

Feb 12th 2006: Purpose statement 3: With God Grow His Kingdom: Mark 6:45—56

Over the last 2 weeks.....Purpose statement

**That CBC exists TO KNOW THE LORD TO SHOW and thirdly
WITH GOD TO GROW HIS KINGDOM**

From the NT.....no doubt about the Lord's Priority from His Ascension till...Return
It is to increase His Kingdom on earth

Look at Acts 1:6—8

*They asked about an earthly kingdom for one nation
He commissioned.....builders of the Kingdom.....draw from all Nations*

*They had their own plan....own agenda.....A kingdom of their own
Jesus soon corrected that assumption*

It is not you who call the shots.....set dates and times....put plans into motion
It is the Father.....

- **You are under the authority of God the Father**
- **You are witnesses of the person and work of God the Son**
- **You are to be empowered enabled and led by God the Holy Spirit**

This is the reason.....that we say in our purpose.....With God to Grow.....

Under God's Authority.....He is in charge.....We are His servants
Seeking His direction.....Following as He leads

This doesn't mean that we don't have to work hard

But that we can depend upon God.....to achieve what He desires from our labours

It's interesting to note.....when Jesus talked about growing

He used farming.....gardening illustrations

Now its only Farmers who.....But most of us have had.....hands on exp of gardening

I don't really enjoy gardening.....But I garden enough to see similarities

Between growing a garden.....Growing the Kingdom **FOR INSTANCE**

When we built our house.....Had to Put in a front garden
Message was clear.....As a home owner in this area.....Resp to grow a garden

SO THE FIRST GUIDELINE.....as far as Kingdom growth....→
1. **If u are a Believer**.....You have a responsibility.....to be involved in growing.....

So as a home owner....I accept my resp to spend time in.....
And last Monday I did just that.....and it was hard work.....**and altho**
..obvious where I had been.....the results.....will be seen in the long term rather

SECOND GUIDELINE
2. **Expect Growing the Kingdom to be hard work**.....with long term results

Of course working in our garden.....is a family task
Last Monday it was Judy and I working together
But Judy has a special gift that she brings to our gardening time
The gift of directing traffic.....

THIRD GUIDELINE
3. **We all have different ways of being involved in growing**.....diff gifts to utilize
Its far too easy to complain.....who is not putting in the same effort as we are
....without taking into account.....that their way....is as import.....

(Paul....talking about the diff parts of the body====muscles and the brain)

Another thing I was thinking about last Monday ...was the fragility of plants
..**compared** to the endurance....perseverance....destructive power of weeds and pests....

*Amazing how snails are invisible.....until the morning after
How a plant can be struggling to survive.....weed.....is thriving
That you just get your lawn looking a tad green.....lawn beetles*

Fourth Guideline
4. **Where the Kingdom is growing**.....the weeds and pests.....work of the evil one
.....will be out in force....
→ Using sickness and calamity ...disruption....personality clashes...sin and weakness

There was yet one other thought came to mind last Monday.....

That its only God....who makes gardening effective....

Only His re-creative power and promise.....that causes all my hard work to bear fruit

I can trust Him....that if I plant a daffodil***Put the work in***...Follow the rules....

What a guideline for the work of the Kingdom....this is

5. Only Almighty God can bring about growth.....And He has promised that if we follow His directions, and seek after His presence and power.

He will grow His Kingdom.....

This is where our Bible reading from Mark 6: 45-56 has a lesson to teach us

It's the story of Jesus walkingIt follows the story of the feeding.....

If ever there were two illustrations of the power.....have to be these

& esp in the feeding.....Where we see the disciples able to minister...to thousands **because they** followed the directions.....and trusted in the power.....

(I like many.....compose a CV to present to a poss future Employer.....

You sneak it examples of what you've done really good::: Can you imagine Jesus'

Fed 5,000.....Also walked several miles across.....)

The thing is.....that the disciples were both scared....and amazed when they saw...

But v51-52 says.....

Their hearts were hardened

They had seen the awesome power of Jesus in feeding.....**It set Him apart...**

Yet they did not expect Him to show that power again by doing what He did.....

This is not about their fear....first saw Him walking.....**That's to be expected**

It was after....recognized,,**He had got into**.....**the storm** had calmed.....

That the Scripture says.....

“They were completely amazed, for they had not understood about the loaves: their hearts were hardened.”

Although they realised the great things Jesus.....

Something still stopped them
From expecting Him to do great things in their midst

Their trust in His power was lacking....because they had somehow hardened
They were refusing to have...a constancy of Faith....in His power as God

And there are times when we do the same....

We don't trust God enough....to ask.....to expect(*Terry at prayer meeting*)

(I love the story of the ArmishHis faith was strong but unfounded)

For us ...as a church.....to work with God to grow His

Will require us to believe in the awesome power of God..... to transform people

And this will cause us to seek His Face in all we do....to give all we can in obedience

And to depend not on our efforts and plans.....

But on His power, presence, might.....with the expectation.....

That He will indeed do more