

Word For The Week

10 July 2020

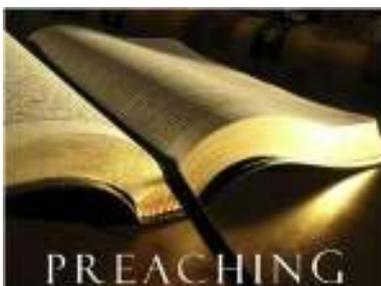
Preaching Dates

Sunday 12 July 2020

Frances Bloomfield (am) in a Zoom service at Cathcart Baptist Church.

Stephen Ilett (am) at both Dingwall and at Forres Baptist Churches at 11am . Dingwall is on Zoom and Forres has been pre-recorded.

Aubrey Jamieson (am) recording an online service for Lerwick Baptist Church closing Seafarers' Awareness Week, 6 – 12th July



“Hello – Are You Available For ...

By Bill Haining

I'm sure that many of you have answered the phone some evening and heard the pastor or perhaps a church secretary from another church ask this question of us, *“Hello....are you available to preach on....”*. Believe it or not, people who are available to be used by God in great ways are not thick on the ground! How many of us will only give a positive response if we feel comfortable with what God may be asking us to do? God wants us to be like Samuel in the temple when he says *“Speak Lord your servant hears you..”*.

Tony Campolo tells the following story which I think illustrates this point really well. He was to speak at a big college rally in America and before he spoke, several men took him backstage and began to pray that God would use his message. While praying, one of the men, just off the cuff began to pray...*“Now Lord, about Bert Harris - Bert needs you right now, real bad Lord... because He lives in the trailer at the end of our churches street and he's considering leaving his wife and family. Somehow Lord, somehow if you could just get through to Bert... that would be wonderful!*

Campolo thought... *“Well, that's strange that he would pray for that here... it really has nothing to do with what I'm going to be speaking on... and he went on to give his message. Afterwards, when he was driving home he stopped to pick up a hitchhiker. He said, “I know I'm not supposed to pick up hitchhikers...but being a preacher, I've learned to take advantage of a captive audience!” So this hitchhiker gets into his car, they exchange small talk for a little bit and then Campolo says, “By the way...my name's Tony, what's yours?” The hitchhiker answers...“Bert...Bert Harris.”*

Campolo immediately stops the car, turns around and begins to drive in the opposite direction ...The guys asks, *“What's going on? What are you doing?”* Campolo answers, *“I'm taking you back to your wife and family, who you're trying to walk out on!”* The guy goes white! He sits there speechless as Campolo drives him right up to his trailer...*“How did you know where I lived? “God told me!”* He took Bert inside, spent the next few hours talking to him & his wife, and ended up leading Bert to the Lord. Over time their marriage was miraculously put back together, and the family was restored!

An amazing story? Could that really happen to plain ordinary me? We are slowly learning to call situations like that, *“God Appointments”*. I know I am tempted to say, *“How come God doesn't use me like that? Why don't I experience Him in that way?”*. Tony Campolo's answer is this... *“He will! Believe me...If you will make yourself available... God will wear you out with His special assignments and appointments!”*. The challenge is to stop focusing on what we CAN'T do... and instead let God guide and empower us through obedience to His call. God doesn't use only the Tony Campolos of this world. If we want God to use us, bear in mind that our greatest ability is our 'availability'!!