

Experimental Christian

INTRODUCTION

It is now 35 years since “Path of Hope in Ireland” was compiled, cast as bread upon the waters in 1983. It was not very long before what was shared in it was tested, tested by passing warnings from the spirit, tested by period of underemploymentopportunities to live as an “experimental Christian” words that have continued to ring in my mind since I read them on a tomb stone in the grounds of a church in Jedburgh in Southern Scotland in 1965. I guess that phrase sums up my life which has now reached three score years plus fifteen. Path of Hope was written at a time when we were planning to move to America to be nearer Marj’s Parents, written to leave behind testimony of the goodness and faithfulness of God and the refreshed awareness of the call I heard over 50 years ago to follow Jesus and confess him as Lord. This book is an expansion and update of what was in Path of Hope including additional insights and experiences.

Introduction as included in Path of Hope 1983 follows.

Unity in Jesus is a possibility and the glory of God has been given so that we may be one in Him¹. I am writing because I have seen with my own eyes and experienced God's abundant life today. Many other wonderful things have happened during these past years, but this book is intentionally limited to what I personally know about. I wish to give God the credit and honour for all that has happened. I pray that more of the Lord's glory will be seen today and I ask that when the Lord speaks to you, you will listen and obey Him². Yes, obey Him just as Mary did when she was called upon to bear the Son of God. If you find what is written difficult to understand, please ponder it in your hearts³ and ask the Holy Spirit to teach you the meaning⁴ for the book is not just a story.

Basically I am an engineer. I am not a scientist, a theologian or church historian. An engineer is someone who uses formula that have been known to work rather than someone who is involved in **why** the formula work. What this book is supposed to be doing is sharing about formulae found in the Book of Books; the Bible; which I have believed; stepped out in faith on and found to work.

¹ John 17:22

² Luke 1:37 & John 2:5

³ Luke 2:19

⁴ John 16:13

There are other formulae which I have not seen or tested, but what is recorded is to help people realise that Jesus Christ is alive and that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. The challenge to us today is to demonstrate to the world that our faith works by the lives we live. It is not a day to argue over theories⁵, but to live out our faith and so be able to testify to the validity of our faith in the skeptical world in which we live. ,

If, as you read these pages, you feel I am wrong, please forgive me and pray for me. I write with a sense of awareness that I, as well as each one of us, will some day have to stand before the judgment seat of Jesus Christ⁶ and we will all have to give account of every idle word we speak.⁷ Yes, it is before the Head of the church⁸ Jesus Christ, that we will all stand and the question asked then will not be; "Am I better than this or that person -this or that denomination, or whether we said all the right things " The question will be; "Did we do the will of the Father?"⁹

One of the truths the Lord has been talking to me about is that **one should not speak the truth¹⁰ to someone until one loves them**. Indeed, the person should **know** that one loves them. I pray that the parts of this book which are written with a view to helping

⁵ 1 Timothy 1:3-7

⁶ Matthew 25:31-36

⁷ Matthew 12:36-37

⁸ 1 Corinthians 12:27 & Ephesians 1:22-23

⁹ Matthew 7:21-23 Luke 6:46-49

¹⁰ Ephesians 4:15

you understand people from my background will be received in the love in which they are written. May you try to feel as I feel even if you disagree with me so that God's love will heal injustice and bring us to what God wants us to be so together we may see God's glory manifested. Many Scripture references are included in the text. Some are quoted some are not. It is not intended that you should refer to these as you initially read this book. The references are there so that passages can be looked up and you can assure yourselves that the quotations have not been taken out of context or misused.

As I was pondering the divisions among Christians recently, I felt to look up Luke 11v17. "Every Kingdom divided against itself is laid waste..." We who profess to be Christians must *draw closer to Jesus Christ, the true light that enlightens everyone coming into this the world,¹¹ and let his light shine in the darkest parts¹² of our lives, that we may have his mind¹³ within us¹⁴* and stand together that the forces of evil and not us, be laid waste.

¹¹ John 1:9 Jesus left a benchmark in the Sands of Time. Available for those look

¹² Luke 11:36

¹³ Philippians 2:1-12

¹⁴ *Italic words added in update*