



MY LIFE UNDER LOCKDOWN

My very dear friends

With no preaching on Sundays, no Bible Study on Thursdays, no lectures at my College every day and no trips into my beloved Africa, I thought you might want to read how I spend each day. Right at the start of lockdown, I tried to put a programme into place so that I would not waste a second but use the lockdown to the greatest advantage. To help me I turned to the early Monastic movement under Basil and Anthony in the early 4th Century and followed this example, structuring my day as they did for their Monasteries. There were different areas they focused on:

1. SPIRITUAL

Some of my fondest memories were with the Benedictine Monks in Uganda and being part of their lives for a week while I was up there. The day always begins with the reading of the Bible following R.M. McCheyne's programme, and as Hanley Moule used to say, "Listening to the voice of God in the Word of God". Here I was able to saturate my mind with the Bible and then was able to pray, remembering especially the unreached people of our world as Operation World guided me, always closing with Oswald Chambers, "My Utmost for His Highest".

2. PHYSICAL

Then I take our precious dog Beatrice for a walk for about forty minutes, enjoying the beautiful mornings we have at this time of the year, and return to a scrumptious breakfast. The Monks then go to some hard manual work so I clean the house, cut the grass, the hedges, clean the cars and so many things that need to be done around the house, and then enjoy some tea at ten.

3. STUDY

The rest of the day, I spend reading, studying, and revising my lectures. These are the twenty books I have read so far in the little study I have created at home.

Commentaries:

- I studied Romans with Stuart Briscoe's Commentary, Ephesians with John Stott's Commentary, 2 Corinthians with Kent Hughes Commentary and read through David Pawson's book "Unlocking the Bible" for my Introduction to the Bible lectures.

Theology:

- I slowly ploughed through Michael Hortens new Systematic Theology, which I found to be heavy but so very helpful and challenging.

Church History:

- You all know how I love Church History, and at night before going to sleep, I so enjoyed re-reading "The History of the Christian Church" by Renwich.

Missions:

- Learning more about our missionary God is for me critical so I found the following books on immense value. I re-read for the fifth time "From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya", once described as the most moving book ever written. Reading "Through the Gates of Splendour", the life of "Pastor Hsi", the "Healing of the Nations", "No Graven Image" and then re-reading John Stott's "Christian Mission in the Modern World" which has been updated by Christopher Wright. These all made phenomenal reading for me and kept the fire for missions burning in my heart.

Biographies:

- I learned about Ron Dunn and spent hours reading slowly Alan Paton's biography on Archbishop Geoffrey Clayton which I found so very challenging to read of all he did during the horrendous Vervoerd days, when sadly the Evangelicals were silent, I found

this so depressing. Donald Spoto's biography on Francis of Assisi entitled the "Reluctant Saint" was interesting.

Preaching:

- Longing to preach more effectively I read Mark Dever's book "Preach" and for Easter read Herbert Lockyers "The Week that Changed the World" to great profit. Each day of the Passion Week was covered in a chapter; it made my lockdown Easter very meaningful.

Pastoralia:

- To re-read John Piper's great book "Bloodlines" was a huge blessing and reminded me so much of my upbringing and journey to the place where I trust there is no racism in my life as Clayton became a Bishop with no colour. To read of the need for "Pastoral Visitation" was important in a time when so few pastors visit.

Africa:

- I found "The History of Africa" so very helpful, assisting me to understand the history of Africa so much better.

4. REST

Time for supper and enjoy the herbs, spinach, lettuce and brochali from my garden, watch a little bit of T.V., catching up on the latest on this Corona Virus around the world.

What has also been such a blessing is to try in some small way to assist others - making soup for the soup kitchen and ordering some foodstuff from friends whose business have virtually closed.

5. FOOTPRINTS INTO AFRICA

The Journal of my 65th Missions trip to Tanzania was sent out, my website is continually being upgraded by Gerhard and Charmaine and amazingly our Certificate in Theology Distance Learning is now available "on-line" ... hallelujah. In addition, our translation of our student manual for our Certificate in Theology Distance Learning has been translated into Swahili and has been printed for distribution.

Friends the need is great to train pastors and missionaries for Africa. In the midst of all the heartache at the moment, I am so grateful for being able to better equip myself for the work at KMBC and Footprints. Stay home and blessed. Thank you for your amazing support and generous financial assistance to the work.

Sincerely

Warwick