratified in heaven." Amen

I remember what Robin Wells wrote in his book 'JESUS SAYS GO' that I started on the flight up to Kigali:

"Christ's' service, even when it is costly, is true wealth, not deprivation"

What a day!!! right in the heart of Africa ... could not be any better ...

THURSDAY, 24 NOVEMBER

Isn't this incredible, to be able to wake up in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda in Central Africa ... I am so very, very blessed. Always begin by reading my four Bible chapters and to spend time in prayer. Continued my readings from 1 Chronicles, 1 Peter, Jonah and Luke and then from Oswald Chambers. Today he wrote:

"spiritual leakage begins when we cease to lift up our eyes unto Him. Whenever there is a leakage, remedy it immediately. Recognise that something has been coming between you and God, and get it readjusted at once."

While I wait to wash and have breakfast, read some pages from this great book "Encountering Theology of Mission" - listen:

THE
GREAT
COMMISSION

"Preaching the Gospel, making disciples and gathering these believers into communities whose members are committed to one another and to God is foundational to all else".

So many focus on social work, schools, feeding schemes ... all excellent ... but not foundational. Nothing is more important than teaching the Bible.

I am so loving reading this biography of Bishop James Hannington, one of the very best I have read on Africa. After his conversion, he became a wonderful pastor and then went on a mission trip into AFRICA, which absolutely changed his life. It did not go well, he almost died from the fever ... but he wrote ...

AFRICA

"forgive the one that turned back. But though that turning back was only a retreat before overwhelming necessity, he could never forgive himself until his foot was once more planted upon AFRICAN SOIL".

I love this ... he was saturated through and through with the missionary spirit ... that must be me ... saturated ...

That is what I want to become, like him, saturated with the missionary spirit. He then was offered the position of Bishop to "Eastern Equatorial Africa" which he accepted. This he took as a sign from God that the Lord wanted him in AFRICA. About accepting the Bishopric he had his fears and doubts, but returning to Africa, none. He said:

"I feel that I could no more say NO than did Gordon when he went to Khartoum."

He was amazing; I chuckled when I read this of him:

HIS
PACE

"he roused up everybody by his own indefatigable energy. No one could settle with any comfort, while the bishop stirred about so briskly and displayed such boundless power of locomotion. Today in Mombassa, tomorrow in Zanzibar, later in Taita, then Kilimanjaro and then suddenly when all thought him far away in the interior, reappearing in Frere Town."

And so incredibly sad and tragic he was martyred ... speared to death on one of his mission trips in the area of the MASAI in 1885. Wow ... I cried ... but what a man. How in some minute way I can follow in his footsteps. A fantastic biography.



Off to wash, then get ready for the conference that will be held in NYAGATARE, which is about a 3-hour drive from Kigali in the eastern province of Rwanda. We had a wonderful drive, amazing to see the sheer beauty of the country with its rolling hills and thousands of bananas, no wonder it is called the country of a 1000 hills. We went straight to the conference, which was extremely well attended. What I did not know was that for them it was a live-in conference, some of them coming from all the outlying areas. I am doing five talks on 2 Timothy which I think is new for all of them; they have never been exposed to expository preaching. They are so incredibly warm and appreciative so I came home so fulfilled - what a joy to be teaching the Bible in the heart of Africa.

What a day, feel quite exhausted so what better than for a few hours to read my books. "JESUS SAYS GO" is outstanding and is geared for everyone who wants to bring the Gospel of Christ to another culture, a manifesto for Christians willing to rebel against our "me-first" culture. Listen to This quote from AJITH FERNANDO:

GET
BASHED

"Christian pastors and missionaries are those who first get their strength from God and then go into the world to get BASHED AROUND. Then they come back, get their strength from God, and go back into the world to get bashed again. That is our life. We get strength, then go and get bashed, get strength, go get bashed ..."

So with the rain pelting down, I go to sleep in NYAGATARE, in the eastern province of Rwanda, almost on the border with Uganda.

FRIDAY, 25 NOVEMBER

Woke up to the pelting down of the rain, it really comes down here for long periods. Began with my Bible readings from 1 Chronicles, 1 Peter, Jonah and Luke, so blessed by the precious life-giving Word of God. Chambers reminded us to stay focused on the Cross, listen:

"in external history, the Cross is an infinite small thing, from the Bible point of view it is of more importance than all the empires of the world. If we get away from brooding upon the Cross in our preaching, it produces nothing."

Continued with my reading on Encountering the Theology of Mission and was so blessed by what ROBERT MOFFAT wrote to his parents shortly before sailing for Africa:

AFRICA

"Oh that I had a 1000 lives and a 1000 bodies! All of them should be devoted to no other employment but to preach Christ ... I have not repented in becoming a missionary, and should I die in the march and never enter the field of battle all would be well."

JOHN
PATON

"Trials and hairbreadth escapes only strengthened my faith and nerved me more to follow: and they trod swiftly enough upon each others heels. Without that abiding consciousness of the presence and power of my Lord and Saviour, nothing in the world could have preserved me from losing my mind and dying miserably. His words, lo I am with you always became so real to me."



These were such amazing examples to us. Now off to wash, have some breakfast (a roll, banana and some tea) then off in the rain to the conference. Should be another incredible day in Rwanda, the heart of Africa. Because of the rain we are delayed a while, so was able to read a bit from this incredible book. How's this for the most amazing definition on missions:

DEFINITION

"we defined
DOXOLOGY - as the highest goal of missions,
REDEMPTION - as the foundation
KINGDOM OF GOD - as the centre
ESCHATOLOGY - as the hope
THE NATIONS - as the scope
RECONCILIATION - as the fruit
INCARNATION - as the character of mission"

Just returned home, some hot water was waiting for me to enjoy a refreshing wash, someone offered to clean my shoes ... so it is tough up here in Rwanda!!! The conference seemed to go extremely well, all by the grace of God alone and I finished my five talks on 2 Timothy. Afterwards there were many questions so it all ended wonderfully. What a DESPERATE need there is for Bible TEACHING up here, lots of charismatic-type worship but sadly no teaching, so my time up here has been terrific. Now I can get back to reading this great book and managed to read only two great chapters - the Motivation for Missions and the Church in Missions. Listen to two of the giants:

A
MISSIONARY

HENRY VENN wrote in 1805:

"with the WORLD under his feet, with HEAVEN in his eye, with the GOSPEL in his hand and CHRIST in his heart, he pleads as an ambassador of God, knowing nothing but Jesus Christ, enjoying nothing but the conversion of sinners, hoping for nothing but the promotion of the Kingdom of Christ, and glorying in nothing but in the Cross of Christ Jesus, by which he is crucified to the world and the world to him."

Isn't that an incredible picture of what we long to become. Now listen to HUDSON TAYLOR:

TAYLOR'S
SERMON

"do you believe that each person of these millions has an immortal soul, and that there is no other name under heaven given among men, save the precious name of Jesus by which we must be saved? Do you believe that He and He alone is the Way, the Truth, and the Life and that no man comes unto the Father except through Me? If so examine yourself in the sight of God and see whether you are doing your UTMOST to make Him known to them or not."

On these trips into Africa, all my reading challenges me deeply and this book has been phenomenal. Listen now to C.T. Studd:

SOUL
WINNING

"I cannot tell you what joy it gave me to bring the first soul to the Lord Jesus Christ. I have tasted almost all of the pleasures that this world can give. I do not suppose there is one thing that I have not experienced, but I can tell you that those pleasures were as NOTHING compared to the joy that the saving of that one soul gave me."

I am exhausted so off to bed in the heart of Africa ... amazing.

SATURDAY, 26 NOVEMBER

Another good sleep under the mosquito net in NYAGATARE, so I am ready now for my prayer and Bible readings from 1 Chronicles, 1 Peter, Micah and Luke, after which Oswald Chambers again reminded us to get the CROSS central.

"in holiness movements and spiritual experience meetings the concentration is apt to be put not on the Cross of Christ but on the effects of the Cross."

So very blessed by the readings and am now able to spend time drawing this brilliant book to a close. He quotes James Gilmour who went into India following in the footsteps of William Carey.

JAMES
GILMOUR

"But I go out as a missionary not that I may follow the dictates of common sense, but that I may obey that command of Christ - 'Go into all the world and preach'. He who said preach also said go and what God has joined together let not man put asunder. The 10 days we passed there, (at Ta Cheng Tzu) we were the song of the drunkard and the jest of the abjects, but the peace of God passes all understanding and that kept my heart and mind. The great thought of my mind in those days - and the great object of my life - is to be like Christ."

He made some very important points on the MISSIONAL Church teaching which is growing today and which as he says, "holds very little place for bringing the Gospel to the yet unreached." I found it brilliant and a strong word of caution. The chapter this morning dealt also with the missionary vocation, dealing with the issue of a missionary call and answering the question, 'is every Christian a missionary?'

Had our traditional breakfast of a piece of bread, a banana, and a cup of tea after which we left for an amazing day up here in Rwanda. TITE TIENOU wrote:

OTHER CULTURES

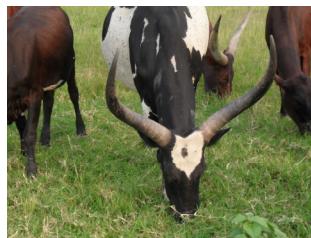
"Christians from other cultures can enrich our faith and help us correct our mistakes.



How true that is. Today across Rwanda was UMUGANDA Day. On the last Saturday of every month, the whole country has clean up Rwanda Day. The shops all close, businesses close and everyone from the President down gets onto the streets and cleans up the country. I was given my slasher and broom and had an amazing morning. Came home for a quick lunch then headed for a wedding where six couples were going to be married. They all dressed up in their traditional dress ... it was amazing to be there, the only little white man, but they were so happy to have a bishop bringing the message. Now ... you will laugh ... after the signing of the register, I had to then bless all their children!!! I realized once again the incredible need for sound Biblical teaching. Craig Ott wrote in this book I am reading:

TEACHING

"Mission that is done well must be true to Scripture and authentic for the countless diverse human contexts around the world. By rooting all theology and practice in the Bible, penetrating to the level of worldview, and interacting with every aspect of context, we can help ensure the emergence of healthy churches that connect with and transform their world."



We then left at five and headed back to Kigali, a long 3 hour drive arriving when it was dark. I thought to myself ... great now relax and read.

But at nine I was then taken to a very up market Hotel where the WOMEN FOUNDATION MINISTRIES were having their annual thanksgiving evening. What a different situation to be in a very posh hotel, in a situation where I was now among upper class people from Rwanda getting home at midnight ... exhausted ... what an amazing day. But wanted to finish my book, which has been such a fantastic read. Listen to his closing remarks:

SCANDAL

"the true scandal of mission is not that evangelicals believe that Jesus is the only way of salvation BUT that many who claim to believe this are doing a little or nothing to spread the Gospel to lost people around the world.

GOODNITE ... what an experience in the heart of Africa.

SUNDAY, 27 NOVEMBER

Woke up to a beautiful morning in Kigali and with joy did my readings from 1 Chronicles, Micah, 1 Peter and Luke. Listen to Oswald Chambers at his best:

"if I brood on the Cross of Christ, I do not simply become inwardly devout and solely interested in my own holiness - I become dominantly concentrated on Jesus Christ's interests."

So having read James Hannington's biography and the Theology of Missions, I can now finish my last book "JESUS SAYS GO" by Robin Wells. This morning he reminded us from a famous quote from Hudson Taylor:

QUIET
TIME

"do not have your concert first, and then tune your instruments afterwards. Begin the day with the Word of God and prayer, and get first of all into harmony with Him."



Now I am off to preach in KIGALI for the first time in my life, in the very place where the East African Revival began from and tragically, where the genocide took place; 1 million people slaughtered in one week. The service lasted 3½ hours being singing and choirs. I preached from Hebrews 9:26-27 and 3 souls gave their lives to Christ, which was wonderful. Got back home for a fantastic lunch and a zzzzz ... to catch up and then get down to some reading.

Now I am off to preach for the last time at a huge women's convention here in Kigali, so here we go ... spoke on Jeremiah 33:3 and it seemed to be well received. Home for supper, pack and get ready to fly home tomorrow, back to KMBC on Tuesday morning. It has been an excellent trip, many new contacts for the future so our Footprints into Africa reach even farther into Africa.

My books are read, I have preached my heart out, three souls gave their lives to Christ, I have traveled throughout Rwanda and got a taste of their country of a 1000 hills. Let me now close off another amazing day with a quote from William Carey about to sail for India:

"There is a gold mine in India, but it seems almost as deep as the centre of the earth. Who will venture to explore it?

I will venture to do down, he said

BUT

please remember that you must hold the ropes."

Please will you hold the ropes as I venture out in Footprints into Africa, I need you. But another footprint into Africa has been planted in the very heart of Africa, in the country of a 1000 hills ... Rwanda...

MONDAY, 28 NOVEMBER

Today I leave this amazing country, it has been the most amazing experience being in the heart of Africa in the country of a 1000 hills. Must always begin with my readings from 1 Chronicles, 1 Peter, Micah and Luke. Oswald Chambers reminded us of the pride in all our hearts which think we must still do something to be saved. Listen:

"there is a certain pride in man that will give and give, but to come and accept is another thing. I will give my life to martyrdom, I will give myself in consecration, I will do anything, but do not humiliate me to the level of the most hell-deserving sinner and tell me that all I have to do is to accept the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ."

I was again so challenged by DAVID BRAINERD this morning:

SOUL
WINNER

"this morning about nine I withdrew to the woods for prayer. I was in such anguish that when I arose from my knees I felt extremely weak and overcome. I cared not how or where I lived, or what hardships I went through, so that I could but gain souls for Christ."

On the way to the airport, I was taken to the KIGALI GENOCIDE MEMORIAL.



This was the most moving experience reminding me of the time I visited AUSCHITZ Camp in Germany and the YAD VASHEM in Israel, the memorial to the 6 millions Jews killed in Germany. Here in Rwanda 1 million precious people were butchered, raped, mutilated, and shot over 100 days.

This internationally renowned exhibition tells the history of Rwanda leading up to the genocide and catalogues the details of the 1994 genocide through

personal testimonies, photographs, videos, and artifacts. As you move from one hall to the next, the names of each person killed are read out. I can never forget seeing all the skeletons of some of the victims ... horrific what was done ... from the exhibition outside to the burial grounds, a resting place for 250,000 victims of the genocide where bodies have been exhumed from mass graves around the city of Kigali. It provides us with a quiet place of reflection and finally I went to the WALL OF NAMES, another permanent memorial to the victims of the Rwandan genocide, visibly recording their names to recognize and memorialize the individual lives lost. Pensively made my way to the airport.

On the long 4 hour flight back read an excellent missionary article. JOSHUA WATHANGA from Kenya speaking on the need for western missionaries for Africa said:

"because AFRICA is not getting easier to work in, it is ravaged by poverty, war, and disease. It is being strangled by political misgovernance. It is bleeding from corruption. It is suffering from violence and carelessness in the society as a result. So going to AFRICA is not a great adventure or a picture safari. It will be very hard work and it can be dangerous ... BUT ... most Africans need to be helped to some empowerment. Missionaries should go prepared to TRAIN UP and MENTOR African leaders who will in time replace them. This will encourage people to take responsibility for God's call upon their lives. And finally this new breed of missionary will go prepared to LEARN and be changed, whilst working with African as equals."

So my 23rd trip into Africa comes to an end.

NKOSI SIKELELE AFRIKA

SOME PERSONAL REFLECTIONS



1. RWANDA:

It was wonderful to visit this country; I have waited many years to visit Rwanda especially after all the books I read on the missionaries. After its horrendous past, the wars and the genocide it is a miracle to see what is happening. Central Kigali is far better than Pietermaritzburg with magnificent new buildings, clean highways, and busy streets, it is amazing. I also enjoyed the magnificent countryside with its beautiful rolling hills filled with banana plantations and cattle with 90% of its people involved in agriculture. Living in two Rwandan homes was another fantastic experience; we have so much to learn from each other. But Rwanda, at the moment, is a huge success story in Africa. I loved my visit here.

2. BOOKS FOR AFRICA

The one huge NEED for the pastors up here is for books, resources, and materials. In the homes I stayed in, I never saw a book; it really showed me how important our little ministry BOOKS FOR AFRICA is. Some friends have donated money so that I can give a New Bible Commentary and a New Bible Dictionary to every one of our students when they graduate - now I see how fantastic this really is. Earlier this year I drove up to Zambia to deliver over 500 books to Mukombo, our student in Congo who started a small Bible College. I want to work at this in the New Year so if you have any Christian books you no longer need, maybe you would consider giving them to Footprints into Africa, and I will distribute them to needy pastors in Africa. But I think how very, very, very fortunate I am with all my books ... cannot imagine what life would be without my books ...

3. KMBC

In the circles I moved in it was mind blowing to see so much enthusiasm for the Gospel but absolutely NO TEACHING. You cannot believe the great need there is up here for teaching, training, and mentoring. I met pastors who preach every Sunday but know NOTHING ... they live on dreams and prophecy. This makes my work at KMBC so very, very important, to train pastors and missionaries for Africa who will go back

and teach the Bible and live a godly life. I now have given the remaining years of my life to this great dream and coming up here to Rwanda has served to consolidate all my thinking. Pray for me as I seek to train up godly Bible teachers for Africa, it really is critical. We have had 25 amazing years but now the future lies before us.

4. FOOTPRINTS INTO AFRICA

It has been 20 glorious years for me to travel into Africa. I have now been privileged to visit Malawi, Namibia, Mozambique, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Qwa Qwa and across South Africa, making 23 trips... Now for the rest of my life this will not only be able to continue but I hope it will increase. I have been asked to teach in Nigeria, Uganda, and Madagascar next year, which is exciting.

Helen Blakeslee wrote:

"I go to AFRICA not for fame and prominence, but because I am attached to Jesus Christ in a love that knows no sacrifice too great to be made; that men and women everywhere throughout AFRICA may know of and come to possess the wonderful inheritance He has won for them on the Cross of Calvary. I go to AFRICA because I believe that Africans to be worthy of the most heroic effort than can be put forth to save them. I believe this because Jesus Christ believed and proved to the world that it was true."

Please pray for me as I now begin my new life as a missionary in Africa, training pastors at KMBC and then launching into Africa to train and teach with Footprints into Africa. Could anything in this world be more thrilling?

5. THE COST

In my very small way, I have given up the security of being a pastor with its privileges of a car, petrol, salary, and pension. At times, I tend to waver but the thrill of what I now want to do is overpowering. Listen to ALEXANDER MACKAY:

"My heart burns for the deliverance of AFRICA, and if you can send me to any one of the regions which Livingstone and Stanley have found to be groaning under the curse of slave-hunters, I shall be very glad."

It is no sacrifice, as some think, to come here as pioneers of Christianity and civilization. I would not give my position here for all the world. A powerful race has to be won from darkness into light; superstition and idolatry have to be overthrown, men have to be taught to love God and love their neighbour, which means the uprooting of institutions that have lasted for centuries. Who would not willingly engage in such a work and consider it the highest honour on earth to be called to do it."

He wrote these moving words from Uganda in 1878 - please pray for me.

My hero David Livingstone also wrote in the same vein:

"People talk of the sacrifice I have made in spending so much of my life in AFRICA. Can that be called a sacrifice which is simply paid back as a small part of the great debt owing to our God, which we can never repay?"

6. MY NEW CALL

Adoniram Judson wrote:

"It was during a solitary walk in the woods behind the college, while meditating and praying on the subject, and feeling half inclined to give it all up, that the command of Christ to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature was presented to my mind with such clearness and power, that I came to the full decision, and though great difficulties appeared in my way, resolved to obey the command at all events and go as a missionary to Burma."

Earlier this year, alone in a little room in the dangerous city of Lubumbashi, as I wrestled with God, I concluded that I must go back, stand down as the rector of Pinetown and the KZN Bishop, and give the rest of my life to Africa especially in training up pastors and missionaries. These last 8 months have seen me preparing for this huge change in my life, becoming a missionary into Africa with no more financial support or security. At the time, with real brokenness before God, I read of HUDSON TAYLOR who wrote the following, it so wonderfully describes what I went through....

"on Sunday, June 25th, 1865, unable to bear the sight of a congregation of 1000 or more Christian people rejoicing in their own security, while millions were perishing for lack of knowledge, I wandered out on the sands alone, in great spiritual agony and there the Lord conquered my unbelief and I totally surrendered myself to God for this service. I told Him that all the responsibility as to issues and consequences must rest with Him: that as His servant it was mine to obey and follow Him, His to direct, to care for and to guide me. Need I say that peace at once flowed into my burdened heart."

I have a deep love for Africa and now dedicate the rest of my life to MAMA AFRIKA, please pray for me and "hold the ropes" as I go.

DAVID BRAINERD said:

"oh .. that I could dedicate my all to God. This is all the return I can make Him. It is impossible for any rational creature to be happy without acting all for God. There is nothing in the world worth living for but doing good and finishing God's work, doing the work that Christ did. I see nothing else in the world that can yield any satisfaction besides living to God, pleasing Him and doing His will."

Here am I, send me, send me to the ends of the earth, send me from all that is called comfort on earth, send me even to death itself, if it be but in Thy service and to promote Thy Kingdom."

Listen now to DAVID LIVINGSTONE yet again:

"I am a missionary, heart, and soul. God had an only Son, and He was a missionary and a physician. I am a poor, poor imitation of Him, or wish to be. In this service I hope to live, in it I wish to die."

***Will it be easy ... NO ... but if you will
hold the ropes, I will go.***

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