



MARCH NEWS AUTUMN 2014

Dear Friends and Family,

They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31b

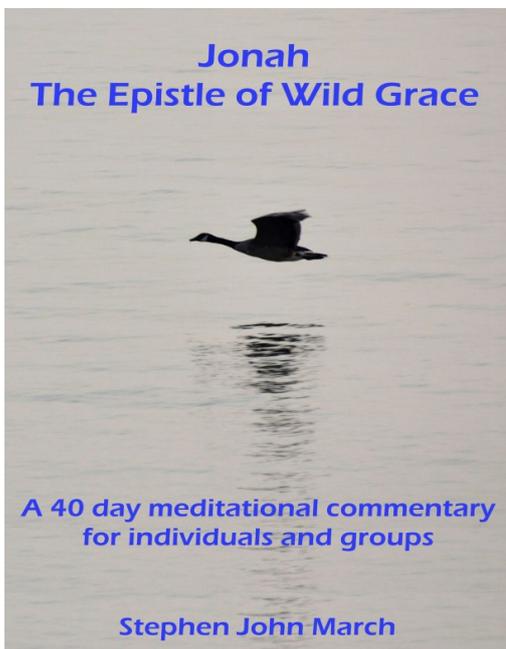
Sharon and I were reminded recently that it is the last of these three that is the most difficult - to continue faithfully 'trudging' along without losing heart or hope in the face of ordinariness.

We have felt the challenge of this very much during this extended period of waiting for God to open up an invitation for our future. When the page is blank and nothing looks like happening, we have found it tough to not to become spiritually down, or even angry with God - why, so long?

However over recent weeks we have seen God use this time to bring some positives into our lives. Sharon and I have been re-doing the Experiencing God course by Henry Blackaby, and once again this has impacted us powerfully and helped us gain perspective, re-learn some key truths, and re-focus. We are definitely in a better place spiritually than we were and for this we thank God.

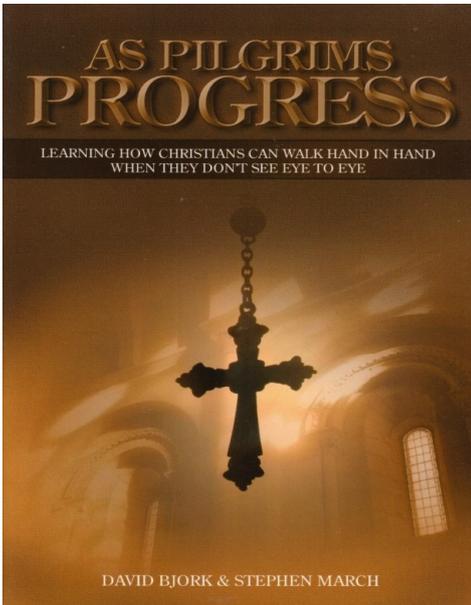
We were reminded that waiting is not inactive. Rather by waiting, "...you are shifting the responsibility of the outcome to God - where it belongs". Blackaby relates that, in his own experience of ministry, the times of waiting were the hardest. Times when you are praying asking God to lead you and your congregation and yet nothing seems to be happening. However, if you believe that only God has the right to tell you what to do, there is no other option. But in the waiting time we face a crisis; "Are we willing to pray until God brings it about?" Please pray that Sharon and I would have the faith, courage and tenacity to hold on in hope and confidence until God brings us His invitation.

And then that we would have the faith, courage and tenacity, to do it!



This time of relative inactivity has also had the positive result that Stephen has been able to finally finish his meditational commentary on Jonah. "Jonah - The epistle of wild grace" has now been published and is available for purchase through www.lulu.com, and all other online retailers, in hardback, paperback and eBook formats. There has been a lot of positive feedback from people who have bought the book and worked through the 40 day study course. So we praise God for that. The French version, *Jonas l'épître de la grâce déchaînée*, is now in the final stages of preparation and should hopefully be published by the end of October.

The expertise Stephen developed in print-on-demand publishing through this activity has already been put to good use. He was able to prepare hardback, paperback and eBook versions of Gordon Bell's great children's adventure book "Pre-Race Tensions".



Stephen then prepared hardback and eBook versions of the book he wrote in 2006 with David Bjork "As Pilgrims Progress - Learning how Christians can walk hand in hand when they don't see eye to eye". After that he also published all versions of David's first book, which was out of print, "Unfamiliar Paths - The challenge of recognizing the work of Christ in strange clothing".

So this time of 'quiet' has been very productive with regard to publishing! Please pray that God would use these books to bless, encourage and teach many people. They also make ideal Christmas presents! ☺

This time of quiet has also been very significant for us with regard to the boys. We have seen Ben finish his engineering studies and find a permanent job in Strasbourg. He will officially graduate on November 15th and we shall be there to enjoy that. He is already working full-time in the company where he did his last placement.



We have seen Caleb recruited into the French Police and successfully complete his basic training. We watched his passing - out parade as proud parents! He has been posted to the central police station in Dijon and has moved into a flat in the city centre. So far he loves his job, which is great!



We also had the joy of going to Stirling to see Joshua graduate. But his studies are far from completed! He won one of two funded PhD places and has just begun his work back in his old department but on staff this time!! He has moved into a flat in the centre of Stirling. So the March boys are all settled, either in work or in paid study, which is a great relief for us and perhaps now is the time where we can move on to something else?

Prayer Requests:

Please join with us in thanking and praising God for His provision for our family over these past 19 years. We have had minimal income (we haven't earned enough to pay tax in ANY of these years!) and yet we have put each of our boys through full-time education and they are now settled in their chosen career paths with o student loans or debts! It is amazing to us that we have been able to do this! Mathematically it shouldn't have been possible! Praise the Lord!

As we have indicated above, we would continue to ask for prayer regarding God's invitation for our future.

We would also ask for prayer for the 11th November. Father Yves has asked us to talk to a group of young people during a weekend retreat preparing them for confirmation. He actually phoned us while he and 4 other priests were preparing the programme, and he said, "We wanted to have a couple come to talk to the young people about the difference it makes to have God in your life, and you were the first people we thought of!" This was a great encouragement for us, to know that somehow our lives have spoken to those around us. Please pray that God would give us something to share with the young people and that He would prepare our hearts to give it and their hearts to receive it.

May God bless you for your prayers and faithful support.



Stephen, Sharon, Benjamin, Joshua and Caleb