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May the Lord shine His face upon you, may you know His grace in all you do, everywhere you go and with all you meet throughout this year of 2017.

This is our second Newsletter for 2017. I have no idea what has happened to the time, it is flying by and so much has to be done and is being done, The Newsletter is a bit late I know but we have been so busy I have not been able to make time to do this until now.

Since getting back into the work for the year we were really blessed by some good friends of ours in South Africa. They provided us with the travel, accommodation and looked after us while with them for a two week holiday. It was a truly wonderful and God appointed time for us. We were enriched in so many ways and the richest part of the blessing was the time spent with them and the way they imparted the love of God to us at a time of desperate need. We (Ros and I), tend to be givers, it just comes naturally to us and to receive so much was blessed and humbling experience.

On Bible Study

Like all colleges Vision Colleges offer advanced standing to students who are able to present evidence of studies from another college or who have been involved in some form of ministry for a period of time. We do not believe that everyone has to start at the beginning because they joined us. If they have previous formal studies we will recognize them.

This presents a challenge. As the Principal of Vision Colleges I often find that I am responding to those who wish to join the College, often for ministry training and hope to gain advanced standing on the basis that they have been “a Christian for 10 or 20 or more years...” or I am always studying, “I go to bible study very often – every week”.

I understand the frustration people feel when they have been personally studious with the word, complying with the pastoral unction to study and know the word, sometimes for many years before they choose to enter Bible College, but such study is not recognized formally for it is neither offered nor tested at an academic standard.

Bible College is presented and tested at an academic level. It is a much more intensive and thorough form of study than the local church mid-week Bible study, as it should be. The rigors of testing affirm the student and validate the College. But both forms of study are perfectly legitimate - each serving their own “student body” needs. I would not forsake either one for the other.

Yet it is a matter of “horses for courses”. In the local church Bible study there is no testing of the learning process, no assessment of valid learning, no proving of the person or the efficacy of that which is taught. Indeed, beyond the local assembly there is no way to assess or gauge a student’s progress or work and that is the major difference between the two options.

My old pastor used to say, “Everyone should do Bible College, when you finish high school do Bible College before you go to university, before they mess up your head”. I agree with his sentiments.

However not everyone will go to Uni. Some will accept Christ long after high school, so what of them? Well the point still remains; everyone should do Bible College and most especially if you want to be formally involved in ministry. With Vision you can do Bible College no matter how old or young you are, no matter your experience, regardless of your background or status you can do Bible College. Where we can we will and do recognize the advanced standing of students but for us the most important issue is the integrity of the awards offered, and the integrity of our awards is firmly bound to the quality of assessment as is demonstrated in over 150 countries around the world.

Study earnestly to present yourself approved to God, a workman that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth. (2Ti 2:15)

All Scripture is God-breathed, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfected, thoroughly furnished to every good work. (2Ti 3:16-17)

Visionary

Ken Chant

The Vilna Gaon



In the central park of the city of Vilna, in Lithuania, there stands a monument, which bears the inscription, “Elijah, the Genius of Vilna.” It was erected in honour of Rabbi Elijah (1720-1797), whose brilliance as a scholar and rabbi made him world-famous in his own lifetime.

He is to religious Jews what Albert Einstein is to other people – the standard of intellectual brilliance. The Gaon (genius) deserved his title. At three years of age he had memorised the Hebrew Bible. By his sixth year, because his teachers could no longer keep up with him, he was studying the Bible and the Talmud on his own; and at seven he delivered a masterly discourse on the Talmud in Vilna's main synagogue.

“Afterward, the Chief Rabbi interviewed him, suspecting that the 7-year old had been primed like an actor for the lecture. He quickly concluded that the young boy understood all the intricacies of the talk he had delivered.”

By his eleventh year he had memorised the entire Talmud (20 volumes in a modern print), and by the time he reached 20, the Gaon had also become a renowned expert in astronomy, mathematics, and science. From then until his death at seventy-seven, he kept up a regime of studying 18 hours a day, mostly in Jewish religious literature.

One of his disciples asked Rabbi Elijah why he studied so constantly even though he had long ago committed to memory almost every major Jewish text. He replied –

“If the Vilna Gaon studies Torah eighteen hours a day, the other rabbis in Poland will study ten. If the other rabbis in Poland study ten hours a day, then in the more enlightened climate of Germany the rabbis will study six. If the rabbis in Germany study six, then the rabbis in England will study two. And if the rabbis in England study two hours a day, the Jews of England will at least keep the Sabbath.

“But, if the Vilna Gaon studies only ten hours a day, then the other rabbis in Poland will study only six, and the rabbis in Germany only two, and the rabbis in England only half an hour. And if the rabbis in England study Torah only half an hour a day, what will become of the Sabbath observance of English Jewry?”

Rabbi Elijah's regime would no doubt be far beyond the capacity of most of us. But perhaps his example, and the following passages, will at least provoke us to better effort in the Word of God –

“Your all-powerful word leaped from heaven! It rushed from your royal throne, and fell upon the doomed land. It was like a fierce warrior, carrying the sharp sword of your irresistible command!” (Wis 18:15-16)

“For the word of God is alive and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, digging deep into the meeting place of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” (Heb 4:12)

Missions

Pakistan: We have four colleges operating in Pakistan at this time in varying levels of study. The work is very much in its infancy at this stage but I am very pleased with the way they are working, we have a number of subjects in Urdu, their language, and Ps Boaz Gill who has been coordinating the work in Pakistan, is working on further translations for the work in Pakistan,

Philippines: This August I expect to be in the Philippines to meet our colleges and student body. We have a college in Dumangas near the city of Iloilo in Western Visayas on the island of Panay, They have around 20 students. The work is in its infancy but growing well. The students are doing well. This college introduced the idea of using a tablet to download subjects to read them instead of having the books printed it is a huge cost saver for them. The idea is taking off elsewhere.

We have a continuing work in Pagadian in Southern Mindanao, although this is not a college it was our entry into the Philippines and we have a strong connection with this church.

I have been asked to go to Marawi to start a college. Marawi and Pagadian are both on Mindenao and relatively close to each other so that is no big deal in itself to visit them, except that Marawi has been under attack by the terrorist "Maute Group" who are supported by ISIS and would like to see Mindenao hived off as an Islamic State.

As of May 23rd President Du Tute declared martial law for the next 60 days on the island due to the terrorist activities in the city of Marawi so the region is under martial law, interesting days ahead.

Kenya: We have the work in Kenya jointly with the Africa Bible Network. At the moment they have a college at Busia which is very close to the Uganda/Kenya border. We will be offering Colleges to more churches as the Network expands.

We also have an independent church using us for training called Wings of Life Gospel Church International in Nairobi with a dozen students.

Belieze: In the Central America nation of Belieze we are working with an Australian Missionary, Victor Hernandez from Wollongong, in his work there. They have 4 accredited and 4 recognised students in the same college.

Other places

We are working with Pastors in Qatar, Ghana, with a view to starting colleges in those nations, in addition to the overseas mission work:

Australia: We are now able to provide our studies in English, Chinese, Urdu, Tamil and Arabic. We are pleased to see these options being taken up on other languages here in our own nation.

Prison Ministry: We now have 7 students around Australia studying varying levels of studies, from Certificate in Biblical Studies, the Accredited Christian Ministry and Theology study options, we have 2 students in prisons now undertaking degree level courses with us.

We are negotiating with a group in the Northern Territory to provide a Bible College and ministry training program for a mixed group of people.

Several High Schools are also working with us now, we have a school in Western Australia, one in Queensland and another in Victoria.

Alison's Corner

WORKERS FOR GOD

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to the father through him" (Colossians 3:17).



The main task of every Christian is to find the will of God for their life and then to accomplish it in obedience to him. There is much wisdom in the Word of God to discover his will, but sometimes we need more specific direction.

No matter your age group if you seek the Lord with your whole heart he will show you the way to go, the direction he wants you to take will become clear and his peace will reign in your heart.

Over the last 65 or more years of Christian life God has given me direction in many different ways:

Sometimes through a Bible verse; sometimes in direct answer to my prayers; sometimes through a counsellor; once even through a non-Christian doctor, and once through a little child!

God can use anyone, after all he spoke to Balaam through his donkey.

However, one word of warning, you must be sure the direction you are given is always in harmony with the Word of God.

At times God may speak to you through a word of personal prophecy. When this has happened to me it has always been a confirmation of something already revealed to me by the Lord. The personal prophecy has been an added assurance that he is indeed speaking to me on that point!

When you have determined God's will, serve where he has placed you, using the ability he has given you according to your gifts temperament and personality.

Our work and service for God should be given out of a heart full of love and joy for the forgiveness and grace he has purchased for us through the sacrifice of Jesus our Saviour. Not for gain or for the praise of men.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God –not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2: 8-10)

If you will be content to do whatever God asks of you, however small, thus proving yourself to be a faithful worker, then he will give other more challenging tasks.

Just as children are trained to do more and more complex tasks as they grow older so the Lord trusts us with more important work for him as we grow in wisdom and ability.

Student Honour Roll

Vision Colleges are distance education Bible Colleges, which is really all we do. We provide Christian ministry and Bible college teaching. Since March the following students graduated and we heartily congratulate them. We encourage every student to continue in study and be equipped, to know the rich blessing of the word and its power in our lives. We appreciate you and pray the Lord will use and release you into ministry within his Kingdom.

Clinton Rintoull	Diploma Biblical Studies	NSW
Rey Manalodo	Award in Biblical Studies	Vic
Lina Ibrahim	Award in Biblical Studies	Vic
David Collins	Certificate III in Christian Ministry and Theology	Vic
Adrian Davidson	4 Awards, Diploma, Advanced Dip, Grad Cert, Grad Diploma	ACT
Benjamin Stay	Certificate III in General Education	Qld
Kerolos Awad	Award in Biblical Studies	Vic
Clinton Rintoull	Diploma of Ministry	NSW
Prue Burleigh	Diploma of Ministry	Tas
Toni Romaior	Award in Biblical Studies	Qld
Alex Roe	Award in Biblical Studies	Tas
Roshan Sing	Graduate Diploma Christian Ministry and Theology	South Africa
Roshan Sing	Ph.D. Christian Education	South Africa
Zubeda Sing	Graduate Diploma Christian Ministry and Theology	South Africa
Zubeda Sing	Dr. Ministry	South Africa
Burt Adam	(4) Diploma to Graduate Diploma Christian Ministry and Theology	South Africa
Adrian Sing	Graduate Diploma Christian Ministry and Theology	South Africa
Wesley Sing	Graduate Diploma Christian Ministry and Theology	South Africa
Eric Roggeveen	Diploma of Ministry	NSW
Lindsay Rossendell	Certificate in Biblical Studies	Vic
Elizabeth Rossendell	Diploma of Ministry	Vic
Rebecca Wake	Certificate IV in Christian Ministry and Theology	NSW
Morgan White	Certificate IV in Christian Ministry and Theology	NSW
George Ward	Associate in Biblical Studies	NSW
Dianne Jones	Associate in Biblical Studies	NSW
Alex Roe	Diploma in Biblical studies	Tas
Attunga Camp	8 Statements of Attainment: Cert IV in Christian Min. and Theology	NSW

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