

A photograph of a stone church building with a large Gothic-style window and a cross on the roof. In the foreground, there are white and pink blossoms on a tree.

Weekly Newsletter: 30th April 2024

Reflection: Do You Realise that You're a Missionary?

By Joe Barnard

It has become common for evangelical Christians to talk about their “frontlines”. The metaphor is a useful aid to help us realise that the front of God’s great mission runs right through the centre of each one of our lives. The truth is that we are overlooking something important when we speak about “the” mission field. If we are thinking Biblically, the mission field is no bigger or smaller than the exact dimensions of the world. Wherever there are people who have not yet professed faith in Jesus, that is the mission field – no matter if those people live far away in a jungle or in a neighbouring block of flats.

Once we grab hold of this insight, it revolutionises the way in which we think about ourselves individually and the church collectively. If the entire world is a mission field, this means that every Christian is a missionary. The title no longer refers exclusively to full-time workers being sent overseas. To profess Christ is to be given a mission, which is to say to share in the glorious responsibilities and sacred obligations of the Great Commission. We, too, are the vital workers whose job it is to make-disciples, and this work begins – not by looking to the faceless masses in hopes of reaching strangers – but rather by coming alongside the people we already know with Christian love, Christian hope, and Christian witness.

It's important to be crystal clear that this missional calling does not conflict with, or compete with, the other roles and responsibilities that we have in life. One does not have to choose, for example, between the profession of being a teacher and the profession of being a missionary. Rather, the diverse hats we wear as we go through our weeks define the context of our “frontline”. Our roles as mums and dads, solicitors and joiners, neighbours and colleagues – these are the touchpoints that facilitate our witness. Each day as we go about our normal, “secular” lives, we should hear the following words of Jesus echoing in our eardrums: “As you have sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world” (Jn. 17:18). The stupendous truth is that we are commissioned in secular roles for a spiritual vocation. Our noble challenge is to take up the elements of a mundane life and to offer them as nothing less than a burnt offering to the glory of God.

Now, here is a difficult question: how do we take this truth of frontline ministry and use it to shift the culture of our church? If we are honest, a lot of how we talk, and how we pray, reinforces an unhelpful distinction between fulltime missionaries and everyone else. If someone teaches in a college or university in a predominantly Muslim culture, he or she is a “Christian worker”. However, if someone teaches in a college or university in a predominantly secular culture (like Scotland), he or she is just a professional. The first receives copious prayers from church members, recognising the challenge and opportunity of the setting. The

second is taken for granted without much consideration that being an isolated believer in Scotland may, in fact, be just as difficult as labouring in a foreign culture.

In order to rectify the balance, I want us to try something new in our weekly prayer bulletins. Each week, we are going to feature a “frontline” slot near the top of the bulletin. This will be a space for one of our members to describe in a few sentences their frontline and to list a few prayer points. I’m fully aware that this will not be a suitable space for names of colleagues or sensitive information to be shared. The goal is as much about shifting mindset as detailed prayer. We need to begin to view each other as missionaries – regardless of age, stage of life, family situation, or employment. We need to begin to believe that, if we have 100 members in the church, we in fact have 100 gospel workers labouring throughout the city each day of the week.

For this small change to be successful, I need two things from our membership. First, I need you to change how you view yourself. I need all of us to grab hold of the truth that God has placed us in Edinburgh for such a time as this. Are you a Christian? Then let the penny of a remarkable truth drop into the treasury of your heart: you, too, are a missionary.

Second, it may just happen that sometime over the coming weeks and months you are asked to share some information about your “frontline” for the prayer bulletin. Please don’t decline this invitation. More importantly, please don’t think that your life is too “small” or “normal” to be worth drawing attention to. Your neighbours, grandchildren, and friends have eternal worth in the sight of God. Let the church family partner with you in praying for them. Such prayers may just be a means of opening new doors for conversation and witness. Such prayers may just be the means of feeling new urgency and courage to speak the truth with love.

Church Family Meal and Prayer Meeting

This Wednesday (1st May) we’re going to have a simple meal together before the prayer meeting. Come at 5.45pm for a meal at 6pm (in the hall downstairs) and the prayer meeting will start as usual at 7pm.

There’s no need to bring anything, all the food will be provided. Please think of someone in the church family that you can invite along. If you have any question or dietary requirements, please contact Liz@hol-yroodevangelical.org

An online option for the prayer meeting will be available for those who can’t get into the building. Zoom codes will be sent out as usual on Wednesday morning.

Holyrood Youth – First Fridays



Our youth are getting together **this Friday** (3rd May) for a treasure hunt (created by Alex MacDonald) around the areas near the church.

Meet at the church at 7pm. Please let Andy know if you’re coming or need any further details (andyandlizscott@gmail.com)

Mission Prayer Meeting

Our next prayer meeting with our overseas missionaries will be **this Saturday** (4th May) at 9am on Zoom. Come along to hear updates and pray for the work. Zoom codes will be sent out nearer the time and please contact Liz@holyroodevangelical.org for codes if you don't already receive them.

Women's Discipleship in Holyrood

The Ladies' Bible Studies are up and running! Come along to the church on Thursday mornings from 11am to 12 noon as we look at the gospels together using Rebecca McLaughlin's book *Navigating Gospel Truth*. There's no book to buy or homework to do, just come along as you are. We'll run until the end of May.

On **Saturday 11th May**, from 2.30pm to 4pm we're having a **Ladies' Cream Tea**. Keep the date free! Norma Shippin will be our speaker and it'll be a chance to enjoy some lovely food and time together.



Roofing Work

The contractors have confirmed a slight delay to the scaffolding going up for the roof repair. It will now happen on **7th May**. The planned working hours for the project will be 8am to 4pm, Monday – Friday and they will also be out most Saturdays.

We do not expect any disruption to our Sunday services or activities during the week. Joe has written to our neighbours to explain that roofing work will be taking place. Please pray that this letter is well received and for the work to go smoothly.

Koma Bible Translation, Ghana



We've prayed for Konlan and the Koma Bible translation project in Ghana for a number of years. It was wonderful to get this message for Konlan this week –

'Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord and Master Jesus Christ. I am very, very happy to inform you that the Koma Bibles have finally gotten to Tamale today. We planned to have the dedication on the 22nd of June, 2024 before the rainy season sets in fully. Attached is my picture with the Koma Bible.'

Annual Giving – Gift Aid

If you would like a summary of your annual giving under the gift aid scheme, please drop Nick an email (nickandjean@gmail.com). Thank you!

Installation Service for David Kunzi

David Kunzi (who has done children's and youth work training for us) is being installed as the UK Director for Word of Life Ministries **this Saturday** (4th) at 1pm in our building. Everyone is warmly welcome to attend.

Faith Mission Bible College - Open Day

The Faith Mission Bible College aims to equip passionate servants of Jesus Christ for evangelism, mission and ministry. If you are interested in finding out more, you would be very welcome at the Open Day on **Saturday 4th May**. The day will consist of an introduction to the college, sample lectures, a Q&A panel with current students, opportunity to talk with lecturers, a college tour, and a free lunch! Starts 11am, and finishes 3:30pm- at the college campus, 2 Drum Street, Edinburgh, EH17 8QG.

To find out more, visit fmbiblecollege.org.uk, or [book now](#) for the Open Day on Saturday 4th May.

Slugs and Bugs are in town!



Randall Goodgame (creator of Slugs and Bugs) will be in Edinburgh in May and is doing two family concerts for kids and all grown-ups who are young at heart!

Slugs and Bugs LIVE will be happening at Carrubbers on **Friday 10th May** at 7pm (tickets are available [here](#)) and at Hope City Church on **Saturday 11th May** at 4pm (tickets are available [here](#)).

Contact Liz@holyroodevangelical.org for more details.

Church Calendar

For your info and prayers:

- Tuesday: Volleyball (in the park) and Table Tennis (in the church) from 7pm
- Wednesday: Meal from 5.45pm and prayer meeting at 7pm in person and on Zoom
- Thursday: Women's Bible Studies at 11am (in person)
- Friday: Holyrood Youth First Fridays – Treasure Hunt at 7pm
- Sunday:
 - Communion Service at 10.30am (and live streamed). Joe Barnard preaching.
 - Equip at 6pm. Joe Barnard leading
- Monday: No Baby and Toddlers this week!



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