TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN

LIVING OUT OUR VALUES



he year 2016 marked 60 years since the first Navigators missionaries landed in Kenya. We have seen God at work first in key High Schools within and around Nairobi and then at the The University of Nairobi. Successive generations of Christian leaders, both for the Church and the Marketplace have been raised. We have seen both long term and short term missionaries being sent from Kenya to many African countries, to the United States and Canada. God has indeed answered the prayers of the pioneer missionaries. In recent years, we have sensed God calling and leading us into some New frontiers of Rural, Urban Poor, Oral learners and peoples of the majority faiths that are resident in Kenya. The early missionaries trusted God for these two promises among others to be fulfilled:

Genesis 22:17 "I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies"

Isaiah 54: 3-4 "For you will spread out to the

right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities. "Do not be afraid; you will not be put to shame.

Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated. You will forget the shame of your youth and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood.

In the last one year, it has been our joy to meet and interact with different people in all walks of life who have been able to share how God impacted them through the ministry of the Navigators either in High School, Core Group (our high school graduates fellowship), in the University and through the studies we carry out in the churches.

One thing has stood out for many people...the values that the Navigators have. Values are those central motivations that are written on our hearts. They define who we are and permeate everything we do. They guide our journey. Our values are central to how we choose to invest our time and stay true to our calling. The Navigators worldwide is guided by 9 Core Values, which we at Navigators Kenya have embraced wholeheartedly.

These are:

- 1 The passion to know, love, and become like Jesus Christ.
- 2 The truth and sufficiency of the Scriptures for the whole of life.
- 3 The transforming power of the Gospel.
- 4 The leading and empowering of the Holy Spirit.
- 5 Expectant faith and persevering prayer rooted in the promises of God.
- 6 The dignity and value of every person.
- 7 Love and grace expressed among us in community.
- 8 Families and relational networks in discipling the nations.
- 9 Interdependent relationships in the Body of Christ in advancing the Gospel.

At Navigators Kenya, we endeavor to teach and apply these values in our context in ways that keep them fresh and alive.

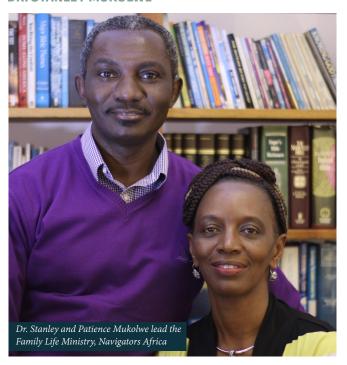
In this Eneza edition and the coming one, we will attempt to briefly unpack these values and how they relate to our calling and our vision. We pray that you will enjoy reading and join us in prayer by asking God to give us grace to live out these values. This we believe is critical as we desire to see "Workers for the Kingdom Next Door to everywhere"

Together in the Advance of the Gospel,

Chris & Anne Amulo.

THE DIGNITY AND VALUE OF EACH PERSON

DR. STANLEY MUKOLWE



on't ever tell anyone that I discipled you. You never get your assignments done and you are lazy". Though spoken gently and with a smile, these words from my mouth could not be described as gracious. Could they be the kind that the bible describes as "unwholesome" in Ephesians 4:29?

Freddie laughed it off. Freddie had been part of a men's group I had led for two years. He often arrived late for the early morning meetings with his assignments half done. Then he would proceed to ask a lot of questions. The questions were not always from the study though they were very good questions. I battled within - at times thinking of releasing him from the study, and then I would think to myself... "He must be learning something. He keeps coming!"

One Monday morning Freddie called me. "Stan, you are right. I am lazy", he said. He went on to explain how he had taken a church youth group to an overnight camp on Saturday. On Sunday morning he asked his colleague what the plans were for the morning devotion. He had forgotten that he was the one giving the devotion! With less than 10 minutes to get ready, Freddie was embarrassed. This experience jolted him back to his senses. He made up his mind to take his assignments seriously.

For a whole year I did not see Freddie formally but bumped into him in social settings. He and his wife Lauren were always warm and generous towards our family. Two years ago, Freddie called me. He was thirsty for the Lord and wanted us to meet. We met weekly for a year. He kept time and did his assignments.

Something had happened to the man. From time to time he would reflect on how lazy he had been when I first started discipling him. Each time he mentioned it, he would apologize.

At the end of 2015, I asked Freddie and Lauren if they could walk with two young couples. They were delighted. I met Freddie last month. He was beaming. He had a fantastic report about the couples they had been meeting for the past year. He was full of praise to God for the transformation he was experiencing in his own life and in the lives of the couples they were ministering to. He talked passionately about the burden the Lord had laid on his heart about ministry in the market place – where people spend the bulk of their day. Then he leaned forward and looked me straight in the eye and said – If you had not invested in me, I would have nothing to give to others. I had to fight back the tears. As I reflected back on my days with Freddie, the Lord brought to mind his conversation with Philip in John 14. The Lord was winding up his ministry for that season. He was revealing himself to the disciples and talking plainly about things they knew little about. He was talking to men who had literally spent three years with him and had a chance over the years to know him intimately. I'm sure the questions they asked him made him wonder how much they really understood who he was and the purpose of his coming. Philip had asked the Lord to show them the Father! The Lord had responded "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know me, Philip? If you have seen me you have seen the Father" The Lord responded to each of these "foolish" questions with grace and truth while preserving the value of the individual. It would have been easy for the Lord to give up on Philip and others on account of their questions.

Fast forward to Acts Chapter 8. This is the same Philip (I think) who received a special message from the Lord that connected him to the Ethiopian eunuch. Starting with the passage the eunuch was reading, Philip explained the gospel and led him to Christ. He knew the scriptures! What lessons did I learn from the Lord as I worked with Freddie and watched the Lord work with Philip?

- •Every person has value therefore pay close attention to the flock that God has given you. (1 Peter 5:2)
- •Relationships experience challenges and expose sins. But we are commanded to "Love each other deeply because love covers a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8).
- •Do not underestimate what God can do with a life. If he has not given up on you don't give up too quickly on those He has given you even when they are stubborn (think of Ionah) or ask many questions.
- •Pray for people often. Jesus did (John 17), Paul did (Ephesians 1) and so should you. God does more with people when we pray for them than when we just meet with them.
- •Keep sowing the seed of God's word. The greatest fruit can come from individuals you least expect.

{The story has been shared with Freddie's consent}



THE PASSION TO KNOW LOVE AND BECOME LIKE CHRIST

NICK WANYOIKE

ack in the days when we had 'Operation Joshua' – an initiative in which teams of university students of the Nav. ministry evangelized in different parts of the country – I was in a team that spent a Saturday afternoon in the homes that surround the hilly town of Chebororwa in Elgeyo Marakwet county. In trying to share the Gospel with an older man, it helped us to ask him, 'do you know the President?" To which he knowingly replied, 'yes'. The next question caused him to pause and think. "Does the President know you?" He responded in the negative. The fact that he knew the head of state's name and where he lived etc, was good. But it would have been a whole different matter if the president knew him! In other words that he, the man, knew that he was known by the president. (Gal. 4:9a)

We can only know God when he makes himself known to us. He is too high and holy. Not unlike how far the president is to a rural poor man far away from State House, Nairobi. God has made himself known through the Lord Jesus Christ. When we are converted and Jesus becomes our saviour, we begin a relationship with God, our heavenly Father. John 3:16 and Rom. 5:8 tell us that God's love for us is seen in giving his son, Jesus, to die for and in our place. This is a glorious thing! We receive grace upon grace and the gift of eternal life; we become God's children forever and ever.

This first value is a response to God's initiative. Knowing, loving and becoming like Jesus is our response to the awesome privilege and incredible honour that is ours because God chose to reveal himself to us sinners. We love because he first loved us. (1 John. 4:19) It is immediately clear that our response is to be an active one because there are three verbs in the statement – know, love and become. And this active response is to be characterised by 'passion' – a strong and enthusiastic desire.

Two verses from John's gospel give us the insight into what it means to know and love. In John.17:3, Jesus declares, "now this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." Knowing Jesus Christ is not about accumulating facts about him. Rather it is relational, of the heart, perceiving, recognising and enjoying the one who loves us so much.

The second verse is John. 14:21 about what it means to love. "Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them." The essence of loving God is seeing more and more of Jesus. We see more and more of Jesus as we obey what God commands. And our obedience flows from the gift and grace of being loved by God. Engaging in this glorious 'dance' we become like the one who loves us most…the Lord Jesus Christ. It is this value that is at the heart of our motivation, "to know Christ and to make him known…and to help others do the same."



THE LEADING AND EMPOWERING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

ESTHER WARUIRU

The Person of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the third Person in the Triune God. He is the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Jesus and He is the Lord. (Is 61:1-3, Phil 1:19).

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." 2 Cor 3:17.

He executes God's work. He brings glory to Jesus. He effects the new birth and lives in us. "...unless a man is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God..." (John 3:5, Titus 3:5). "...your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God..." 1 Cor 6:19

With the Holy Spirit in us, we are connected! We are connected with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The Leading of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit leads us mostly through the Scriptures. (2 Tim 3:16-17) He can also speak to us "directly". He can drop a word in our hearts; put His word on our lips or His plans in our minds. (2 Sam 23:2, I Chr 28:12). We need to be familiar with His voice, to be clearer of what is from Him and what is not. "...they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to..." Acts 16:7 He can speak to us as we are seeking God. "While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Acts13:2-4. He also leads through others. His leading is always in line with the Word of God. God has given us His Spirit to guide us into all truth. (Jn 16: 13-15).

The Empowering of the Holy Spirit.

If we are to continue being transformed and if we are to accomplish anything for God, it will be by His Spirit. Therefore we need to:

1. Keep in step with the Spirit

Do we have any sense that we are moving from one degree of glory to another? How would we know if we were? One big litmus test is whether our lives are characterized by freedom! Is the fruit of the Spirit

evident in our lives? Are we more loving, more joyful? (2 Cor 3:17-18, Gal 5:22-26).

2. Keep being filled

"...keep on being filled with the Spirit." (Eph 5:18-19). Asking to be filled, thanks giving and worship are key aspects in this. Owning our core identity as His beloved, standing on grace alone, righteous in Him, exulting in Him and keeping this ground. (Rom 5:1-2, 17, 9:25, Ps 89:16). We need to worship in our hearts, by our lips and in all we do through the day. (Ps 89:15, Rom 12:1-2. We also need to not quench the Spirit.

3. Have the anointing for the mission as needed "...'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty." (Zech 4:6-7).

The only way we will see the advance of the Gospel is through the anointing of the Holy Spirit. This is how Jesus fulfilled His mission.

"how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him." (Acts 10:38).

God's intention is to "pour" His Spirit on us! (Acts 2:17-18). Let's ask Him for this!



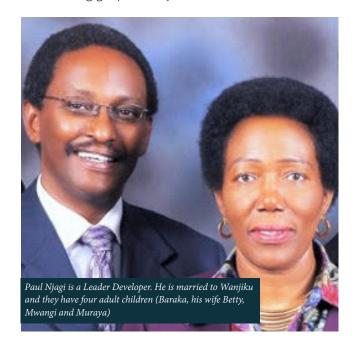
THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF THE GOSPEL

PAUL NJAGI

aleb is a religious priest in his community. He was born and raised in a deeply religious and divided country at war with itself. Because of war, he carried a gun for his safety. This zealous priest hated any who did not subscribe to his religious views. He was also particularly averse to the religious traditions of his fathers, insisting only in the literal interpretation and practice of the scriptures. While visiting his relatives in a different city to expound on his religious views, he happened to pray for a sick man. Incredibly, this man turned out to be spiritually alive with deep faith in Jesus and who spoke about the love of God that indwelt him. Very strange theology to the ears of Caleb. These words caused him to weep and experience a baptism of repentance that eventually led to a changed heart, faith in Jesus and a new thirst for the scriptures. He moved from being a hater to becoming a lover of all men and women. He returned home with a new message of love and grace, and began to compassionately, creatively and courageously preach about Jesus. He is now bringing his family and people to Jesus just as the Samaritan woman ran to her village and told the people 'Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?' (John 4:29). This is the stuff of the transforming power of the gospel!

Isaiah prophesied that Jesus the Servant of the Lord would transform the hopeless broken-hearted into hopeful oaks of righteousness with an enduring spiritual heritage (Isaiah 61:1-4). He would transform broken hearts into beloved hearts thirsting for God and blessing people. The gospel narratives are full of inspiring accounts of the gospel transforming the needy in this way. Not even the man possessed by

a legion of demons was exempt from this! He was delivered and transformed into an evangelist among his own people, telling them of the mercy of God upon his life. And Jesus now reproduces this work through his people, transforming men and women all over the world so that like Caleb, they are fragrant with the humility and aroma of Christ. The gospel is like a seed with power within it to transform as Jesus said 'Such is the kingdom of God, as if a man put seed in the earth, And went to sleep and got up, night and day, and the seed came to growth, though he had no idea how!' (Mark 4:26-27). There is no heart that is closed to this transforming power of the gospel. As a mystic once said 'whoever catches the disease of Christ cannot be healed!' Let's go out and plant the seeds of this transforming gospel everywhere!





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