

A BRAVE FAITH

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"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house." Matthew 5:14-15 NKJV

As 'the people of the way' we have a great responsibility of making Jesus known – of advancing His Kingdom. We have been called to 'go and make disciples of all the nations'. For some reason the GREAT COMMISSION is sometimes the GREAT OMISSION. Our western-influenced culture deems it inappropriate to share our faith lest we offend. How then do we expect the gospel to reach the 'ends of the earth' if we do not share it?

"And how shall they believe in Him who they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" Romans 10:14b NKJV

My father told me a story of many years ago when our family was forcefully removed from Middleburg Cape to Dimbaza Township (approximately 20km from King William's Town), following his banishment as a political prisoner. Our township was under-developed and hopeless. There was a Rev. Russell of the Anglican Church who worked tirelessly with the community. He arranged for medical care, jobs, bursaries, schools etc. Our family was a direct recipient of his generosity.

Rev. Russell planted many seeds. The community described him as compassionate, courageous and visionary. On his death bed he confessed that he still sensed the presence of God. He said, "I have a deep trust (in God)". He gave up his own life to serve humanity. For the next 20 years our township thrived. Many businesses, schools and houses were built. It's unfortunate that no one continued to build on his legacy.

What is the lesson from the story of the little-known Rev. Russell?

We all have a part to play in the building of the Kingdom. The first century church understood this. Many heroes of our faith knew that very well. Rev. Russell knew that spiritual needs were as important as the humanitarian work for the little community of Dimbaza. I'm sad I never met him, but his name is written in the book of life.

So how can we emulate the good Reverend in spreading the gospel of Christ?

Your gifting - Your spiritual and natural gifts are precisely given to you in order to partner with God. Don't ever think that He is not capable of taking back what you've been given. From him to whom much is given, much is expected!

Your vocation - Your job pays the bills but that can never be the end. Use your job to further the cause for Christ. Someone once said, 'Preach the gospel always and use words where necessary'.

Your time - Use it wisely. It's not a sprint, it's a marathon. Pace yourself well in order to finish strong. Don't seek fame. Don't look to catch the headlines otherwise you may crash, burn and lose the joy of it all. Rest and enjoy the time the Lord has given you.

Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Find out what this means for you. There is a task that only You can fulfil in the Kingdom. Spend time in seeking the Lord and find it.