



## Weekly Newsletter: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### Reflection: Are You Content To Carry the Pins?

By Tim Challies (taken from <https://www.challies.com/articles/are-you-content-to-carry-the-pins/>)

Oh, Envy. You are a cunning enemy, a persistent foe. You linger on the sidelines of our lives, whispering your cunning words of discontentment. “You deserve better. You should have what he has. His success should be your success, her life your life.”

The Old Testament tabernacle had one exceptional feature that set it apart from the temple: It was portable. As the Israelites wandered the wilderness, slowly making their way to the Promised Land, they could pick up that tabernacle and carry it with them.

The God who had revealed exactly how the tabernacle was to be created and erected, also revealed how it was to be transported from place to place. The tribe of Levi was not only given the responsibility of serving within the temple, but also of disassembling, transporting, and reassembling it. God gave specific duties to some of the clans within the tribe. He laid out three gradations of responsibility.

To the sons of Kohath went the task of entering the Most Holy Place, taking down the veil, covering the ark, inserting its poles, and carrying it wherever God would lead. They did the same with the table, the altar, and the lampstand. These men, and these men alone, were allowed to see the ark and the other furniture within the Holy of Holies. They alone were allowed to pick it up and carry it.

To the sons of Gershon went the task of caring for the curtains and the hangings. They would take them down, carefully prepare them for transportation, and load them onto a pair of ox carts to follow where God would lead.

To the sons of Merari went the task of carrying the planks and poles and bases and whatever else remained. They needed four ox carts to carry all of this bulky material.

There is a clear hierarchy here. The sons of Kohath were chosen by God to care for and to transport the most holy items. The sons of Merari were chosen by God to care for and to transport the most common items. You can't help but wonder if, from time to time, a son of Merari envied a son of Kohath. “Why does he get to carry the ark when I only ever get to carry a plank? Why does he get to see the Most Holy Place when I only ever get to see the veil?”

But I like to think that the sons of Merari were content with their lot. Their work was good because they had been called to it by God and were able to carry it out for his glory. Though it did not fall to them to carry the ark, they had a clear calling from God to serve in his tabernacle. They had a lesser calling but still a noble calling. God expected they would embrace it wholeheartedly and carry it out skilfully.

The old pastor Andrew Bonar would sometimes compare himself to the sons of Merari. He would read accounts of the lives of great men of the faith and realize that his ministry paled in comparison. In these moments, he would content himself with carrying out the little life and hidden ministry God had called him to.

*A man came in to ask me to go with him to settle a quarrel between him and his wife. The Lord does not use me, like his servant, Dr. Chalmers, for great things, but my way of serving the Lord is walking three or four miles to quiet a family dispute! The Lord shows me that He wishes me to be one of the common Levites who carries the pins.\**

God called some Levites to carry the ark, and some to carry the pins, the tent pegs. But whether they carried the most holy or the most common items, their responsibility was to answer God's call and to faithfully and joyfully carry out their task. We can learn from them.

It is God's good will that some pastors minister to great congregations and some to minister to minuscule ones. It is God's good will that some authors write books that sell in the millions and some write books that sell in the thousands. It is God's good will that some mums write blogs that explode in popularity and some write blogs that remain in obscurity. Regardless, we can have confidence that God knows best, that God calls us to the tasks that will bring him the most glory. We must each ask, will we be content to carry the pins? We must each pray, "God, make me content to carry the pins. Let me carry them well."

*\*As quoted in Seven Leaders by Iain Murray.*

## **Prayer Meeting – this Wednesday**

Joe is going to share a bit about the digital strategy of the church this Wednesday at the Prayer Meeting on Zoom. He will also give us a sneak preview of the new church website that will go live on 4<sup>th</sup> July.

Come along on Wednesday at 7pm and contact Liz if you would like the Zoom codes and don't already receive them.

## **Welcome Back Picnic – this Sunday**

We're looking forward to welcoming James Stewart and Gordon and Avril Margery on Sunday (3<sup>rd</sup>). Please bring along your own picnic lunch and join us in the park after the morning service.

Tea and coffee will be served in the church after the service and also over in the park. Let's hope the rain stays away!

## Summer Plans

As the summer holidays approach, here are the plans for who will be taking our services in July:

- Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Equip – Joe Barnard
- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> – Hannu Sorsamo
- Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> and Equip – John Wilson. John currently heads up the digital evangelism ministry of the Free Church in the Highlands
- Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> – Mal Cooke, Christ Church Edinburgh (James Burnett is no longer available)
- Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> and Praise Night – Joe Barnard

Other information to note –

- Joe and the family will be on holiday from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July until Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July. Please contact one of the elders or a member of the Pastoral Care Team (Maureen, Elaine, Alison, Alasdair or Liz) for any pastoral matters in Joe's absence.
- Summer Sunday Club will start this Sunday and run for the duration of the school holidays (3<sup>rd</sup> July to 14<sup>th</sup> August). Thanks to all those who are helping lead this each week!
- Equip Sessions will carry on as normal on the first and third Sundays of the month.
- Home Groups will take a break for July and August.
- Liz will be on holiday from Friday 8<sup>th</sup> until Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. There will be no Newsletters on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July. For any urgent admin matters, please contact Ernie Shippin (shippins@sky.com)

## Iain and Judith Macleod



We are delighted that Iain and Judith have become members of the church by resolution of the Session. They've been attending for a number of years and travel in each Sunday from Currie!

Give thanks for them and pray for God's blessing as they join the church family.

## Faith Mission Convention 2022

The Faith Mission Convention will take place from Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July in the grounds of The Faith Mission Bible College in Gilmerton.

- Morning Bible Readings – weekdays at 10.30 am
- Evening Celebrations – Sunday at 8.15 pm; weeknights at 7.30 pm

David Cook is taking the Morning Bible Readings and Liam Goliger is speaking at the Evening Celebrations. No registration is required and everyone is welcome. A livestream of these meetings will be available at [youtube.com/TheFaithMission](https://youtube.com/TheFaithMission). For details of seminars, and activities for children and youth, please go [here](#).

## The Summer Appeal 2022

The Summer Appeal is open for the support of our missionaries (Lorna Ferguson, the Sorsamo family and James Stewart). Please transfer your gift to the church bank account with the reference 'Summer Appeal' or put it in the plate marked 'Summer Appeal'. If you have any questions, please speak to Nick Archer or your elder.



## My Favourite Books

By Joe Barnard

A few in the congregation might have asked the question, 'What kind of books does Joe like to read?' August is your chance to find out.

I'm inviting members to a one-off book club in August. This event is open to all ages, men and women. In fact, my hope is to make this an annual event. Each year I'll pick one book that has had a significant impact on my thinking and invite people to come on a Sunday evening for discussion.

The book this year will be *Till We Have Faces* by C.S. Lewis.

**Time:** Sunday, August 14th, 5:30-7:00pm

**Location:** HEC building

**Link to order book:** [click here](#).

## Church Calendar

For your prayers and info –

- Wednesday: Prayer Meeting on Zoom at 7pm
- Thursday: Session Meeting on Zoom at 7pm
- Sunday:
  - Communion Service at 10.30am (and live streamed). Joe Barnard preaching. Please contact Liz by 12 noon on Thursday if you would like a socially distant seat.
  - Equip at 6pm



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Incorporated as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Scottish Charity Number SCO44820