

Making Disciples International (UK)

November 2022

Dear Friends, When is a good time to lay a responsibility down? How do we know? Are there signs? The simple answer is "when God says enough".



There is perfect timing for us and those with whom we work to release a cause, position, or responsibility; it acknowledges God's sovereignty. Guided by the Holy Spirit,

picking things up and laying them down is healthy and positive. There is a time to move over and make room for development because we have run our course. The fullness of one season gives way to a new one.

Signs appear even though you don't necessarily want to see them, and everything seems to concur that change is afoot. Guidance and thought unite; it is the right time to open our clasped hands to release what God entrusted. Our part or contribution in God's process, cycle, or brief is complete. It is okay; we can let go – God has it safe in His keeping. Our part is done, and there is another adventure with the Holy Spirit. The danger of holding on is that we experience the chafing of being out of step with God's yoke. That can cause severe damage to self and others.



The last thirty years of ministry have been stimulating and rewarding. We are richer in every sense. God used people, places, cultures, agencies, and endeavours, to deposit His heart and worldview into ours. We did not just catch a vision to encourage missionaries; we

caught Him! Yes, we poured out our lives with much joy, but more importantly, He poured out His with even greater joy, purpose and intent.

In the beginning, we had a strong compulsion to go and do something significant *for* Jesus. We wanted our lives to count. Now it is more evident that the adventures, albeit with big hearts and the Word and Spirit in hand, were far more about Him working *in* us – honing and transforming us into His likeness. We had to learn at the coalface that it is only by grace and that we could only pass on what we genuinely



possessed of Him. Do you know Him? I mean, *really* know Him to the point of total surrender of all you are and have? Have you allowed that to be tested through unequivocal obedience? In the end, all our work will be tested by fire. With what did we build in life and ministry? On what foundation did we raise our families? For whom have we toiled? There will be

no hiding or excuses. **1 Corinthians 3:12-13** says, "gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear."

A quick review of recent months

- In **July**, we welcomed Elisabeth Personen, a missionary from Finland, for a week of debriefing, which aided a transition from working with one mission to another.
- In **August**, we welcomed Liz Woods, a dear friend we knew from Garden Tomb, Jerusalem, Israel, service many years ago. She came to rest and restore.
- **ISRAEL, 6 – 27 September 2022**

It was a celebration. Wherever we went in Israel, the sense was the same – the very people we had served, taught, loved, and cared for turned to

bless, love and care for us. What we had sown, we were reaping.

Psalms 126:5-6 Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. NKJV

Centred in the Galilee (two weeks) and Jerusalem (one week), we relaxed, met workers, reflected on our spiritual journeys, and rejoiced.

Sharing communion at the Garden Tomb complex in Jerusalem was beautiful, emotional and significant. It marked a full circle. From the Garden Tomb Association, God called Mintie out from Israel "to go to the nations". She went to YWAM in Lausanne, Switzerland, where we met – I was on staff for her school. Who knew then that we would partner in ministry for the next 30 years?

Later that week, as we sat at a Shabbat table (Friday evening) in an apartment in Jerusalem, God had hand-picked four of our special workers to witness the change ahead for us. Who better than those we have served to release us from what was into what will be? It was anointed and emotional. We sat with Bibles open, turning Scriptures into a chorus of thankfulness for the journey, service privilege, and God's blessed companionship.

And now?

1. As we shared previously, Jan anticipated surgery on her left shoulder this Autumn. It is unclear when it happened, but surgery is not needed now. Praise God.
2. Gwynneth Wannell will stay with us from **15-19 December 2022**. Please pray for her as she seeks the Lord's counsel for a significant change. Years ago, Gwynne attended our retreats for single workers.
3. There is a new season of service, keeping our less flexible and weaker frames in mind! Discipleship

will always remain a part of our onward journey, loving God's people, and welcoming them into our home to pass on some of the riches of what God has taught us. May God lead us. There is certainly no time to lose in ensuring we are on the same page as God in matters of the Church (the Body of Christ) and His beloved Israel.

Whilst we are bowing out of international missions, please continue to follow our journey by occasionally checking the Making Disciples website www.makingdisciples.co.uk.

Final words of exhortation

Learn to welcome the shifts that a different season presents. Harmonise with what the Holy Spirit is saying, make adjustments and be content. I read recently, "If spring is about action, then winter is reflection." Like never before, let's immerse ourselves in our Bibles – the Word of God. Is every part of our lives aligned with the Word of God? It is only the Word of God that keeps us from deception. Let's rediscover the privilege of prayer relationships – gathering in twos and threes to pray regularly - with our Bibles open.

For the final time, thank you. Thank you for believing in the call of God upon our lives. Thank you for investing in that call, many times sacrificially. Thank you for your love and friendship, accompanying us in prayer. Now we release you even as you release us to what God plans next.



May God bless us. We wish you all a very blessed Christmas and New Year. Our love, Jan & Mintie

Numbers 6:24-26 "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make

His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

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