

Dear brothers and sisters

Personal

I have had a few days off in May including my annual visit to the European Leadership Forum in Poland. This Forum is for Evangelical Leaders in Europe but we are seeing an increase in African and other delegates. There were over 800 delegates and 140 speakers and 75 volunteers to make this event a time for development like no other. The keynote speaker was John Lennox and he fed us from Acts, focussing on gospel growth which resulted in Europe hearing this glorious message and turning our continent to Christ and, in the unfolding of time, the Reformation. I was invited to lead devotions for the volunteer team which was an immense privilege to share with those who give sacrificially to attend and serve. I also assisted in delivering the Disciple-making Leaders Network but I guess the highlight was to lead in the formation of a small group of Pastors to commence a year-round mentoring programme. This small group met for the first time in Poland (we had five sessions there) and we will meet in 4 webinars over 2017-18 and also have a face to face encounter in Barcelona in December. These 7-8 Pastors are from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Poland, Ukraine and Uganda and we will learn together about resilience, self-care and gospel focus. I am leading this with a very experienced pastor from Northern Ireland and it is a joy to serve together - and to learn together too.

My annual trip to Romania comes soon too and I will be getting prepared for preaching and teaching there from 22-27 June. I will also be having my annual leave in Faroe from 29 June - 6 July. Sámuel now has two teeth!

Mentoring

One of the key features of the Forum is mentoring and this is provided in a number of ways. I had two sessions with experienced guys - one from Hungary and another from Spain. I also met informally with someone whom I had a mentoring session back in 2013. Ioana leads the largest anti-trafficking charity in Romania (the European seat of trafficking to the sex trade) and she is just over 30 years old - a passionate, competent and articulate Christian whom the Lord is using to mobilise Romania against the sex trade. The mentoring I provide is about Leadership in organisations and my main aim is not to suggest solutions but help Ioana find her own solutions by asking her critical questions. Mentoring has a very close relationship to discipleship and it would be my experience that one to one sessions are the most effective way of helping individuals - as much as I acknowledge that preaching and teaching is the main public gift for development of the whole church. I would count it a privilege to get alongside anyone from the TCF Family to learn together and to seek God's guidance and help. This experience in TCF over the past 17 months has seen me reading with individuals in a diverse range of books including You Can Change, The Gift of Prophecy, The Call, Renovation of the Heart, Zeal without Burnout. In walking a path with individuals, I myself have been blessed enormously from this reading (and co-reading with fellow elders the book 'The Trellis and the Vine'). My current personal reading includes 'The Gospel - how the church portrays the beauty of Christ' and I would love to share this with someone... ***If you would like to follow up on this, please have a quiet word with me and we can discuss how we can help each other in our discipleship.***

Mission Interest

As you may know I am a Trustee of Echoes of Service, a mission support group based in Bath for over 140 years. I meet monthly with fellow Trustees and amongst other things we pray for mission situations and also for mission workers. Echoes is merging with Interlink - a 'sister' organisation based in Scotland for many decades (formerly called 'Home and Foreign Missions'). I have been distributing some free copies of the monthly magazine from Echoes which provides helpful insights into world mission - including some very 'front line' work in areas of our world that so little is heard about. One of Echoes' primary aims is to stimulate mission interest and in a church like TCF with its involvement in India, Zambia and Hungary, there is evidence of our global mission interest but if you would like to receive material systematically for your own prayer life then we shall be giving you an opportunity to subscribe to Echoes magazine in 2018 soon. There is a lot of work presently in bringing the two organisations together including the objective of making the new organisation 'fit for purpose' and reflecting the 'changing face of mission' in the 21st Century. In June, our own Janey and Evans will be interviewed with the objective of having them listed in the Echoes magazine for prayer support - certainly the work of Mwana is so deserving of an even wider reach.

Every blessing



Thankful for...

times of refreshment...

Mark 6:31