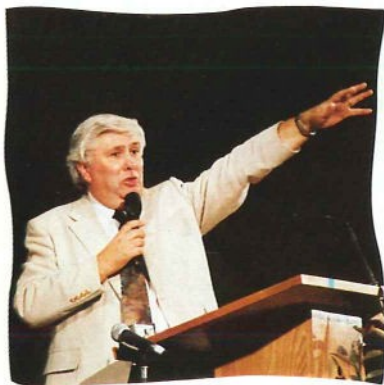


straight talk

J love those one-liner quotes that say so much in so little:

- ❑ *You can give without loving but cannot love without giving.*
- ❑ *Progress is not an issue of speed but of direction.*
- ❑ *You will never be fulfilled in ministry if you are not functioning in tune with your calling.*
- ❑ *Restoration is not simply returning something to its original condition, but moving it forward to its original intention.*



Bryn

These and hundreds more encapsulate the distilled wisdom of life in one line. They enable us to grasp great truths without emptying them of their content. They are reminders of the principles by which life works.

On the other hand, I hate the way people often use one-liners as escape hatches when challenged to face reality:

- ❑ *It is not what you do but what you are that counts (useful to get off the hook if challenged to practise your faith by good works).*
- ❑ *It is not the gifts but the giver that is important (a classic if you want to excuse the lack of charisma in your life).*
- ❑ *It's not what you give but the heart that counts with God (useful if feeling guilty about how little you give when measured by what you keep).*
- ❑ *With God the important growth is not numerical but spiritual (Wow! A super one for those not wanting to face the implications of declining or static church numbers).*

In *Covenant News* we will strive to avoid indulging in escapism or exaggeration. We will report the truth about our ministry of reaching this world. For years evangelical Christians avoided the challenge and cost of good works, intimidated by the fear that engaging in

social action meant we were departing from the main focus of the gospel, which is to redeem mankind.

We, however, do not believe the spiritual and social needs of society are in conflict. Both are to be met in the wholeness of our gospel. We are anointed to preach and to do. We are covenanted together to meet the needs of our generation.

You, our partners, will be kept informed so that together we can rejoice in progress on all fronts and pray where challenged by obstacles.

To those who ask, 'How are things going?' we say, 'Hey, we have enough blessing to say God is with us and enough problems to confirm it!' Our confidence, however, is this: we are winning!

Inside this issue of *Covenant News* you can read about what's happening for the students at *Covenant College*; the exciting developments in nationwide teaching through the *Modular Training Programme* and *ACTS*; *Help International's* response to

global suffering; recent seminars by the *Institute of World Concerns* at the cutting edge of global need; news of our extending evangelistic activities; life from within the churches and other aspects of our ministry together

Write to us. Ask any questions you want. Encourage wherever you can. Pray and give generously. And most importantly, involve yourself. Or to use a one-liner:

'No farmer ever ploughed a field by turning it over in his mind!'

Bryn

"No farmer ever ploughed a field by turning it over in his mind"

