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## Right Place – Right Time

Everyone loves those moments... the moments when you just happen to be in the right place at the right time. As Christians, we hold that there is something greater behind these events besides luck or coincidence. We're more comfortable with phrases such as 'divine appointment', 'an open door' or a 'window of opportunity'. We even hold that there is a greater 'master plan' at work in which we are allowed to participate.

**Psalms 37:23** from the New Living Translation reads, "The steps of the godly are directed by the LORD. He delights in every detail of their lives." Isn't that a wonderful thought... God is directing our steps...and that He delights in every detail of our lives?

Another favorite passage of mine regarding this divine coincidence is found in the tiny book of Ruth. Remember, Naomi was returning home to Bethlehem from Moab. Accompanying her is her Moabite daughter-in-law, Ruth. Things are tight. Not much food in the cupboard, so Ruth leaves one morning to try her hand at the custom of gleaning, which means going behind the harvesters and picking up what's left behind. Being a foreigner, she was probably unaware of regional customs, the abuse and difficulty she was getting herself into. After all what's a Moabite woman doing gleaning in Bethlehem's harvest fields? Suffice to say, she could have faced a rather rude if

not injurious morning... that is, had the Lord not been concerned about every *detail of her life!*

I love the language of the King James Version, (Ruth 2:3) "...and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz..." You have to love this! It's early morning in Bethlehem; Ruth leaves Naomi behind and wanders down Main Street, through the

town square and out where the fields are. She looks to this field of wheat and workers and then looks to that field of wheat and workers... and it just so happened that she landed upon the field of the kinsman redeemer who would more than abundantly satisfy her need for food. And eventually provide her a nice home, marriage, title to all the fields and a son named Obed, who would become the father of Jesse, who would become the father of David, King of Israel. **Would you call that a fortunate turn of events?**

When we arrived in Scotland, the town of Hamilton had been selected for us as the place for our church plant. We knew little to nothing of the town, the people, their needs... or what lay in store for us. I guess you could say, "Our hap was to light upon the town of Hamilton." It seemed like a nice town. Little did we know of all God had prepared for us and the many lives which were to be impacted by our obedience.

I've taken the expense to enclose in this newsletter a brochure from our main office entitled – Europe. On



the cover is a skinny kid wearing a Glasgow Rangers top... his name is Gary Matthews. He attends Harvest Christian Fellowship in Hamilton. **Let me tell you his story!**

John and Karen, Gary's parents had been exposed to a church which was quite abusive. The sectarian views had left them confused and disillusioned. They had all but stopped going to church. One night Karen was praying, "Lord, just like the man from Macedonia who prayed, Lord, would you send someone here to help us... Lord send someone to Hamilton!"

- Little did Karen know that God was preparing a family in Texas to relocate to Scotland?
- Little did Karen know that God was doing a new thing, breaking through barriers just to answer her prayer?
- Little did Karen know that God was guiding the Scottish leadership to the little town of Hamilton to be the first church plant in this new partnership?

The Matthews family became one of the first members of Harvest Christian Fellowship. Today, they are involved in a variety of ministries of the church one of which is the prayer ministry of our church... (Wonder why?)



In a library located in Texas, there is a sign that has been seen by many college students. It reads, **"It cost too much to be out of the will of God."** Which is a truth negatively stated. Being the optimist, let's rephrase it, "It pays rich dividends to be found in the will of God." Nothing – nothing – nothing surpasses knowing and doing the will of God. Ruth was in the will of God, doing the will of God when Boaz crossed her path. Right place – right time!

Jeanie and I are in great anticipation of all that awaits us again in Scotland. Our plans are to return to our church plant in Hamilton to continue establishing leadership and certain key ministries. One of which will be our first satellite church. Another great challenge that lies before us will be securing our own church building. Harvest has worshipped in several locations in our short history. Schools, banquet halls, homes and community centers have accommodated the growing church. Due to continued growth, looks like we are on the move again and our choices are beginning to run

out – **we need our own place!** Just as Ruth opened her front door and began walking down the road in simple trust and obedience, we continue to trust God for a divine appointment for property and our own building. Can we ask you to join with us in prayer right now that God will indeed lead us to the "right field?" I truly believe that God has the right place already prepared for us.

I love the quote from W.H. Murray, writing during one of the first Himalayan expeditions:

*"Until one is committed, there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back, always ineffectiveness. Concerning all acts of initiative, there is one elementary truth, the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: that the moment one definitely commits oneself, and then providence moves too. A whole stream of events issues from that decision, raising in one's favor all manner of unforeseen incidents, meetings, and material assistance, which no man could have dreamt would have come his way."*

Nothing is ever really achieved without the risk of obedience!

### **A final thought!**

In regards to being in the right place at the right time Jeanie and I would like to express a special thank you for all the churches, pastors and

individuals who have helped us thus far. I want to encourage you by saying; today there is an active-growing church in Central Scotland because of your partnership with us in missions. I suppose missionaries feel the significance of this partnership more keenly than most. **We are acutely aware that we could not remain in our field of labor were it not for people who faithfully pray and give on a monthly basis.** Simply put, you have enabled us to do God's will!

For over 4 years we have had just over 100 supporters on our partner list who have helped to fund this church planting effort. I want to say, there is a vibrant church to be credited to your account! And very soon this church will be reproducing itself in our first church plant. How I wish every one of you could attend just one service at Harvest to see the happy faces and hear the wonderful stories of changed lives. This is what we live for and you have enabled us to be there... **God bless you!**

# "How Can I Help?"

We are asking God to help us increase our donor base in order to successfully fund this church plant and the many evangelistic crusades and outreaches which are planned for the second term. Monthly pledges are the life-blood of resident missionaries! If you are not currently involved with us financially, can I ask you to do so today? Time is now getting close for Jeanie and me to depart and we are in need of several hundred dollars a month in new pledges to put us over our necessary budget. Thank you in advance for your consideration! Just as Ruth needed the kindness of Boaz, so we are dependent upon God's people responding to His gentle prompting. **Help us again to be in the right place at the right time!**

## **Another crucial area of help is prayer...**

We understand that we are simply the extensions of Christ's body working away in Scotland. And as extensions, we need the life-flow from the Head, through the body; to the hand...that life-flow is prayer. John Wesley once commented, "God does nothing but in answer to prayer."

Without qualification, we know the success the Lord has given us in Scotland has much to do with the band of people who were praying for us in the USA.

## **What do I pray for?**

### **Immediate: Ken, Jeanie, Eric, Keith, Chelsea...**

- Personally, pray for Ken & Jeanie's spiritual life to be renewed and refueled.
- Physically, pray for protection and strength during all the travel.
- Financially, pray for release of finance to support the vision for Scotland.
- Domestically, pray for enjoyable time with immediate family while home.
- Relationally, pray for divine connections with churches/people who share a passion for Europe and serious about doing something!

### **Immediate: Harvest Christian Fellowship...**

- Pray for a place of worship, we are desperate to find our own "home".
- Pray for the young leaders and those who are launching new ministries.
- Pray for continued favor and influence of city officials.

- Pray for the many spring and summer outreaches that many would find Christ.
- Pray for the growing youth ministry: Impact
- Pray for the continued growth of those new in their faith.
- Pray for vision and wisdom for our next church plant - Summer 2007.

### **Immediate: National Church...**

- Pray for the national leaders, Rev. Andrew Smith and team.
- Pray for vision, wisdom, passion, faith and encouragement.
- Pray for the growing church planting strategy.
- Pray for new leaders, ministers and workers to respond to God's call.
- Pray for the health and growth of the current churches.

**For further ideas of how to pray for your missionary families, log onto our website for more information.**



**www.kenmorris.org**

Not sure when the last time you have stopped by and taken a look. We have been working hard to update all our information and give you more opportunities to discover and stay connected with what we're doing in Scotland. Check it out and **let us know what you think!**