



For my Luke-Acts class I did something I had not done before: I worked through Luke and Acts from beginning to end commenting on every occurrence of “Kingdom of God”. There was much more material than I had realized and it turned into a powerful experience. God is building a kingdom – that became plain. Preparations were laid in Israel over many years and then Jesus came and made it clear that his mission was to bring it about. In his life, death, and resurrection he built the superstructure, and then entrusted his followers with the task of inviting people in. He promised to return when the time was right to remove all evil and bring it to perfection. I felt renewed in my confidence that even now everything is going to plan, and that what we are doing is right, and that the most important task is “gathering”, as Jesus said, and not “scattering” (Luke 11.23). Many of the writings my students have to study, I am sad to say, scatter. Part of what they are learning is how to defend God’s people against the wolves that scatter the flock, of which there are many.



At the Cape of Good Hope...

GWC is swinging along. There is a real sense of optimism, though there have also been a number of setbacks. Student numbers are better than ever, and those I have spoken to are full of enthusiasm. Mark and Jonathan have both been awarded doctorates, and Nathan Lovell is getting close. Everyone is excited about the Hope Centre, which, after so many years of stagnation, is now rising before our eyes at an amazing speed. The scaffolding has come down and reveals a beautiful building. Alison and Clive took me through last week and it took my breath away. Andrew Main commented that the students would not want to go home.

There has been a terrible drought in the Cape, which has led to the decision to make the Centre self-sufficient in water and power. I counted 75 solar panels on the roof along with purification tanks for the water which is pumped from several bore holes. The dining hall on the 5th floor looks over False Bay to the south and east, and to the mountains to the west.



We are all so thankful to those who have given to make this possible, and those who will give to bring us across the line. R31m has been raised; R4m remains a challenge. I have been asking churches in Australia if they will make it a project for their people and give us a one-off donation to help complete the job and leave the College without debt. This centre is going to be home to generations of students preparing for Christian ministry.

Busy Church...



A year ago I wrote from Christ Church Midrand, where I was spending a week with Bishop Martin Morrison. I spent another week on my way here to GWC. I was traveling with Andrew Main, a Baptist pastor from Bunbury. Martin put us both to work with his many groups and congregations. If ever there was a kingdom-entrepreneur it is he. The grammar school is humming; the new

school in Tembisa township is doubling its size. On the Saturday morning we spoke to a large group of pre-school teachers in training. On another evening I led the Bible Study which meets in the heart of Tembisa, in a school run by one of the pre-school training graduates. She has 70 children, who each receives a subsidy from the state. The emphasis is on training at every level, and it has led to an explosion of ministry – in Johannesburg, Mozambique, Congo and beyond. Martin is in the throes of setting up an African Gospel Partnership to help Christian workers in various countries to network and be encouraged. Our time at Christ Church has refreshed my conviction about what can come out of a well-led, Christ-focused church.

Back in the West...

I finished my work at St Albans Highgate at the end of January and spent most of February in the east having my face reconstructed, and then healing at my brother and sister-in-law's place at Stuart's Point. The plastic surgeon moved my chewing muscle to pick up and reanimate the right side of my face, which was paralyzed when the tumour was removed. I am looking more normal as a result and can close both eyes, which is sensational. A week of fishing on my brother's jetty was good medicine.

Marc Dale from Resurrection Church in Lockridge moved to become Rector of Highgate, and I replaced him as Locum Tenens at Lockridge. Since March I have been leading this struggling community as it looks for a new minister. I arrived before Easter and was able to locate a donkey to help us with our Palm Sunday service. It was an enjoyable beginning. Do pray with me for this little flock as they seek a new shepherd. Lorraine is continuing to attend while I am away and I will return there in a few weeks time and until they have their man.



The Plebiscite...



Much of the last twelve months was lived under the shadow of the plebiscite on same-sex marriage. Since marriage is a God-given institution I felt I needed to do what I could to warn of the consequences of changing marriage in this way. Of course, the Australian community has long since parted with Christianity and therefore will do what it wants to do. And yet the confusion that will result will spoil the lives of generations to come. If only the churches would stand by their faith, at least there would be an alternative voice and a

haven for the broken, but so many churches are caught up with this new movement, and are contemptuous of God's Word, so that there will be confusion here as well. We face difficult times! As always, the world will learn the hard way, as Israel did of old, the consequences of ignoring God.

Global Anglicanism...

The largest gathering of Anglican leaders in fifty years met in Jerusalem in June to continue hammering out a way forward for a Communion that is disintegrating from within. In 1998 the Lambeth Conference resolved by an overwhelming majority to adhere to the Bible's teaching on male and female, and marriage and sex. In the years that followed it became clear that the leadership in England and the USA did not agree with this decision and were not going to honour it. The result has been hundreds of congregations in the USA and Canada having to leave their



churches, and a new Anglican Church of North America forming. A similar thing is likely in England and Scotland, and who knows where it will end. I was able to attend, thanks to some very generous friends, and am glad I did. I was asked to connect with the plenary Bible Study leaders for prayer and encouragement, and a fine job they did. You can find their addresses from Luke's final chapters on the GAFCON website. A highlight of the conference for me was reconnecting with Cristobal Ceron (ex GWC) and Tito Zavala from Chile. Tito is now the Archbishop of the new Province of Chile and Cristobal has become Principal of their theological college.

Twenty-Five Years On...

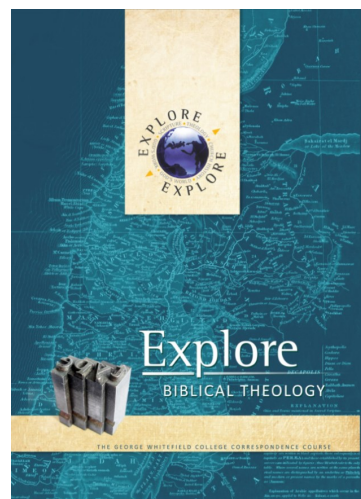


The Wednesday after I arrived in Cape Town St James Kenilworth held a service to remember the St James Massacre. I had my doubts about whether this was a good thing, but thought I should go, and it turned out to be a fine service. I felt for Ross Anderson, for whom it was all too traumatic to attend. Ross was the leader on the night, led St James through it all, but suffered a great deal of mental trauma in the process. As

I drove alone to St James I could picture that cold wet night like it was yesterday, and the eager congregation that I never got to address. On this occasion Bishop Frank Retief preached a fine, sensitive sermon, and said some profound things about Christians suffering and the humanity we share with others - which came to the fore at that time, when Muslim leaders and others came to show sympathy and people all over the world joined in solidarity. Listen to Frank's sermon on <https://www.stjames.org.za/sermons/?sermon=frank-retief/2018-07-25-massacre-memorial-25-years>

Explore ...

Explore is the buzz – here at the College and at Christ Church Midrand. Martin is pushing it as a training tool, both for his own people and further afield in Africa. New courses are in the making and old ones are being translated. Training of group leaders is underway in various parts of Africa. African Enterprise and Overseas Council Australia are helping. Martin was in Mozambique with a team when I arrived; I will take my postgrad class away next weekend and am looking forward to hearing Raphael tell us about his and Martin's time last week doing Explore in Congo. I have just been shown the latest module: *Explore Biblical Theology* by Ross Anderson. Ross asked me for a copy of the original letter I received from John Stott agreeing to our using his name on "The John Stott Lectureship for Bible and Mission". Ross has done it proud. I have completed *Explore Ephesians* and am about to start work on *Explore the Gospel*. Pray for Nevil Carrington who is heading all of this up. He is struggling with his health.



Forty Years of Preaching Christ...

While I am on the subject of Ross, I must report on his 60th birthday bash last night (this is a postscript 12/8/18). I haven't laughed so much in years. Barry Leach was present. He is a few years older than Ross and they grew up together on a farm in Zululand. His stories of Ross as a kid in short pants – the only white boy amongst dozens of Zulu children! Barry kept breaking into Zulu when he wasn't mimicking the bellowing of the cattle, and Ross would butt in and say, "I remember that cow!" They all had names. Siegfried was delighted, remembering his own Zulu childhood. The best story was of the 14 year-old Ross being asked to drive the truck back to the farm from a jazz club in Durban because the older boys had drunk too much. Ross broke in to say he remembers not being able to see over the top of the steering wheel. He got them safely home! All good training for his Roof of Africa Enduro rides and ventures among "the forgotten people" of Lesotho! In September he is taking 20 GWC students for a mission to this mountain kingdom. He recently returned from mapping out the paths to the villages they will visit



The following, from his report, is typical: "Jacques and I rode to Ntsupe Village. I also found the trail that leads to Mpobong Village. But it is still a long walk from Ntsupe, with a fair bit of climbing. In fact from Thusong Village it is about a six hour walk! When Moruti (Pastor) Khemane comes to preach here he sleeps on the concrete floor, wakes up on a Sunday morning and preaches to the gathered congregation! So here is a special note for my GWC students: start training! You will have to be fit enough to walk over very rough terrain for about six hours... Carry as little as possible. I suggest only a change of underwear and one really warm fleece or jacket... I am reminded of Mark 6:8-10! We are on a mission; The mission; The missio Dei!"

"My banquet will be full"...

At St Peter's Fish Hoek last night I heard a wonderful sermon from a chap I didn't recognize. I registered a pang of jealousy that he was not a GWC man, before I corrected myself and was just glad for what I was hearing. I found out after the service that he was a GWC graduate – after my time: he found Christ after a life of drug addiction, completed his matric and then a theology degree at GWC, and is now out preaching it. I was reminded I have been away five years! It is impossible to catch up with them all and learn their names. A Ugandan and a Zimbabwean came with me to Carisbrook last weekend. Last night I spoke with Simphiwe, a South African Baptist from Klerksdorp: came to the University of Johannesburg, encountered Bible-based ministry through our guys who are doing student work through Hope Church Auckland Park, and wants to be in it himself. Since I arrived I have met South Africans, Zimbabweans, a Malawian, a Cameroonian, and a Ghanaian; South Sudanese, Kenyans, Zambians, a Congolese, an Austrian, a German a Rumanian (God is not finished with Europe), a Vietnamese and more.

It became clear to me at GAFCON how true it is that God will not let one place in his Kingdom go empty. Jesus warned the folk in Capernaum that if Israel said no to the blessings he offered, their places would be taken by others. So it was, and always will be. The western world once looked to him, and now it turns its back. But twenty million Nigerians press in, more than all the Anglicans in Great Britain and the USA together. "Go out into the roads and hedges," Jesus said, "and compel them to come in, that my house may be full."

David Reardon