

AOTALK

WHERE THE
APOSTOLIC COUNCIL
SHARE THEIR HEARTS

FEB
2014

AC



FROM
DAVE'S
HEART TO
YOURS

Moving up and out!

As I stand on the eve of embarking on Walking the Great Commission ...literally, I have come to understand that the great commission needs to be a multifaceted engagement with its focus at every level of Kingdom activity. It needs to be focused both upward and outward.

THE FIRST PRINCIPLE IS THAT WHEN WE ARE ENGAGED IN THE GREAT COMMISSION, SOCIETY SHOULD BE CHANGED.

So often in church life, we focus our energy on what's happening 'in here' rather than what's happening 'out there'. For the past while much of my focus has been 'out there', taken up by the planning and preparation for my upcoming journey through Israel and surrounds which will culminate in the Uttermost Part of the earth.

Last week this concept was further reinforced when I had the distinct privilege of attending the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington. It was attended by the President, Vice President, the cabinet and many members of Congress.

Whilst there I encountered amongst other things an amazing example of The Kingdom in action. We were introduced to a unique man, Strive Masiyiwa, by a former ambassador to the UN. Strive is a humble man from Zimbabwe who has a reserved countenance and modest demeanor. He spoke quietly as his Kingdom testimony captivated those present.

He began by explaining that he and his wife embraced the principle of 'first fruits' giving.

They set aside 2% of their income from which they support 42,000 orphans each month. In addition to this they are sponsoring 240 students with their tertiary education. Carol and I had the joy of meeting a few of these beneficiaries later that evening. Added to this he discovered that most babies in needy and rural areas of Zimbabwe were being born in the dark as there was no electricity for lighting and no facilities for refrigerated vaccines. So Strive installed solar power and purchased lighting and refrigerators for all these hospitals. So profound was the solar impact that it spread to the general population, now making Zimbabwe the most solar powered nation in the world per capita.

When the Zimbabwe currency collapsed a few years back, it posed a problem with cell phone communication as no one could purchase air time with a then worthless currency. Again Strive came up with a solution. This time a voucher system which involved a small coin he designed. It was so successful that even the government mint ultimately minted the coins for him. Later he found a solution for purifying drinking water, a major problem in rural parts of the country. He bought the company from NASA that had invented a system for purifying water for the astronauts. As we listened, I realized that the story that was unfolding before us was a model of God's Kingdom in action. Society was indeed being changed.

THE SECOND PRINCIPLE IS THAT WHEN WE ENGAGE, OUR TERRITORY AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE WILL INCREASE.

The word tells us that.....We will be, within our sphere, enlarged even more by you, so as to preach the gospel even to the regions beyond you, ...2 Cor 10:15b

It is true that only when Christians in every sphere and especially those preaching and spreading the gospel at grass root level begin to move out, that things start to break open and our metron and sphere of influence begin to increase. It happened when the first Apostles moved out beyond the comforts of Jerusalem, when the likes of Apostle Paul started boarding ships, being vulnerable to shipwreck, incarceration and misunderstanding. It happened when Martin Luther nailed his decree to

the doors in Wittenberg. Again, when Livingstone trekked through primitive Africa and Billy Graham preached face to face to millions in packed stadiums around the world during the 20th century. Even so I pray the same grace as I take up my cross and bowl and begin to walk in one of the most challenged regions on earth.

THE CORNERSTONE OF THE GREAT COMMISSION HAS TO BE LOVE.

I have sensed over and over again as I have walked the streets of the world that our battle cry has to be that of Jesus.... " YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." Lk. 10:27.

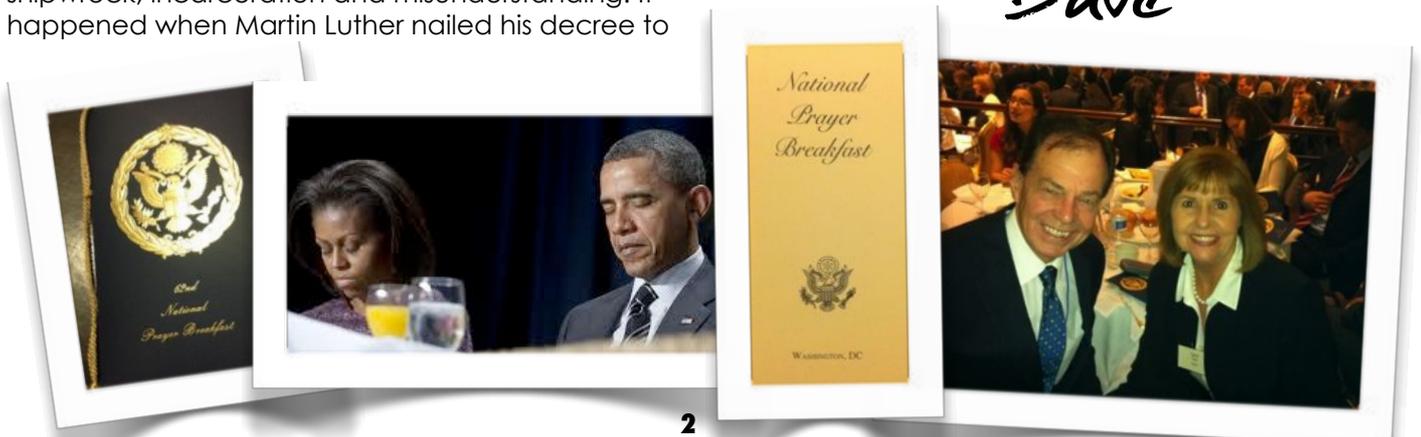
Again this was emphasized when I was in Washington last week. That we LOVE God with all our heart and our Neighbor unconditionally. This was underscored by two opposing members of Congress, from both opposition parties, as they introduced each another and declared; "here is my Christian brother and here is my Christian sister, whom I love, even though we may disagree on most issues".

If we go out into difficult surroundings, it is love, not philosophy or doctrine, that will win hearts. A Native American man posed this question at a previous Prayer Breakfast "Why should I ask anyone to give up their sin-stained culture for a western sin-stained culture?"

It's introducing them to the love of the person of Jesus, not my religion, that will cut it. The word also promises us that our faith will be 'enlarged' as we move out (2 Thes 1:3) and that our sphere will be increased not only spiritually but 'even to the regions beyond you'.

Let us as the body of Christ be challenged as we move 'up and out' and engage the Great Commission afresh, so that the effectiveness of our callings will be multiplied...Thy Kingdom Come...Thy will be done.

Dave





WALKING THE GREAT COMMISSION

Dave Cape has spent the last 25 years on a journey of servanthood evangelism carrying a cross and

footwashing bowl as he walked the roads of 28 countries.

In March 2014 he will be embarking on a fresh and challenging adventure as he physically walks the Great Commission. Together with a small team he will literally be fulfilling the Great Commission according to the book of Acts.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

For more information and updates visit facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/WTGC2014>
Or contact the Cotn Virtual Resource Centre.



COTN VALUES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

The brand new COTN Values and Procedures manual is now available for download from the COTN Website.

We would like to encourage everyone to download this manual that outlines the vision, heart and structure of the Church of the Nations family.

W W W . C O T N . O R G



Leadershift is for all COTN Leaders and emerging leaders within COTN. Following the success of the last two "Leadershift" gatherings, it has been decided to use the Gariiep Forever Resort venue again for our 2014 Southern Hemisphere time together. This venue continues to provide the best accessibility to which everyone can drive and thus save on airline tickets if the transport is shared.

2014 promises to be a great time of fellowship and growth for us all as we build on last year's foundation. We would love to see you there!

VENUE

Forever Resorts Gariiep
www.forevergariiep.co.za

CONFERENCE DATES

Wednesday 9th April to
Saturday 12th April, 2014

REGISTRATION

Register online at
www.cotn.org
Registrations close on
21st March 2014

CONTACT US:

For any comments, suggestions and news, please do not hesitate to contact the COTN Virtual Resource Centre at communication@cotn.org

