

# Thought For The Day

25<sup>th</sup> August 2020

When we were on beach mission back in the 70's and 80's we were working with teams of 60, mostly students, and hundreds of children. One highlight was at the end of the day when the team all squeezed into the lounge of our HQ to reflect on the day and pray. Naturally as the team reported back we wanted to hear of revival breaking out and dozens of children coming to know Jesus. But of course it didn't happen like that. When you hear of how God was at work in people's lives as they came to faith, more often than not it's a journey of a hundred small steps rather than a great leap. We were aware as a team that our job was very much one of helping people to take small steps on their faith journey. There were of course times when we saw children decide to follow Jesus and like the angels in heaven we rejoiced. But usually, as the team reflected on their day, it was little things they were thankful for. "Jimmy said a little prayer today for the first time" "Joanne joined in and answered questions today instead of just messing about" "Stuart wants to get his own bible". As we sat around it felt like each person was tossing a small pebble of blessing into the middle, but by the time we had finished we had a great pile of blessings to be thankful for. God was working away quietly.

I was reminded of this recently by the words of Eugene Peterson who wrote of God's work as ... "...quiet, everyday, the supernatural camouflaged in the natural, the presence of God revealed in the places and among the people involved in our day to day living." And "...understated, embedded in the daily ordinary". He was pointing out that much of what God does is quietly achieved in the ordinary stuff of life, people taking small steps on a journey of faith. Jesus taught his disciples about the kingdom of God growing almost imperceptibly like yeast working in dough or a small seed growing into a great plant.(Matt 13:31-33)

Two strands of thought come from this for me. Firstly, perhaps we get discouraged or disappointed that someone we know and love, a family member or a friend, never seems to take any notice when we try and tell them about Jesus. We think that our attempts at witness are failures. But we never know what God is doing through us. My journey to faith was hastened by a change I saw in my cousin, he didn't say anything but I could tell he was different (he'd become a Christian) and that was a small step towards my coming to faith. If we are faithful in the little things, our words and actions, guided by the Spirit when to speak, what to say and when to shut up, God will do the rest in His good time. He is constantly at work in us and through us to fulfil His purposes, although that work is often hidden from us. We toss in a pebble but God is quietly using it to build a kingdom.

Secondly, we are simply reminded that God is blessing us every day. It's easy to think of the problems and difficulties of life and completely ignore the blessings we have quietly received, some are small, regular and constant so we begin to take them for granted. To be constantly thankful for God's blessings, great and small, gives us a different perspective on life. As the old chorus goes – "Count your blessings, count them one by one and it will surprise you what the Lord has done."

*John Langridge*

Remember, you can send your prayer request to: [Prayer@baystonhillchurch.org](mailto:Prayer@baystonhillchurch.org)

Or ring: (01743) 583215

And you can read these **Thought for the Day** articles on our website too at [www.baystonhillchurch.org](http://www.baystonhillchurch.org)