

Grow!

Spiritual passion and Church growth

Berkshire visitations 2013



Why spirituality leads to growth

Keiffert, Church growth researcher in the US has shown that whilst churches that put on nurture courses grow, overall more churches grow and grow bigger when

- The priest takes his or her own spiritual development and discipleship seriously
- And when the congregation begins to own and inhabit the Biblical narrative

We are Here Now, The Revd. Prof. Pat Keiffert

If our churches are to grow, we
need to grow

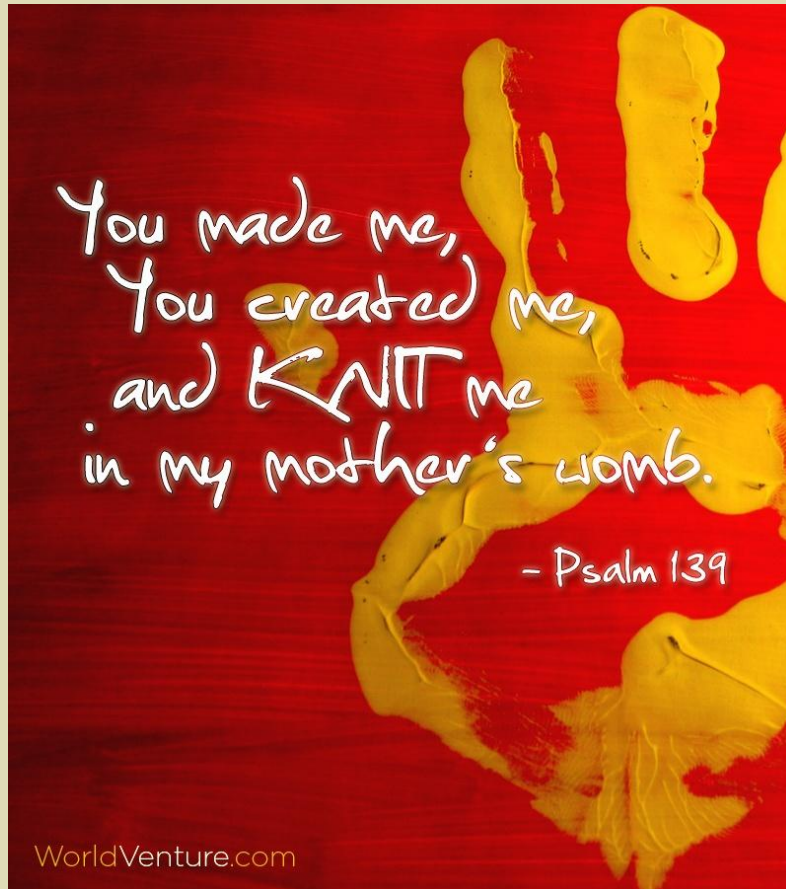
Theologically &
Spiritually



We grow through discipleship

- Discipleship as ‘a long obedience in the same direction’ [Eugene Peterson].
- ‘You did not chose me; I chose you.’
- Making disciples - the main task of the Church today – for the whole of life – home, leisure and work matter.
- We grow as disciples as we engage in mission [Mt 28:16].
- The purpose of being a disciple is to be a blessing to others and to bear fruit.
- If we’re going to preach good news, we’ve got to be good news first – individually and as a community.

Confidence in who we are and what we have



Resources to use and things you might do

- Good news for Young People – take it further in your PCC
- Take people to the next LYCIG conference (October 12th)
- Run a nurture course regularly: Alpha, Start, Emmaus
- Go deeper - prayer and Bible study together and alone
- Grow in our commitment to each other - try to resolve disputes/conflict locally and under God
- MAPs – plan for *mission* not maintenance - be proactive, not problem-driven (9th November)
- Mission Development Fund



Look inwards:
Guard the *fire* within
Develop your spiritual passion
and depth with God,
through worship, prayer and study

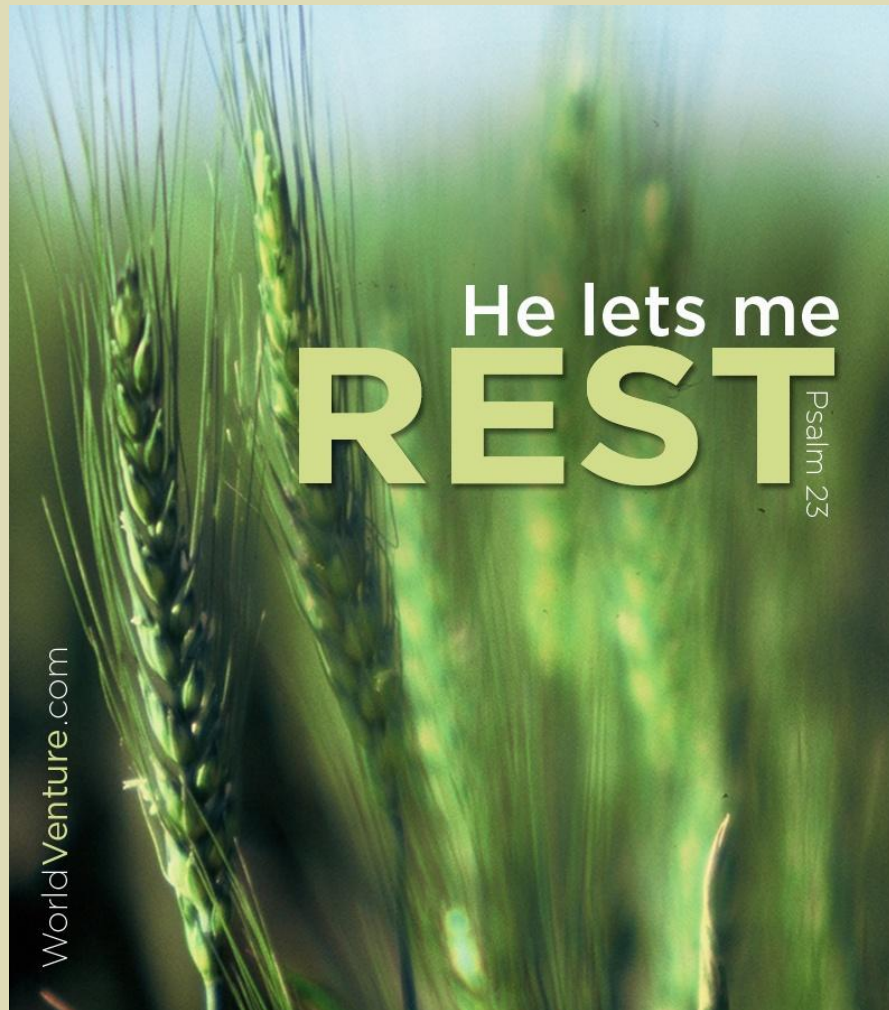


And look outwards: Develop spiritual curiosity



- Watching and waiting
- Reading the signs of the times
- Naming His presence and activity – encouraging one another to ‘see’ God at work
- Spotting what God is doing in the lives of those around us
- Discerning where He is leading

Do everything out of deep communion with God



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He lets me
REST Psalm 23

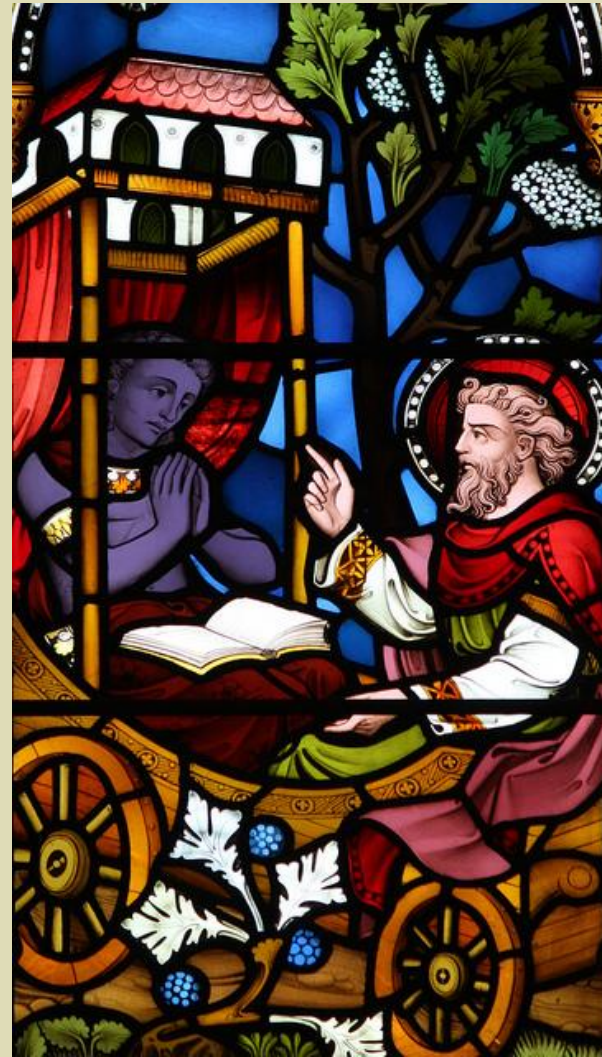
And rely on Him in everything



Fresh inspiration for mission: Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Acts 8: 26-39

Window in Exeter College Oxford



God uses ordinary people in his mission

Philip the
deacon, not
Peter the
wonder-worker
and great
preacher



God plants us where we are to
face the challenges of that
place at this time



We may never see the fruit of
our labours

But do it anyway!

