

TALK
AC

WHERE THE
APOSTOLIC COUNCIL
SHARE THEIR HEARTS

OCT
2015



FROM
DAVE'S
HEART TO
YOURS

A TALE OF TWO JOURNEYS

How we should respond

What a wonderful opportunity we have as the bride of Christ and for the Kingdom right now. We live in a day where there seems to be a lot more unanswered questions than answers, from a secular perspective that is.

World leaders seem to have few answers and struggle to come to any consensus on how to cope with the insurmountable challenges of the turmoil, displacement of people and rampant violence that pervades the face of the earth at this time.

Our news has for the last while been dominated by and continues to be

monopolized by the journey of the migrants crossing Europe from the Middle East, even as I write. Just days ago another 8,400 of the 800,000 expected refugees arrived in Greece. To say the challenge is overwhelming would be an understatement.

This has caused me to reflect much and made me think on the children of Israel and how they undertook their 40 year journey through the wilderness. In that I could not help but draw a parallel between those crossing Europe at this very moment.

EXTREME ODDS..

The first thing that struck me was the tyranny in which they lived under the yoke of Pharaoh. After all the plagues which were imposed on the Egyptians, yet their slave master remained contumacious and unrepentant. This left them with little choice but to flee, risking life and limb, with their incarcerators in hot pursuit.

If this does not sound familiar to you, it should. You can turn on your TV this evening and see the modern version of this story being re-enacted, or at least a similar version.

PILGRIMS OR REFUGEES?

The children of Israel weren't actually refugees but more like pilgrims, although 'that generation' had set out in many ways like their patriarch Abraham, who journeyed to 'a land which he had not previously known'.

From God's perspective they were pilgrims even though they were to face every imaginable hardship before reaching their ultimate destination.

INVADERS OR SETTLERS?

To those who occupied the promised land across the Jordan at Gilgal, (which I personally walked through last year), the land flowing with milk and honey, they must have seemed like invaders. To the children of God it was what they had dreamed of. They had prepared themselves for this moment and taken all the blows along the way. They had even faced the pain of circumcision at the final frontier.

Do you see the parallel once again? The people of Europe see these new migrants as invaders, whilst they see themselves as desperate new settlers, those who had no option but to flee oppression and seek a better life for themselves and their children.

These people were living life as regular folk and could well be our sons and daughters, and in my case our grandchildren.

A PROMISED LAND...

The children of Israel saw a place where the fruit was too large to carry, the promise of peace, where God had gone before them and caused the walls of Jericho to crumble at His presence and their shout. Their dream of peace and prosperity on every side. Europe's new arrivals see the same thing. Yet just like the former residents of Canaan, the Europeans fear the same thing, now bordering on xenophobia.



THE KINGDOM RESPONSE..

I believe this is the churches greatest hour of access to the Muslim world since the 7th century. **They are coming to us and we are not having to cross impossible borders to reach them.** I speak from first hand experience having encountered this during the first Gulf war and just last year having walked through Palestinian controlled territories.

The word tells us that 'they will know us by our love' (Jn.13:35). We need to love them as the word instructs us to receive strangers. John exhorts us "you are acting faithfully in whatever you accomplish for

the brethren, and especially when they are strangers; and they have testified to your love." (3 John 1:5-6)

A few weeks ago I encountered a man in Richmond, Virginia who was about to head across to Greece to assist with the feeding of the new arrivals to Europe, as they clamor desperately ashore in search of a new future. To say the least I experienced a 'righteous envy', (if there is such a thing). I thought; "here is the Church and Kingdom in action". This is how it should be.

Such kindness is not new, just this month I had the privilege of visiting Anne Franks 'hiding place' in Amsterdam and witnessed how Victor Kugler, a non Jewish Christian had hidden, concealed and cared for the Frank family at his business premises for the greater part of the second world war, a deed which cost him his life. Such kindness.

Let us not miss this glorious hour for the Church and God's opportunity for the Kingdom.

The word tell us. "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it. (Heb 13:2). Let us be found to be alert and doers of the word.

Whatever the outcome. In closing, I leave this with you..." Jesus loves them, this I know, for the bible tells me so".

David



DAVID & CAROL CAPE

IMPACT THOUGHTS

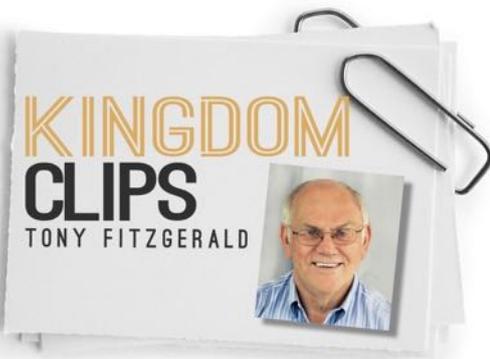
FROM OUR 45 YEAR JOURNEY

In the early 1970's we heard an International Mission Founder say, "Becoming a missionary is not crossing the sea but seeing the cross."

Mission happens in the heart and causes us to go, whether it is across the sea or across the road; around the world or around the block.

We learnt from those early days, that kingdom churches were to be missional communities.

Tony & Marilyn Fitzgerald



COTN EVENTS 2016	DATE
COTN LEADERSHIP DURBANVILLE, SA	14-17 APRIL 2016
COTN DAY OF PRAYER	11 SEPTEMBER 2016
COTN LEADERSHIP CALGARY, CANADA	29 SEPTEMBER - 2 OCTOBER 2016