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Briefing 86: Tuesday 19th October, 2021.

Dear Friends,

It was great to be back with you all again on Sunday after our time away. Thank you so much for your prayers. Judy and I were blessed with a time of real rest and refreshment in Cyprus as we sat under the Mediterranean sun and swam in the clear waters of the pool and the sea. The highlight for me was finding a turtle swimming just offshore, and watching it feed and glide effortlessly through the waters for 10 minutes or so. Rather clumsily I deleted the video - but the picture below shows just how close I managed to get. What a glorious creator we have, who made such a wonderful world!



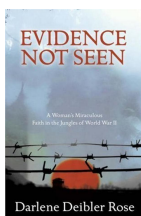
Part of our habit on holiday is reading, and we both managed to get through a number of good books, including the 2 below. Both of them are stirring and well-written biographies of Christian missionaries who found themselves taken captive, but who found God's peace, power and grace wonderfully at work in their captivity - and even in some of their captors.

As we heard on Sunday, the apostle Paul (*who incidentally visited Cyprus on his missionary journeys – you can read about that in Acts chapter 13*) knew all about persecution, suffering and imprisonment for the sake of Jesus. Yet despite his difficult circumstances, he was still able to appeal to Timothy to *"join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Jesus Christ."* 2 Timothy 2 v3. Paul knew, as the missionaries in these biographies knew, as I hope we know, that any suffering or difficulty or persecution that comes our way through being a disciple of Jesus, is worth it, no matter how hard it might be. For **the gospel is true** – and eternal life awaits in glory for all those who trust in Jesus. The **Word of God is powerful and reliable** - for only the gospel of Jesus is the power of God for salvation. And having received God's forgiveness for ourselves, we must surely be moved through compassion and love to share that same gospel, that only gospel, with the **many who need a saviour**.

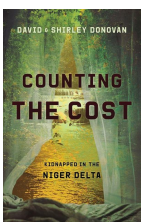
It's unlikely that any of us will face the same kind of situations as the people in these books, or indeed anything like St Paul and the early apostles faced. But as you read these accounts – and I hope you will – I know you'll be encouraged, as Timothy was, to stand firm in the gospel, strong in the grace that is ours in Christ Jesus.

Grace and peace,

Dave



"Evidence Not Seen" follows one courageous woman's story from the New Guinea jungle to four years in a Japanese Prisoner of War camp. Separated from those she loved, Darlene faced beatings and torment for a crime she did not commit. Yet despite the horrors of suffering, her future was secure. Her life was in God's hands. This balances a moving account of faith with the love of a gracious God who cares, and is testimony to the way in which God upholds his people through the most difficult of times. [Evidence Not Seen \(Paperback\) - Darlene Deibler Rose - 10ofThose.com](#)



British missionaries David and Shirley Donovan were running a health centre in Nigeria when a pounding on their bedroom door tipped their lives upside down. Threatened at gunpoint, held hostage and ransomed for a billion naira, they tell of the grace that allowed them to witness to their kidnappers in the midst of the chilling and disturbing realisation of what man is capable of. [Counting the Cost \(Paperback\) - David Donovan and Shirley Donovan - 10ofThose.com](#)

IMPORTANT STUFF – DON'T JUST GLANCE- TAKE IT ALL IN!

Come + Pray!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRAYER GATHERING: 7:45pm-9pm IN CHURCH

Or email Dave for the Zoom link

FRIDAY NIGHT at St Nicks Church from 7pm-9pm.

Come + join us and pray with us for our churches, parishes and God's world.

Private Prayer in St Nicholas church THIS WEEK and NEXT WEEK.

Tuesday 19th from 2pm-4pm, Wednesday 20th from 12noon-2pm, + Thursday 21st from 10am - 12noon.

Tuesday 26th from 2pm-4pm, Wednesday 27th from 12noon-2pm, + Thursday 28th from 10am - 12noon.

LITTLE LAMBS: Our toddler group for preschool children and their parents, grandparents etc! Fridays in term time from 9 - 10:30am in the Parish Room. Do come and bring your friends!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: **Stuart still needs 2 more drivers** so the boxes can be delivered to the depot in St Neots from 22nd – 26th November – if you can help for a few hours on one of the days, please contact him on enquiries@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk Or sign up in church if you can help for an hour or two with receiving boxes at St Nicks from 15th-21st November. The church will be open from 10am-4pm each day. Details of how to fill a box yourself or to fill one online can be found here: [Operation Christmas Child](http://OperationChristmasChild.org.uk) (samaritans-purse.org.uk) There are plenty of flat-packed boxes available at the back of the church.



GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH - 18-30s Social: Saturday 27th November from 6:30 – 9pm at Grace Community Church, Hydean Way – come along for a fun evening with a version of 'The Cube' – drinks and desserts provided! Please let Matthew & Jo Dear know on enquiries@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk if you'd like to attend so they have an idea of numbers.

Also, Grace Community Church have a small team looking to set up a **CLOTHES BANK** to provide children's clothes for families in need. Some of their church members have already donated a variety of clothes, but they particularly need donations in the 3–9 year-old range. If you have any suitable clothing in this age range to donate, please bring to St Nick's in the next 2 weeks.

EVENTS IN THE COMING DAYS

WALKING GROUP – the next walk is this Thursday (21st), walking on Pegsdon Hills. Meet at The Raven pub at Hexton at 10.30 am. Robust footwear will definitely be required and appropriate waterproof walking clothing as the weather is changing. And bring a drink.

ST NICHOLAS DOOR-TO-DOOR TEAM: The team will be going out this week. Please do pray for them. If you'd like to join the team on their visits – please contact Karen Walker or Steve Bamford.

READINGS FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS: The readings for the next 3 weeks are as follows:

24th October: 2 Timothy 2:4–3:9

31st October: 2 Timothy 3:10–4:22

7th November: Titus 1: 1-16