

PRAY FOR GOD TO RAISE UP EVERYDAY
LABOURERS FROM OUR CITY MINISTRY IN
WELLINGTON (SEE BACK PAGE FOR ARTICLE)

NAVIGATE

TRUSTING GOD TO RAISE UP EVERYDAY LABOURERS

At the start of this year I asked God what he wanted me and the Navigators to focus on this year. One of the areas God put on my heart was *labouring among the lost*. Practically sharing the Message and life of Jesus with the people we work, live and play amongst is challenging. We need help from God's Spirit and encouragement from one another to be part of the advance of God's kingdom into our nation, starting with our own social networks.

And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear
- **Philippians 1:14**

Our NZ Navigator staff and board met over Queen's Birthday weekend in Christchurch. On Sunday morning we used the Relational Diagram Tool, which is included in this issue of Navigate, to share and pray for one another around the opportunities God is giving us to labour among the lost. As staff and board we want to be labouring among the lost ourselves and do all we can to support other everyday labourers across our nation.

In the book of Philippians we see that against expect-

tation Paul's imprisonment in Rome resulted in the advance of the Good News inside the prison through Paul and into the city through everyday believers. This happened as most of the believers in Rome, inspired by Paul's story, became more confident in Jesus to speak about the Good News with courage and without fear. The source of their confidence was Jesus, just as it can be for us today. Jesus will help us as we look to him and step out in faith to pass on the Good News to people in our natural life networks.

In this issue of *Navigate* we get a glimpse of how God used everyday labourers in extraordinary ways in World War 2. We also listen in to advice from everyday labourers on how God is using them right where they are in their cities.

May this issue of *Navigate* give you ideas and tools to share the Message and life of Jesus.

Yours,

Simon

Simon Cayzer
National Director



THOUGHTS ON EVERYDAY LABOURING

REFLECTIONS ON EVERYDAY LABOURING AFTER A FRUITFUL CAREER WITH THE NAVIGATORS



LOGAN & FAYE KEATING

We sat down for an interview with Logan and Faye Keating who recently retired from full-time staff with The Navigators for their thoughts on 'everyday labouring':

We were initially attracted to the Navigators by the transformed lives of people living Biblically and the prospect of having a place in the outworking of God's purposes. Today this vision is kept alive by being around people of like mind and by believing that the Good News can change the course of lives for generations. God reminds us that He has called us to live and disciple among the lost (Matthew 9:36-38) and we sustain this with prayer, regular time and space alone with God, memorized scripture review, and being in the Bible individually and with others.

There's no formula for sharing Jesus with people; we attend to the Holy Spirit's nudging to create opportunity to talk simply and freely about our experiences of God and the Bible. God is always working, so we ask Him to show us

what He's doing in people's lives, our neighbourhood and community (*See Relational Diagram tool below*). I frequently enjoy talking about 'life' with Rob who owns a boat in the bay where I (Logan) moor mine. Recently I mentioned my practice of reading the Bible as part of sustaining my relationship with God and commented on how a statement from Ecclesiastes relating to our conversation had influenced me. He responded positively and was intrigued. I now know he and I can go to that place with care and respect.

For those who don't know Jesus, we pray that God will orchestrate positive encounters with us, our friends, family and other believers where Jesus is 'visible' to them through our words, attitudes and stories. We pray God will bring them from "bondage to freedom, darkness to light, death to life", and ask Him to give us a sense of a 'next step', believing He has placed us in this neighbourhood for His purposes. Building trust, loving and serving them are essential as we may be the only followers of Jesus they know. We are not sure how the Good News is moving in the families who don't yet know God but several trust us enough to allow their children to participate in our local initiative amongst children and high school students.

Jeremiah 32:39 (NLTSE) says: "And I will give them one heart and one purpose: to worship me forever, for their own good and for the good of all their descendants". As a couple we are one in heart and purpose, playing to one another's strengths and capacities and having the courage to say "no" to one another. We spend time together to stay current, review, plan and pray. Our current focus is on being more available and present locally amongst family, friends and acquaintances on the street, at local schools and sports venues. We also meet regularly for shared dinner and time in the Bible with some good longstanding Navigator friends, reminding each other of what is important in life, faith and mission. 

RELATIONAL DIAGRAM: *Draw out your own diagram of awareness, and pray for God to work in the people in your life*

Drawing out your relational diagram by Logan Keating

1. On a blank page write or type the names of people in your ever day traffic patterns. Include yourself, believers (in a different colour) and those who don't yet know Jesus.
2. Draw connections between people who know each other.
3. Note existing connections between believers and those who don't yet know God.

Questions to reflect on

1. Can I see God at work anywhere? Highlight those people. What is happening here? What next?
2. How could I partner with God/contribute? Is someone highlighted who I can partner/pray with?
3. Where do I feel stuck and need help to see next steps?

Ideas for prayer

1. For God-orchestrated encounters with people who don't yet know Jesus.
2. For opportunities to initiate to people, situations that lead to God.
3. For glimpses of what God is doing and how to respond.
4. For generosity with time to hear other people's stories.
5. For openness, trust and curiosity that lead to a deeper relationship with Jesus.
6. Often I don't see anything happening, and so am I." God please let me glimpse what is happening and how to respond. 

EVERYDAY LABOURING - LIVING NATURALLY

BY MIKE SHAMY

Le Chambon, is an isolated mountain village in the south of France. Its name does not appear in most historical accounts of World War II. And yet during the four years of German occupation of France, this small village of around three thousand people saved the lives of nearly five thousand wartime refugees, mainly children.

Why did this happen? How was it that ordinary people living everyday life made courageous choices that shone so brightly in the moral darkness all around them?

After the war when questioned as to why they did what they did, villagers responded by saying - *"We were doing what had to be done. Who else could help them? You must understand that it was the most natural thing in the world to help these people"*

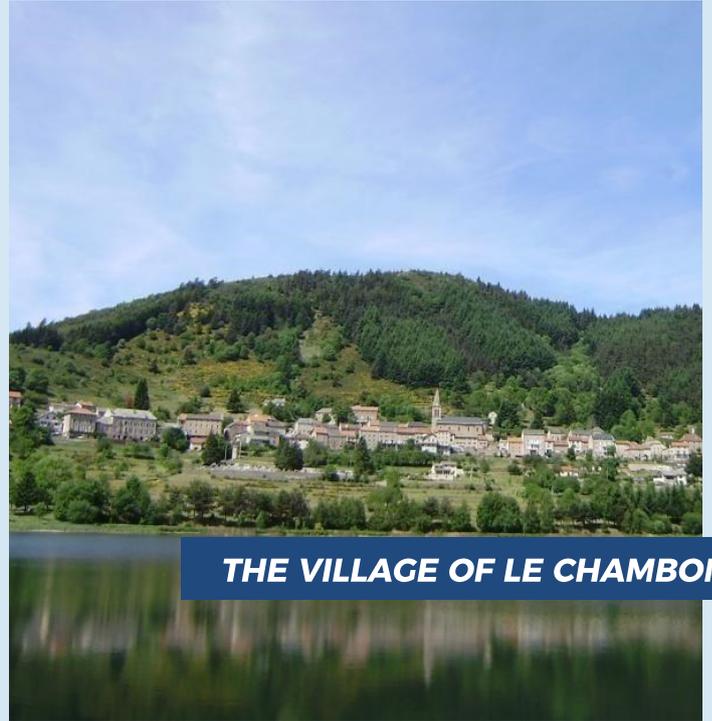
Why was it so natural? Villagers made choices that were rooted in their deep sense of who they were. To have made any other choice they viewed as a denial of their identity and purpose.

What would it take for us in the midst of everyday life, to be able to say *'it is the most natural thing in the world'* 'to love, do good and share with those who don't have a faith in Christ and to help others do the same?'

As I reflected on this question my mind went to 1 Peter. The Apostle Peter wrote to new believers scattered throughout what is now Modern Turkey. They were a minority in a dominant pagan culture. They were being ridiculed and marginalised because of their faith.

Peter wants to deeply ground them in their identity and purpose. He uses the language of the Old Testament to remind them of who they really are and therefore their purpose as they go about everyday life. (1 Peter 1:1; 2:4-5; 9-11).

Having laid a deep foundation Peter calls on them to be people who do good, love others, endure suffering and talk



THE VILLAGE OF LE CHAMBON

about their faith in a 'gentle and respectful way'. He locates this way of living not in a building or just among fellow Christians but in the culture, workplace, family and friends. Peter says it is the most natural thing to do if you really understand who you are in Christ.

This helps us understand why the first Christians were so mission minded in everyday life and beyond. This is what we need to be gripped by as we live our daily lives in Aotearoa/New Zealand. We easily forget or look to other things, so we need to be reminded regularly of who we are and why we are. *"For our mission is nothing less (or more) than participating with God in this grand story until he brings it to its guaranteed climax"* - from *'The Mission of Gods People'*, Christopher J.H. Wright

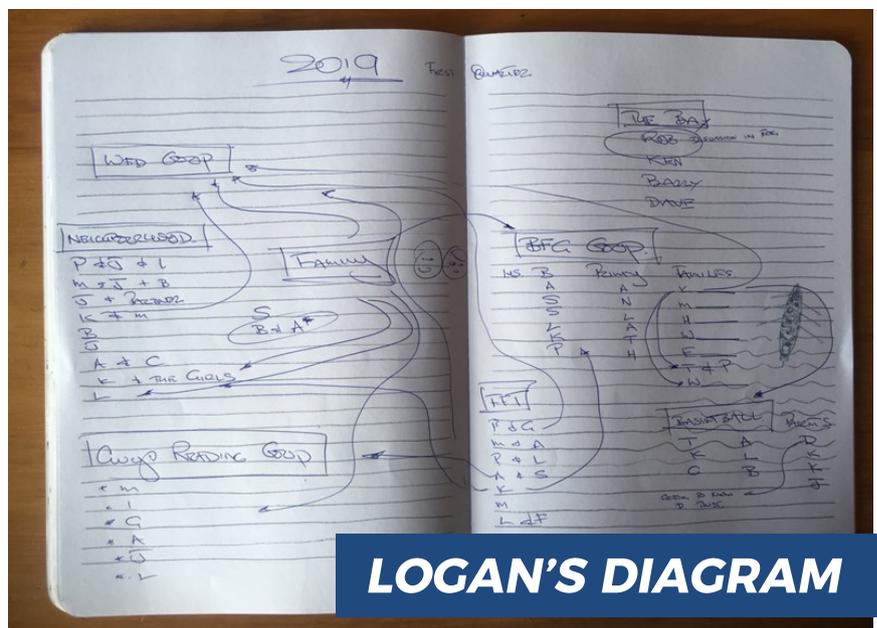
... to think, raise your world

... people in my normal traffic patterns. build trust, love, serve, and to have conver-

... d how I can be involved with him ...'s stories and connect them to my story and

... leads people to inquiry and ultimately sur-

... Jesus said "My father is always working ...se what you're doing and how I can be in-



LOGAN'S DIAGRAM

TRUSTING GOD IN EVERYDAY LABOURING

BY STEFI & PHILIP PLIMMER

Over our last 12 or so years living in Eastbourne, Wellington, we have always had a desire to share God's love with whoever God brings across our paths. For the last 3 years we have led a church-linked monthly family games night, reaching out to families in the community. We meet with about five families, share a meal, play games and catch up. Our aim is to show love, share life, and pray for each person to be led to grow in their relationship with God, wherever they are at. A while ago a solo mum shared that this was church for her now, as this was where she felt supported. Recently, one parent drew me aside and thanked us with tears for the unconditional love she was receiving from the group which was helping her and her family to heal after a difficult church experience overseas. A few days later another parent came to us wanting to do some regular Bible study.

One couple we got to know read Luke's gospel with us over several months. We really enjoyed meeting regularly but gradually sensed they had some real barriers to growing to know God personally. We decided not to continue with the reading for the time being. Although this was hard, we realise we are part of God's bigger plan for them and trust Him to be at work.

Philip has initiated a regular gathering of men at the local pub to connect, build friendships and draw in others from the community. He is having some good conversations and relationships of trust are being formed. The men also like to do practical projects together, such as tree chopping for a solo mum in our games group who has just purchased a house. This is great for getting guys out and facilitates more personal chats.



I got to know my friend Silva several years ago and started to pray for her. Although Silva's life fell apart when her husband left her, she ended up dedicating her life to God and became increasingly open to talking with me about her relationship with God and praying. We prayed for somewhere for Silva to live, and God answered with a phone call the next day offering her a house for rent, a miracle in our neighbourhood. After much further prayer, God opened Silva's heart to the need to live from the scriptures as her source of God's truth. Now we meet to do Bible study regularly and have a mutual friend who is searching and is also keen to join us. One of the biggest challenges to trust God for is finding a time to meet.

Philip and I are learning to be patient and keep trusting God when it looks like nothing is happening or what is happening is unclear to us. Something that helps us is to ask God to show us what he is doing in a particular situation and to put on our hearts what we should pray for. Also, small acts of love and faithfulness can be significant in reaching people. Connecting with people has challenges and setbacks, but every step forward in someone's life makes it all worthwhile. 📍

BIBLE STUDY: EVERYDAY LABOURING

Please join us in this study of the book of Philippians where Paul encourages Everyday Labourers

At the heart of our Navigator Calling are people who live, speak and share the Message of Jesus and his kingdom with those they live and work amongst. We call these people labourers or workers for the kingdom.

1. What is encouraging you to be an everyday labourer among the lost?
2. Ask someone who is seeking to live and share Jesus with others what encourages and helps them to be labouring among the lost.
3. Read through the book of Philippians. What did Paul say or do to encourage and strengthen the Philippians? (E.g. he sent Timothy to visit them Phil 2:19ff). The 9 minute video clip on Philippians at www.thebibleproject.com is recommended.
4. Choose 1 of the means Paul uses and dig deeper to understand the way Paul expressed this.

For example, if you choose 'sharing his heartfelt love, affection and thankfulness for the Philippians': What about the Philippians gives Paul joy and thankfulness? Where did Paul's affection for the Philippians come from? Imagine hearing words like those in 1:3-8, what impact would this have on you?

5. In light of your thoughts from this study, what is God saying to you personally about being an everyday labourer yourself, and helping other everyday labourers? 📍