

## MOVING ON

### INTRODUCTION

Last week Glenn shared with you some insight into the year 2016 and what the numerology around the date means.

In summary, he looked at the 20, 10 and 6, as well as the 16 which is  $2 \times 8$ . What came out was this:

- 20 speaks of working hand in hand with the Holy Spirit to achieve our Christian potential.
- 10 speaks of God's completeness and God's order.
- 6 - The Hebrew symbol is vav, symbolizing a hook or fastener tent peg. The number 6 is also the number for man. Glenn said now is the time to hook into God, connect with the Rock, Jesus Christ who is our solid ground. He is the one who keeps us steady in the storms of life.
- $8+8 = 16$ , 8 is the number of grace, new beginnings.

I would just like to add the following – 2016 is made up of 2 doubles – double 10 and double 8. If 10 represents God's completeness and order and 8 is the number for grace, **then I see a double portion of God's complete grace in 2016** as we work hand in hand with Him to build His kingdom. But we must be sure to remain hooked in to Him at all times as this will be the key to our success when the road gets rough.

God is giving a double portion of His grace for **a new start in 2016**.

**Philippians 3:12-14** Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

We need to leave past failures, struggles and even achievements behind, and strive for what God has for us in this new year.

I believe that 2016 is the year of Psalm 23 for the people of Christian Heritage.

### **2016 is the year of Psalm 23**

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. 2 He lets me rest in green meadows; He leads me beside peaceful streams. 3 He renews my strength.

He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. 4 Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for You are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. 5 You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honour me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. 6 Surely Your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

- God's provision, rest, leading, strength and guidance will help us to live in a manner that brings honour to his name.
- We need not be afraid, even in difficult situations, God will guide and protect us, even in the presence of our enemies – we must remain hooked in!
- He will grant us fresh anointing and double portion blessings – our cup overflows.
- His goodness, and unfailing love – the double portion of His grace will follow us...no, **it will pursue us** all the days of our lives and we will live in His presence!

Praise God for His amazing promises and assurances for the year that lays ahead.

## MESSAGE

As we start this year's Daniel fast tomorrow and culminate with the conference in the last 3 days of January, our focus for the month is Kings and Priests:

**1 Peter 2:9** But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for He called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

- We are royalty – Kings, blessed by God to reign in this world we live in.
- We are priests – Ministers of reconciliation, representing God to man, and praying to God for man.
- We are a holy nation – called to live holy lives and we answer God's call to "Be holy, for I am holy".

Becoming God's holy kings and priests will require us to move forward. No change will take place if we stay in the same place, saying the same things, doing the same things, even praying the same things.

Einstein defined insanity as: "doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results".

For far too long we have been guilty of doing just that! This year is a year of challenge, and even as I begin this message church, I want to challenge us to take a good, hard look at our Christianity and see if anything has really changed over the last period of time. If we see that nothing significant has happened, then we need to free ourselves of this insanity! We want to grow, as Christians, and as a church.

## **MOVING ON FROM THE "SHINE" CONFERENCE**

In September 2015, we had our "Shine" conference. It was all about equipping us to start doing something different. We set our hearts to shine for Jesus and we have had some limited success.

In October 2015, we had Ron Wooten come and preach and he challenged us to "Get off the porch".

Sadly, I believe, many of us are very comfortable here on our porch and this morning I want us to realise that just as Einstein predicted, nothing is going to happen if we stay here! We are just like the Israelites who were needed to cross into the Promised Land, but had not done what was required to get there.

**Deuteronomy 1:1-8** (NLT) These are the words that Moses spoke to all the people of Israel while they were in the wilderness east of the Jordan River. They were camped in the Jordan Valley near Suph, between Paran on one side and Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth, and Di-zahab on the other. 2 **Normally it takes only eleven days to travel** from Mount Sinai to Kadesh-barnea (*Kadesh-barnea was the gateway to the Promised Land*), going by way of Mount Seir. 3 But forty years after the Israelites left Egypt, on the first day of the eleventh month, Moses addressed the people of Israel, telling them everything the Lord had commanded him to say. 4 This took place after he had defeated King Sihon of the Amorites, who ruled in Heshbon, and at Edrei had defeated King Og of Bashan, who ruled in Ashtaroth. 5 While the Israelites were in the land of Moab east of the Jordan River, Moses carefully explained the Lord's instructions as follows. 6 "When we were at Mount Sinai, the Lord our God said to us, '**You have stayed at this mountain long enough. 7 It is time to break camp and move on.** Go to the hill country of the Amorites and to all the neighboring regions—the Jordan Valley, the hill country, the western foothills, the Negev, and the coastal plain. Go to the land of the Canaanites and to Lebanon, and all the way to the great Euphrates River. 8 Look, I am giving all this land to you! Go in and occupy it, for it is the land the Lord swore to give to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and to all their descendants.'"

## **Mount Sinai**

The name comes probably from a root meaning "to shine," which occurs in Syriac, and which in Babylonian is found in the name sinu for "the moon." The desert of Sin (Exodus 16:1; 17:1; Numbers 33:11) lay between Sinai and the Gulf of Suez, and may have been named from the "glare" of its white chalk. But at Sinai, the bible says: To the Israelites at the foot of the mountain, the glory of the Lord appeared at the summit like a consuming fire (**Exodus 24:17** (NLT)).

What I see here is a picture of the SHINE conference. It was all about equipping us and encouraging us to let our light shine and that has not changed, but it's time for us to move on from mount Sinai, to Kadesh-barnea, the gateway to the promised land, and then to cross over and possess our promised land.

### **HOW WILL WE DO IT?**

By accepting a new challenge... part of our Vision Statement is to become a church of "Irresistible influence", and the way to do that is become more involved in our community.

We have already progressed significantly with influencing our community...

- We did the street outreach.
- We started a hospital visitation ministry.
- We started ministering and collecting baby clothing and toiletries etc. for the Polokego shelter.
- Maria du Ponte has started a bible study for the ladies from the shelter.
- We have visited and ministered at Tulbach, the home where Nick Grobler stayed before he passed away.
- We have also been working on making our church experience better for those from our community who chose to visit us or join us.

The problem with this is that we have had limited involvement from our congregation.

- We appreciate the financial support and the prayers.
- We appreciate the items that have been bought and donated.

But... if we as individuals want to grow and start doing something different this year, we ALL need to start getting our hands dirty and getting involved with our community. As we begin to reach out to others, instead of ministering from the sidelines, we will find growth starting to take place in our own lives. We will have the privilege of seeing God at work through us!

- It could be simply handing out tracts and telling people that Jesus loves them.

Here's a short testimony of someone who chose to get more involved:

### **Jim and Connie and Abstinence Education**

Jim was watching a basketball game when God convicted him that being a spectator also characterized his Christian life and that he was lacking in spiritual passion. He went home and shared his conviction with Connie. Together they developed a plan to move out of their comfort zones which would put them in a better position to discover God's plan for ministry. Jim and Connie began serving as volunteers in their children's public school. They began to sense a great need for abstinence-based sex education. At Fellowship Church they formed a Common Cause group with this ministry in mind. Eventually, they developed a program called Excel. This sexual abstinence and mentoring program is now used in most of the junior high schools in their district. Recently the program was awarded federal funding which allowed them to hire a director and two part-time employees. The program is now welcomed in thirteen public schools and involves more than 3,500 students and 700 adult volunteers. In addition, 65 local churches have contributed time and resources to make Excel a success.

### **CONCLUSION**

2016 is a year when we will experience a double portion of God's grace as we work with hand-in-hand with the Holy Spirit.

God is calling us to break up camp – to move on from where "shine" left off and to start to "shine" within our community.

If we do nothing different, nothing will change and we won't grow.

**Matthew 5:16** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us bring glory to our Father in 2016 through our good deeds as we stand up as a nation of holy kings and priests in Christ.