



Stretched



Stan Gain's 'news'letter – May 2013

Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all.

Helen Keller - The Open Door

I have, in over 25 years travelling for the Kingdom of God experienced many things that people would call life-changing. Some, like being caught up in rebel attacks or tribal clashes change one's perspective on the fragility of life. Others such as seeing the silverback gorillas in Rwanda or the birth of a giraffe in Kenya's game parks give a fresh appreciation for a beautiful creation.

It is difficult to explain, but the recent visit to Pakistan and the things I experienced are more than 'life-changing' – they have changed my life. My perspective on life is altered. I feel rocked and challenged about my own outlook on life. I believe that the many and varied experiences of the last 27 years have changed me, but there is something fundamental in the change I feel following this last visit to Pakistan. I can only give you words in this 'news'letter, but I hope I can share something of the situation I found.

Background

I first met Pastor Moses on a visit to Pakistan in 2009. This was an interesting trip and very similar to my first trips to many parts of the world... preaching and teaching and meeting new people. It was a fruitful time in that I saw about 450 people respond to the Gospel and many wonderful healing testimonies. This was a fruitful trip, but nothing exceptional in terms of ministry.



Since then, Pastor Moses has grown immensely in stature as a Christian leader in Pakistan and following the assassination of Shahbaz Bhatti in March 2011 has become a national figure. His boldness in speaking for the truth of the Gospel has earned him a death Fatwa from the Taliban. He has twice fled Pakistan to America because of the pressure of the threats and his family have gone into hiding on these occasions. It was in America that I met him again and God joined our hearts together as Jonathan's heart was joined to David's. (1 Samuel 18:1). As a result, my recent visit to Pakistan was far more poignant.

Slavery



One of the things that Pastor Moses wanted me to see was the conditions of the slaves in brick kilns and rope factories. Through the new charity, Woodland Christian Trust, we had been able to send funds to see dozens of children released from this labour. To see first hand the situation is what I believe has changed my life. I cannot forget them or the conditions in which they live and work. I have produced a video which is on YouTube focused around one family for whom we were able to negotiate release. (<http://youtu.be/HbJpcjyLp6I>). Since being home another four families have also been released, another 29 people who are now looking forward to a life of freedom that a month ago they could only dream about.

Once released, the local church rents a home for them and they are given funds to set themselves up. They receive continual support from the pastor and the church. In a couple of months, when they are deemed to be re-adjusted to freedom, they are set up in a small business, perhaps selling vegetables, so they can begin to become self-sufficient. Without this ongoing support they are in danger of falling back into the hands of the 'loan sharks' and the drudgery back in slavery (or as the PC brigade prefer, bonded labour!).

Philippines

In short, the trip to the Philippines bore much fruit with some 200+ people accepting the call of the Gospel. On three crusades, the local church has set up a feeding programme for the poorer children and as a result their parents come to hear the good news of the Gospel of Jesus. In addition, visits to some of the security forces in the mountains and an opportunity to meet leaders of a tribal area that has now welcomed the church into their area added to the benefits that this trip brought.

Kenya

After the longest break I have had since my first visit to Kenya in 1987, I am happy to be returning. As one bishop with whom I will be working put it, 'Welcome back home!' It will be good to meet up with old friends like Justus Wanjala, Haillies Shitika, Jonathan Mudenyu and Julius Abungana. Others too have welcomed me for what will be a very full schedule. This will include 5 three-day conferences, 4 two-day conferences, a three-day crusade and many other meetings. A busy time, I will be stretched, but that is what I enjoy.

Woodland Christian Trust



The work of the Woodland Christian Trust is going well and it is encouraging that in the first nine months has been able to help with many projects. In addition to the release of slaves mentioned above, it has been giving regular support through one donor to a ministry in India, a new and growing Christian School in Harar, Ethiopia, ministries in Kenya and Philippines, a church roof in Burundi and several smaller donations.

It has also been great to be able to help with the building of the New Covenant School in Faisalabad which has just partly opened with the first 550 children and 18 teachers. Many of the orphaned slave children who have been rescued are now starting an education there.

General Activities



I am happy to continue to be involved with Coffee Stop. I wrote about this in my earlier 'news' letters. Monday afternoons and a fortnightly 'friendship tea'. It is great to see the simple faith growing in these dear people.

I am not so involved with Healing on the Streets as before. I try to get there every other Saturday morning now, but other things crowd my life and I am not such a regular participant as before.



I have still not laid down the task of treasurer of the Christian Peoples Alliance and will probably continue until the end of this year. I do not mind doing it but no longer have the time to attend the various meetings that go with the task.

However, life is good because God is good!

HEALING

For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes... for in it the righteousness of God is revealed. (Romans 1:16-17)

[My current diary can be found here](#)