

Together we worship Jesus and communicate
his love in all we do and say.

April has arrived and I have reached the three month mark of my joining TCF. The Induction Service on 19 March 2016 was an amazing event - humbling and challenging. Whilst the event was for all of us, I do feel a singular debt of gratitude to all who worked so hard to make the event such a success. The collective advice from William Harrison and Angus Jamieson weighs heavy and I am constantly reminded of the phrase from 2 Corinthians 2:16 '**Who is sufficient for these things?**' (Forgive me for taking this slightly out of context.)

I would like to provide you with the promises I made at the Service - and invite you to hold me accountable for them!

- I will serve God to the best of my ability
- I will be faithful to His word and teach it and preach it as He provides illumination on it
- I will serve the church at TCF with a shepherd's heart and as one who would seek fruit for God in the lives of those who form the church at TCF
- I will, without fear or favour, preach the Gospel of the Lord Jesus and present its claims on the lives of the people that God will send to TCF
- I will dedicate the next five years to Him in these activities or as long as He will confirm His call in my life

The external preaching commitments that I had in my diary are now down to two - 14 August 2016 and 7 May 2017. My other external commitments include attending the French Workers National Conference in Nantes from Thursday 5 - Saturday 7 May 2016 and the European Leadership Forum from Friday 20 - Friday 27 May 2016. These activities are in pursuance of my Echoes role and also a developmental opportunity and the chance to provide mentoring to European Evangelical leaders. I will share something of these events in future letters.

Feeding: since 10 January 2016, I have had the joy of preparing and delivering 15 sessions of teaching and preaching to TCF (and 3 to New Craig Community Church in Motherwell). My style is slowly adapting to the feedback which I have been soliciting - but it may not be the right balance yet. However, the impact from the teaching we receive must be about changed lives and I know that sometimes this is glacially slow in my own life. Maybe you are thinking about something from James or 1 Corinthians that will impact your life going forward? I appreciate your feedback.

Family: I have had the joy of undertaking 47 first visits to over 70 of the TCF family. For some I have also had the joy of follow up encounters to discuss specific issues such as bible reading, commitment, gifting, asking questions of God. I am also very grateful for TCF members who have included me for some social time - whether meals and coffee, a game of monopoly, watching Ben Hur or whatever - and this has been good for my soul. Also, the first meeting of the ministers fraternal (called Los Amigos) was interesting and it has been good to connect with some fellow pastors and enjoy fellowship and prayer. It was encouraging to welcome them at the Induction Service too.

Having my own family with me for the period 18-28 March 2016 was a special time - though with early morning rising with Benjamin and late nights with friends including car trips to visit far-flung family, it was definitely not restful! I will be in Faroe from 11-18 April 2016 for a holiday and am very much looking forward to that.

Following: I am so aware of the need for self-learning and this past month, I prepared a webinar for broadcast to evangelical leaders on the issue of Trials and Temptations. I used some of the material we covered in James 1 but more importantly, I considered the temptation of the Lord Jesus and His supreme example in overcoming temptation. As I live longer as a Christian, I find that a preoccupation with Jesus provides strength and inspiration and the Easter celebration has reinforced this. I trust that you have had a joyous Easter and that Christ is increasingly special to you as you live for Him.

Jim

Thank you for the Induction Service...

...and ongoing patience with me as I learn!