

To the Gateway family

Happy New Year!

I hope you all have had a tremendous Christmas and experienced HIS, love, peace and hope at this time. As I thought about the New Year a memory came to mind.

I remember the conversation well; it seems to be burned into my brain. I was in the car, driving up the motorway, I can even remember the stretch of motorway I was on, going up the hill out of Belfast, Belfast Castle on my left and the Valley Leisure Centre playing fields dropping away to my right, which I'd run around for different Cross-Country Championships on many a mucky day as I drove on towards Ballymena and another day's work at Gardiner Dental Practice.

I was happy in work, the singing dentist of Ballymena they used to call me! Please note that it wasn't the good singing dentist, or sensational singing dentist....just the singing dentist of Ballymena, as I used to sing whilst I worked. I loved working for the Gardiner's, great folks, the practice had become like an extended family and as the 2 litre engine made easy work of the hill coming out of Belfast, I was definitely seated comfortably in the leather upholstery with a CD or Terry Wogan whittling away in the background.

The conversation went like this, "God I've got a house, a car, a good job, I can get married anytime" and then I don't know if I articulated it to God or just thought it but I had this vision of the hamster on the wheel, just going round and round. For me the hamster was working, getting married, having children getting old, having grandchildren, going on holidays. It was as if I could see it all and you must understand that from a young age my desire was to get married and have a family..... I know some people dream of being footballers, pro golfers, astronauts and without doubt at certain times I'm sure I fantasised about being a footballer or pro golfer, maybe not the astronaut but my dream, my desire was to have a good job, get married and raise a family, that simple! But I knew there had to be more and I didn't know how to 'get there' and out of my mouth I spoke, "God give me a vision for my life". It was a cry, it was a prayer. I wasn't unhappy, I wasn't frustrated, I just knew there was more. (Some smart person will say a conversation is two way... and I've done all the talking so far!).

Fast forward a few weeks and I'm invited to Brazil by a missionary, fast forward months I'm on a plane to Brazil, keep on going forward and you will see the direction of my life change from ticking a month long yearly commitment to help out in Brazil to leaving everything behind and actually going to Brazil as the missionary dentist from Carryduff Elim.

What is my point?

January has come, another year is upon us. What is your expectation for your life in 2021? I don't think there is anything wrong with going round the hamster wheel, life is full of routine and things that we need to do daily. HOWEVER, we serve such an awesome God who is so much greater than

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Meetings in January

Sunday Mornings 10:30am @ The Church & Online

Word & Prayer 7:30pm - Online Only

Check our Events Page on the Church website for updates and more information

2021  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

To the Gateway family (cont)

our little 'duck pond'. Can we decide to dream, can we decide to expect that God has something fantastic for us in 2021? That as we go round our hamster wheels because the shopping needs doing, the children need taking to school, the bills need to be paid, that God has something more, something greater for us, can we let faith arise? Can we position our hearts to be willing to take some steps outside of our 'normal', can we muster a cry that will come into agreement with HIS SPIRIT as we cry, greater things are yet to come!

For many years I chased my dreams, I would even dare to say, many were godly dreams but this year, I must, I would be ommissive if I didn't challenge you to chase God and let Him bring your dreams into fruition.

God has more for you! More for you in His presence, more for you to share and lead you in discovery of, more for you to dream and to do..... but for the more, you must decide to say yes to God, time and time again.

Let's say 'YES' to God in 2021. More time in His presence, more time in the Word, more time being sensitive to the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 3:20-21 "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever."

Let us be His bondservants without reserve.

**BELIEVE. EXPECT. BE READY & SAY YES.**

God's richest blessings

Pastors Marty & Rebeca

Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses went into the tabernacle of witness, and behold, the rod of Aaron, of the house of Levi, had sprouted and put forth buds, had produced blossoms and yielded ripe almonds.

Numbers 17 : 8



Remember...