



GOD IS WORKING WHERE WE ARE

Recently I visited Bruce and Jill Robertson and was inspired by their story of teaming up with others to reach people with the gospel. It all started with Bruce and two friends brainstorming about using what they already had to increase their reach out to others with the gospel. The idea of fishing trips came up. One couple managed a mussel farm, and another couple had a farm and homestay. Together with Navigator and church friends, they invited non-believing family and friends from their neighbourhoods and relational networks to join them for a fishing weekend. They had a simple rule; you could only come if you invited a non-believing friend.

After a day of fishing, the group of up to 25 people would enjoy a BBQ dinner of big steaks, venison, scallops, mussels, pāua, and crayfish. After dinner, someone would share their personal life story including how they came to know Jesus. People knew ahead of time this was part of the evening together. The team sought to provide a safe and non-threatening environment and a natural opportunity for people to interact with one another. Their friends were blown away by the quality of relationships they observed and experienced. Some expressed they had never met a group of men like this.

I asked Bruce and Jill what they thought were the

keys to labouring together like this. They pointed to starting with like-minded people, dreaming together, and using what you've already got. They said it became really exciting as the ideas came together. Each person contributed the skills they had. No one was a public speaker or an evangelist. They worked together and prayed their way through.

I am praying God will inspire many other opportunities of partnering together to help non-believing friends to see, experience, and hear the Good News about Jesus. Who could you team up with to brainstorm about how to reach out more with the Gospel? What interests, skills, connections, and resources has God given you? May God give you people and ideas with which to step out in faith.

May the stories in this issue of Navigate encourage you to reach out to others with the gospel and to invest your life in the spiritual growth of others.

Yours,

Simon Cayzer
National Director



SEEING GOD AT WORK WHERE I AM

LOCKDOWN PROVIDES A MUCH NEEDED WINDOW TO SEE JESUS AT WORK IN THE WORLD

BY EUAN NISBET

Several years ago, I had the scary realisation that my faith was only halfway lived out. I was comfortable studying God but seemed unable to know him. My faith was intellectual; it was academic. I analysed scripture but did not contemplate the word and I felt that I had not experienced Jesus. I wasn't sure that I knew Him personally and so I set out to do so.


ON HEARING THIS, JESUS SAID TO THEM, "IT IS NOT THE HEALTHY WHO NEED A DOCTOR, BUT THE SICK. I HAVE NOT COME TO CALL THE RIGHTEOUS, BUT SINNERS." - MARK 2:17

Lockdown was a challenging time for the world; however, it did allow me an opportunity. I seemed to have all the time in the world to seek quiet contemplation. I quietly and expectantly waited for the Lord to make Himself known to me in a personal way, as He has for so many others. It took me a year to find out how He did this. Shortly before lockdown, I had a flatmate who was lost. "Lost" is a term that can sometimes be quite broad but also very literal. My flatmate felt alone and needed connection in a real way. He had been burnt out and was seeking rest. He needed purpose; he needed his life to have meaning. I only saw glimpses of this, but I started praying for him before and during the lockdown. At the same time as I was asking God to connect with me, God was showing me how He saw the world. Jesus showed me the compassion He has for the lost. He showed me what it was to drink living water and eat the bread of His flesh.

There are two key things I believe I have been taught through this experience. The first is how I can be a meaningful presence in the lives of non-believers around me.



EUAN NISBET

Since lockdown, I've lived, socialised, and worked with a variety of people. The Spirit has helped me understand what people need in general, and to see specifically what I can offer. I've been a conduit for God's wisdom, reassurance, and comfort. Through being a part of this I have been taught a new way of experiencing Jesus through the work He does in the world. It has been a privilege to experience this, and it is something I hope to maintain as life continues to move around me. 

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1+1

JOIN US FOR THE 1+1 CHALLENGE!!!



**“AND PRAY IN THE SPIRIT ON ALL OCCASIONS
WITH ALL KINDS OF PRAYERS AND REQUESTS.”
—EPHESIANS 6:18**


CONVERSING WITH GOD WHERE I AM

BY SUE MCNAUGHTON

“Satan dreads nothing but prayer. His one concern is to keep the saints from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, he mocks our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray.” - Samuel Chadwick

Years ago, good people in The Navigators gave me excellent training and support in what I would call formal prayer – the vital prayer with others that does the Kingdom’s grunt work, and the time alone for prayer. I have maintained the first, but with the kind of mind that is constantly distracted, failed miserably with the second. One day I discovered that I could pray better when I was out walking the dog early every morning. This has slowly evolved into about 20 minutes of singing hymns or worship songs (quietly!) and


then about 30 minutes of prayer for different people each day, plus whatever God prompts. Recently I acquired an old hymn book and I’m slowly memorising hymns to sing – they have powerful words, and praise really is the door to God’s presence! Occasionally He replies through creation or people or in my head, but often I just feel him listening.

Eventually I became aware that I could do this kind of praise-prayer as conversation while I was driving, grocery shopping, walking – anything with semi-automatic movement. I can even pray while in conversation with someone because I’ve realised that God wants to be part of the conversation. Jesus has something to say to this person and the Holy Spirit can help me to know what. I’m definitely still a beginner in this, but I feel that prayer has shifted from something I must do to something I want to do. Besides, who doesn’t enjoy a meaningful conversation? 

MAKING DISCIPLES WITH GOD AS I AM

BY LIANA FLANAGAN

Although I am on staff with The Navigators now, most of the last 17 years of my adult working life have been spent as a speech-language therapist. It can be easy for me to feel overwhelmed and inadequate when it comes to discipling others and I sometimes feel like I really don’t know what I’m doing! It’s easy to fall into the trap of thinking discipleship is supposed to be a tidy, linear process whereby the people we disciple will grow steadily in a specific direction and we will know how to neatly guide this process and answer all their questions. But as with life, I have found that discipleship rarely proceeds in a linear fashion – conversations often jump around from topic to topic and sometimes end up in places where deep and difficult things are shared that I feel out of my depth to deal with. I don’t have a great memory and so I often end up using Google to remember Scripture references because I can only partly recall a Scripture passage. However, a few things help me as I seek to obey Jesus’s

command to make disciples. The first is that, as a disciple of Jesus myself, growing in my love and knowledge of God and the Scriptures, I naturally have something to share from my own lived experience of relationship with God. Secondly, being faithfully present in the life of someone else to encourage them and help them in their spiritual journey is powerful. Just intentionally taking an interest in how someone is doing in their walk with God can go a long way towards helping them. And most importantly, as we are reminded in 2 Corinthians 4:7, “We have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.” It is God who does the work to grow people. I rely on the Holy Spirit to help me listen well, to prompt me to dig up relevant Scriptures, and to ask good questions. He takes my willingness to show up and does so much more with that than the sum of my experience or skills could ever achieve and despite my imperfect efforts. There is nothing that has encouraged my faith more than seeing God at work through my life in this way. 

HELPFUL INSTRUCTION > <https://vimeo.com/287520370>

