



## Weekly Newsletter: 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### Reflection: Big Dreams Impress. Ordinary Faithfulness Delivers.

By Darryl Dash (taken from his [blog post](#) on 27 February)

Show me a big dream if you'd like, but what really impresses me is the ordinary faithfulness of hidden saints. I'd rather be in the company of a faithful pastor who's served in a hidden church for decades than listen to the dreams of someone who's never learned to serve faithfully in an obscure place.

The world's not changed by grandiose ambition as much as it's changed by the ordinary, plodding faithfulness of people who will never be famous.

I'm not telling you that you shouldn't aim to do big things with your life. Set big goals. Follow big ambitions. Enjoy God's good gifts. Just realize that these big things and big goals may set you on the wrong path if they distract you from loving the people God's given you to love, and the church where he's called you to serve. Don't forget that God has primarily called you to do things that seem small: to love and serve others, and to occupy the place and time where he's placed you. Never neglect the power of doing small things faithfully out of love for and worship of God.

Someone once suggested to Wendell Berry that we do big things to fix the problems of the world. Berry would have none of it.

"You can't put it all back together again. What you can do, is the only thing that you can do. You take two things that ought to be together and you put them together. Two things! Not *all* things."

"There is no big solution. It's broken! We're all complicit in a broken system, and it a broken world. The question isn't how can I fix it all. But how can I, with my own two hands, do good work, every day. And I find that immensely hopeful!"

We can't fix everything, but we can use our two hands to do the good work that God has placed before us. Sometimes that's enough. God can fix the world. We just do what's in front of us. It's dangerous when we start to confuse our job with his.

Big dreams impress, but ordinary faithfulness delivers. We tend to overestimate what can be done through large initiatives, and underestimate what can be done through ordinary obedience, persistent prayer, and sacrificial love.

Just show up. Just be faithful with what God has entrusted to you. Engage in the ordinary means of grace. Love the people God has placed in your life. Get up every day and be faithful, even when nobody's watching. Repeat.

Try big things too if you like. Just don't expect them to satisfy your soul or to be more important than your everyday faithfulness. Aim to be obedient and to live fully in the place that God has put you. That will probably matter more than any big thing you can accomplish.

Don't try to change the world. Be faithful in the few things God has given you to do, and leave the results up to him. That will probably matter more than anything big you try to do.

## Act Like Men - tonight

Hope Church Bingham (135 Mountcastle Drive South) invite all men to attend their Act Like Men event tonight from 7 – 8.30pm. Peter Sanlon will be speaking on Behold Our God. The aim of these events is to encourage men to live for King Jesus in Edinburgh and beyond.

## Prayer Meeting – in person

Tomorrow is the first Wednesday of the month so our prayer meeting will be in person at 7pm. Tea and coffee will be served from 6.45pm so come early and hard copies of the prayer bulletin will be provided.

## CARE's Protect Life Tour



This Thursday at 7.30pm, we're hosting CARE's Protect Life event in Edinburgh. The new assisted suicide legislation will soon be debated at Holyrood. At this event we will consider a theological and medical response and provide tips on political engagement. Tea and coffee will be served afterwards and everyone is warmly invited to attend.

## Church Lunch

This Sunday we're planning to have lunch together after the morning service. A meal will be provided and there's no need to bring anything. Please contact [Liz@holyroodevangelical.org](mailto:Liz@holyroodevangelical.org) if you have any allergies, dietary requirements or questions!

## Children and Youth Discipleship Workshop at HEC

We all long to see our children and young people grow in their faith. What does it look like for us as a church family to disciple and evangelise our children and youth well? What are the spiritual needs of children and youth? These are questions that we need to keep asking as parents, Sunday Club leaders, and church members.

On **Saturday 16th March** (from 9.30am – 12pm) David Kunzi, the UK Director of the International ministry *Word of Life*, is going to do a workshop at HEC. There will be two sessions with a coffee break and Q&A after. This event will help us refine our vision for youth discipleship both as individual families and as a congregation. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, volunteer with children's ministry, or just a member of the church family, please feel welcome to attend. If childcare is an issue for the morning, please let Liz know.

## Book Group

The next meeting of the book group is on 30th March at 3.30pm at 9 Craigentenny Avenue. This month's book is *Truth Changes Everything* by Jeff Myers. For further information speak to Anncris.

## Christ Church – Easter Holiday Club



Christ Church (68 Britwell Crescent) is running a kids club for Easter, on Saturday 30th March from 2- 4.30pm.

It's open to all primary age kids and there will be games, crafts, drama, an Easter Egg hunt and stories of the first Easter. To book a place, please email [holidayclub.cce@gmail.com](mailto:holidayclub.cce@gmail.com)

## Church Calendar

- Tuesday:
  - Men's Discipleship at 6.30am on Zoom
  - Pickleball and Table Tennis at 7pm in the church
  - Women's Bible Study at 7pm on Zoom
- Wednesday: Prayer meeting at 7pm in person (refreshments from 6.45pm)
- Thursday:
  - Men's Discipleship at 11am in person
  - CARE Protect Life Tour at 7.30pm in person
- Sunday:
  - Worship Service at 10.30am (and live streamed). Joe Barnard preaching.
  - Church family lunch
- Home Groups – meeting across the city and there's one in the church at 6pm.
- Monday:
  - Baby and Toddler Group from 10am – 11.30am
  - Warm Space from 12noon - 3pm
  - Youth Discipleship Team Meeting at 7pm on Zoom



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