

## **What God has been saying and doing since 19/5** **or - It's all about Him**

### Background:

- I. I celebrated 42 years of marriage 11 days ago  
I surrendered my life to the lord when I was 21. When a young teenager, I was always responsive to the Lord,  
Often sought Padre, Mr Reg Fry, who in exchange provided Fry's chocolate cream bars
- II. I was part of fellowships/churches for the 30 years and I was a very focused young man for the Lord.
- III. When I came over to the UK in 1984 I promised God, during a run, that I would serve Him whether a millionaire or a pauper. A TRANSACTION
- IV. Then after joining up with Medlocks in 1985, absolutely at the Lord's request, I went to 153 for 9 years. Church was so huge as a priority - initially driving 60 miles each way, then moved to the area despite working in North London
- V. Started coming to Whiteknights 9 years ago. I have read the bible through each year for last 6 years, so have been going with the Lord for some long time
- VI. BUT 2 ½ years ago, following a serious accident, God woke me up, and I have no intention of going to sleep on Him again.

**William Wilberforce**, (1759-1833) was responsible for the abolition of the slave trade and the subsequent emancipation of slaves – a feat starting in 1788 and achieved just before he died.

He wrote to a man seeking spiritual counsel and said:

“If you read the Scriptures with earnest prayer and a sincere desire for discovering the truth and obeying it when known, I cannot doubt of you obtaining it”. I LIKE THAT, ITS SO SIMPLE.

So all I am subjecting you to today is what I believe the Lord has shown me over the last 3 months. How do I know it's the Lord? - Well a thought comes and I never before have had this thought, or my heart burns, or calmer still, I go 'Yes, that's the clarification of some point which I have been mulling over.

Pls Stuart, no fidgeting!!

<p><b>That I may know Him Phil 3:10</b></p>	<p><b>That's the key!</b> I have no problem with 'I believe Him" but do I KNOW HIM?  We are no use whatsoever until Jesus comes and shines upon us.  So 3 words comprise the headings of my thoughts – no more, no less.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Consecration</b></li> <li>• <b>Prayer</b></li> <li>• <b>Mission</b></li> </ul>
	<p><b>1. Consecration</b> – such a great description of what we need – <b>HOLY+WHOLLY DEDICATED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• START WITH - 'O wretched man that I am' - this is the gateway to 'The Spirit of Life in Christ which has made me free from the law of sin and death. <b>John Newton, Amazing Grace</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Ezekiel 36/27 I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and you shall keep my judgements and do them.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You shall have no power whatsoever of your own, but the power of the Holy Spirit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 'force of nature' – No! - Force of God – and He's no forcer</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Fall in love with Me every day and I will keep you Holy.</li> <li>• Take grace as something you don't deserve and is freely given</li> </ul>
<p><b>1 Cor 4:7 What have you that you did not receive? Now if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am bewildered by my blessings, home, daily life, family, sport, business, which are absolutely far and above anything I could have wished for. Thank you Jesus!</li> <li>• My life is relationship with Jesus and nothing to do with His blessings. They are His to give or take if He so wishes. They pale into insignificance in the light of knowing HIM. Blessings often come with responsibilities and strings attached</li> </ul>
	<p><b><u>(Jesus, my first joy, I want to worship Him)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consecration is entered by an act of faith ... You are to take the gift from God, believe you have, and confess that you have it.</li> <li>• Then you are to ignore the old life and reckon its no longer yours if it should come up again. Every time it appears say 'Sorry, I am with Jesus"</li> <li>• Consecration is getting Him fully, instead of our miserable life.</li> <li>• 2 persons in consecration – the dear Lord and ourselves. The moment we consecrate ourselves to Him, He consecrates Himself to us</li> </ul>
	<p><b><u>GETTING TO THE SOURCE – negative and positive ways</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I desire very much to eliminate/reduce obstacles to getting to the Source <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ TV/Trips/Books etc</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Now the more Jesus shines into your heart, the more the joy of worldly pleasures fade.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>THIS IS THE ISSUE - DECISION MADE (TRANSACTION)</b> <b>Tiger says, "What you put in, you get out"</b></li> </ul> <p>Another aspect it that <b>time</b> is always redeemed when your heart is aligned. <b>Heart alignment</b>, not time is the key 'I can see clearly now- I can see all obstacles in my way' – Jimmy Cliff</p>
<p><b>Phil 3:7,8 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yes indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish that I may gain Christ.</b></p>	<p><b>There are many issues in my personal life that might disturb me and let me lose my joy.</b> All in His hands. Today will be wonderful whatever</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'I only knew that Jesus was all I needed when He was all I had left' – Burundi missionary, Simon Guillebaud Chris Kristoferson sang: 'Freedom is just another word for nothing left to lose</li> <li>• I read about Charles Spurgeon's conversion and passion. And I looked at my IWC Watch, and counted it rubbish. A TRANSACTION</li> <li>• We consecrate ourselves entirely above <b>all</b> other relationships, possessions, business, ambitions and hobbies.</li> <li>• If we don't make that transaction we will end up saying – 'I trade all my tomorrows for a single yesterday</li> </ul>
<p><b>Romans 6:14 Sin shall not have dominion over you</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It does not. (Never before have I said this)</li> <li>• God keeps me so busy that I have little time to sin.</li> <li>• Did not do right: Did a real transaction with God @ Hanbury in July. He forgave me. I must mean my repentance, otherwise no <b>transaction</b>. THE DEAL IS DONE!</li> <li>• A tiny misdirection can lead to a much bigger sin so be careful . How do I know this?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Isa 9:6 the government shall be upon His shoulders, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace</b></p>	<p><b><u>His direction, His decisions</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Let the government of our life be on His shoulders – <b>That's it! – Another TRANSACTION</b></li> <li>• Major decisions are easy for us as they are God's responsibility</li> <li>• When your brain does not work, Cling to God when going to sleep, or where there's a major matter.</li> </ul>
	<p><b><u>His purposes and plans for us</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christ chases you down. He always gets His man</li> <li>• Talk about John Newton – absolute PITS as a man, until God got him. Major influence on Wilberforce</li> </ul>

**Job 13:15 Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.**

**Is 41:10 Fear Not for I am with you: be not dismayed, for I am your God: I will strengthen you; yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with the right hand of My righteousness**

- How long do you want to take, in God shaping your vision – **depends if you are listening**
- Character is always revealed in a crisis
- **I am entirely satisfied with the Lord Jesus Christ, whatever my circumstances**
- I asked God to open my heart and give my mind opportunities to be like Mr Thornton: (John Newton & Wilberforce biographies)  
Generosity and Compassion.  
Purity, humility and joy before God  
**The Great Secret to Eternal Life is to KNOW GOD.**

## **I want to be for God, what Bill was for Liverpool AFC**

**A Secular Example of consecration: Bill Shankly**

**\*SIMPLE \* PASSIONATE \* ONE DIMENSIONAL**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Loved LFC</li><li>• Loved Liverpool</li><li>• Loved people of Liverpool</li><li>• Worked very hard</li><li>• Was one of them</li><li>• Was humble</li><li>• Was a visionary</li><li>• Kind man</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not materialistic</li><li>• Served LFCL and People</li><li>• Wise and knowledgeable</li><li>• Full of passion for LFC</li><li>• Built it into world</li><li>• Class team from mid table 2<sup>nd</sup> team in ruins</li></ul>
<b>That's what I want!</b>	

	<p><b>2. <u>Prayer</u> – and things I have learnt and grown in:-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>How:</u></b> This is about <u>relationship</u> with Jesus, not a religious duty or activity. I want to know I am beside the Lord, holding onto Him, talking with Him. I also love knowing I am kneeling before the throne of grace. Often I put my right hand out , imagining He is holding my hand. This is a real chat with the real live Lord</li> <li>• <b><u>When:</u></b> Have QT am and always pm to be sure of a clear heart pre sleep – what about noon? - Paul and the Bali Hindus</li> <li>• LOOK UP – <b><u>ALWAYS</u></b> LOOK UP! Prayed to God for time to spend time with Him. Declared to Him this is my desire and ask for opportunities. He gave them.</li> <li>• <b><u>What:</u></b> I put forward all my needs before God and promised to <b>await His unfolding.</b>  <b>NO MOVE BY ME. Filled to brim with joy for Him, Praise be to Him!</b>  <b>Remember I am a forcer, a doer, not a patient waiter – so therefore not natural to me</b></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Specific words from God:</u></b> 4/11, 4/13, 13/5, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>“Something remarkable is happening in our family”.</b> My words at 10.40 pm driving along suddenly.</li> <li>○ Believe God for big things and small things. Do not be disturbed or distracted</li> <li>○ Pray and trust God for your family, grandchildren. He will keep them for you as you /they get older</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>2 CHRON 16:9 For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Specific answers to prayer recently</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The goslings – and why</li> <li>○ Billie’s glasses – increased Chris’ and my faith – However I was already certain – expand on this</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">THANK YOU LORD!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Paul F- We prayed together in church meeting/ Stuart - it was worthwhile</li> <li>○ John Mc – a .37% man</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>When you pray for folk, they are all that matter to you</b></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God answers prayer in very ordinary ways, giving us just enough – what we would be most happy with, PRIOR to asking. Sometimes His answers are almost invisible to us.</li> </ul>
<b>Neh 4:9. Nevertheless we made our prayer to God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Nehemiah in trouble</u> So he prays and then makes a plan, though as Dr Chalmers used to say; “Trusting as though all depended upon God, and working as though all depended on me.</li> </ul>
<b>Matt 5:11 Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account 2 Cor10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty in God, for pulling down strongholds; casting down imaginations and every thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ</b>	<p><b><u>He gives us His mind, His wisdom</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People are sometimes sent as a trial, appointed by God. Blessed are you when folks revile you etc <b>They are just the cat’s paw of the devil!</b></li> <li>• As soon as we pray it seems that all hell breaks loose. Its not all ‘googah mahogany! We have to discern when to be strong, and when to be compliant, always in faith and in love, and be under God’s direction. Avoid action in your own fleshly retaliation or defense. Do not take the law into your own hands particularly when we think it is most fair for us to do so.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>WAIT – THIS DOES NOT WASTE TIME</u></b></p> <p><u>Hold fast to my faith.</u> Asked Jesus Christ to pray that my faith would not fail</p>
<b>2 Kings 4:38-41. Now it happened that as they were eating the stew, they cried out and said “Man of God, there is</b>	<p><b>The world’s wisdom is not God’s .</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don’t fall for the lies of the devil and the thinking of the world, albeit they often make common sense. Satan’s lies pertain in when poison had been added to the prophets’ pot of stew, Elisha threw in meal(flour) - a picture of Jesus - and there was health in the pot, death was finished!</li> <li>• Our viewpoint on our problems is often that they will always get worse. Eg the goslings died</li> </ul>

<p><b>death in the pot” and they could not eat it. So he said, “Then bring some flour”. And he put it into the pot , and said, “Serve it to the people, that they may eat.” And there was nothing harmful in the pot</b></p>	<p>last time so they will die again (until Christ intervened) The glasses will never be found as we have looked everywhere (until Christ intervened) the authorities will always charge if there is a multiple death (until Christ intervened) →. This person is spreading poison against me, and it will get worse (until Christ intervenes).</p> <p>Jesus has put us in these circumstances for a purpose.. ITS GOD’S PROBLEM, NOT OURS. Job is an example. If we belong to God and put our life and family and our all in His hands we may know He will take care of us.</p>
<p><b>2 Chron 7:14 If my people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land</b></p>	<p><b><u>BIGGER PICTURE</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suddenly occurred to me over breakfast that UK deficit, NHS pressure, policy pressure etc was that folks were selfish &amp; sinful. People need to repent.</li> <li>• Jonah and Nineveh. 120,000 people repented and God spared them – and some animals!(the wife is very happy!)</li> </ul>
	<p><b>God is just training me, purging me, making me faithful and trustworthy, all the time. Its Boot Camp and therefore unpleasant much of the time, ‘cos its training. How will I be trained for the Mission unless I am trained?</b></p>
	<p><b>3. <u>Mission</u></b></p> <p><b>I am more and more aware that there are people round us all the time – every contact – and to be ready to speak – When you are ‘aligned’, you are always ready.</b></p> <p>Mary spoke on 2/6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preach the gospel, (<b>which is the truth, which is why it is vital to us</b>)in the Spirit and the keepers (the enemy’s envoys) will become as dead men</li> <li>• People in bondage everywhere, that’s why we have a responsibility to preach the gospel</li> </ul>

	<p>and set them free, ie Robert</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God wants us to speak to men so that they will feel it, and so that they will never forget it. God sent you to be a power yourself. There is no place for failure in the Christian life if we will take God's resources.</li> </ul> <p><b>Men will only listen to God when they are at their wits' end</b></p>
<p><b>Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.</b></p> <p><b>John Newton</b></p>	<p><b>Already finding I am speaking more and more freely to people</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AW's wife , very ill with virus. No one knows. In open mtg I said:'Look up and talk to Big Man – its one for Him. Ist time ever. Nearly common now. I reminded him the other day</li> <li>• I have not arrived but I feel it is coming.</li> <li>• The fowler must go cautiously to meet shy birds, but he will not leave his powder and shot behind</li> </ul>
<p><b>All that thrills my soul in Jesus; He is more than life to me; And the fairest of ten thousand, In my blessed Lord I see.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Upside down</u></b>  <b>Most of what I do are the same things, the same patterns, but the approach is turned upside down: eg in work, events, everything</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I knew when I prayed today that all that thrills my heart is Jesus, He is more than life to me, and that I had become a soldier for Christ, which I was truly happy to be. Amen!</li> <li>• Blenheim: My goal today is to worship Him all day long with “all that thrills my heart is Jesus” - Verdict on day: Really, really good, very happy, things went very well, and if they didn't, so what?</li> <li>• <b>Repeat – each day</b></li> <li>• I am entirely delighted with the Lord Jesus Christ in my life. Taking closer order with the Lord, i.e. not drifting off to the back of the field – Brendan Foster</li> </ul>
<p><b>John 13:14 If I your Lord and teacher have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet</b></p> <p><b>Peter Richards</b></p>	<p><b><u>Changing me</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slowly God is giving me patience and wisdom with folks - unbelievable</li> <li>• I loved the Bajan caddy</li> <li>• It takes a super-natural power of God to keep us as saints in the drab commonplace days</li> <li>• Jesus sweated in the carpenter's shop. He will absolutely assist us in our work, as we ask Him for wisdom. God gave me Medlocks, and has blessed me. But we must still work like stink.</li> </ul> <p>Ask God for wisdom in faith and you will receive wisdom.</p>



<p><b>2 Cor 2:14 Thanks be to God, who always causes us to triumph in Christ, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of Him everywhere</b></p> <p><b>Pro 22:4 By humility and the fear of the Lord, are riches and honour and life.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘Human beings know human beings too well to mistake where goodness comes from. When they see certain characteristics they will know they come only from the indwelling of Jesus.</li> <li>• The Fragrance of Christ</li> <li>• Be kind, be wise, be sensitive to the needs of others.</li> <li>• Be tender in your words/actions lest someone fall.</li> <li>• Charles Simeon: Humility downwards, then we go heavenwards</li> </ul>
<p><b>Acts 17:6 These who have turned the world upside down -</b></p>	<p><b>Not always easy and straightforward this <u>mission</u></b></p> <p><b><u>How enormously different were the lives of old saints - 17, 18, 19 century,</u></b> and how enormous were the fruits of their lives. John Bunyan, John Newton, Paul the apostle who turned the world upside down ,George Mueller, George Whitfield John, Paul, George, - where’s Ringo?</p> <p><u>Admission:</u> I am not passionate for Christ as Oswald, Paul or Spurgeon. <b>This is my desire and my quest!</b> These men had many sufferings and major successes After all, it was God’s will to bruise His own Son, why should it not be His will to bruise you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am starting to realize God’s calling (STARTING) Now God has to forge His weapons in the furnace to be effective – OUCH</li> <li>• The night of sorrows will be turned into a morning of joy</li> </ul>
	<p>Driving to work on 19/7 it seemed clear to me to turn off John Piper on Mueller on the Ipod &amp; listen as I thought God wished to mention something to me.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God does not want me to retire</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your mission is 300 people</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>God has put me where I am today, cos He wants me to be where I am today and I TREASURE THAT.</u></b></p>
<p><b>2 chron 1:10 Ask! What shall I give you? Now give me wisdom &amp; knowledge that I may go out and come in before the people, for who can judge this great people of yours.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Solomon's choice with God -</u></b></p> <p><b><u>I thought of MY reply to God and what would I have said?:</u></b>  My desire is to be someone who listens to you and consistently obeys the leadings of Your Holy Spirit, and is considered trustworthy by You, and I become like David - 'A man after God's own heart'.</p>