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20th May 2017

Hi folks,

Woke this morning – “afraid” was the thought that came to my mind to write – why?

1. The negative feedback I get from writing an old fashioned letter and not using Instagram/Facebook or whatever – though people use them for me
2. My content – “You’re always negative.” is often a response. It’s funny how one views oneself – I am the most positive guy I know! (Robbie Burns – “and would some Power give us the gift to see ourselves as others see us.”)
3. “These begging letters” – this is like a blow to the kidneys
4. And then my manner or approach – “You must write one-liners,” in the short/sharp/move on manner or people won’t read your letters.

BUT a big big thank you to all who read and if nothing else it’s a record of some ins and outs of Teen Ranch Scotland and T.R.E.E. My Dad enjoys them – so I write on!

Not long back from Poland and thawing out. It was supposed to be spring but it was -6 degrees, and had snow and wind from North Russia – Burr! Double Burr! Triple Burr! The pre-made slabs of concrete are in place and the reinforced concrete ring is in place, but alas we didn’t get the big poured slab done. A few days and a few issues saw me “call off the jam”- a phrase in a small unknown sport called Roller Ball. So we must return before their and our summer, we have a very small window – end of June/beginning of July. So we are using our burglar skills and climbing in that window.



The unfinished timber support floor and no steel yet for the big slab



Pre-made slabs in place, a day the boys speak of, they will never forget – 7am to 9pm.
Freezing – absolutely freezing and dangerous.

Thanks for all those who gave for the pre-made slabs and the crane hire.
A big thank you to all who joined me on the Poland trip: Carolyn, Fiona, Laura, Andrew,
David, N.Z Mike, Paul S, Brian, Mike T, John M, Jim G (the 3 older than Bob boys), Joe T,
James Muir and Polish man, Cammy.

Poland is having their busiest year yet and big Trev Paterson has gone to help carry the load for a few months. Lots of volunteers are coming and Woytek & Justyna are doing a great job to encourage these young volunteers and keeping the place in good repair and looking great. So Poland – more camps than ever. Hallelujah - wonderful.

Romania – I spoke to Ionuts and he said they, too, are having their busiest time ever. They had 10 helpers working on an accommodation project, this year their summer camps are booked out and they are running 13 weeks - What! 13 weeks of summer camps – the most ever. Can you believe it? Hallelujah – wonderful.

Where are the critics, the doubters, the “still justifying” folk of “What are you doing, Bob, investing time, money and people in these camps, where are the results, Bob?” Did I know these wonderful results would come? No, a 1000 nos, but all I know is that we should try. We are bridge builders, some doubt our skills and are waiting for the collapse of that bridge of TRS and then the others – but people are coming and using the bridge. “Yes, BUT what about Kenya and Zambia?” Will you not believe, hope, dream, work for, support so that one day they, too, declare “busiest yet, booked out!”?

But Ionuts (Romania) also shared for these camps they have but 2 horses. 2 horses, 13 weeks indeed the word is “knackered” (the knackery is the grave yard of the horse flesh) both horse and horse staff. Two Scottish girls are going for a few weeks – Naomi Smith and Sarah Rakhra, and we are trying to find a long term horse person. Our attitude to horse treatment and the Romanians’ differ, as horses in Romania are often treated a bit rough around the edges, therefore the push and general feeling is for an “outsider”.

How can all the “horsey” people sit there and do nothing, there will be plenty of talking but do something about this. Pam now has great contacts through an American lady, Maggie, living in Romania, who has contacts in Hungary – horses, ponies, with papers, with delivery.

Contact Bob or Pam and let us do what we can – Ionuts is waiting with open arms (he’s not always been that way) for that worker and, I think, another 3 horses – Trigger, Phar Lap and Red Rum.

I am reading, as I said to the staff, a dangerous book – “Charles E Cowman Missionary – Warrior”. His wife went on to write possibly the most read day by day Christian devotional book, “Streams in the Desert”. From “Missionary – Warrior”, I wish to quote (with some abbreviations):

“1932 – the time of The Great Depression being deeply felt all over the world. Funds were scarce, gifts flowing into the mission were small, work suspended or looking likely to be and the enemy of the soul sitting by the empty treasure, boldly declaring ‘now the work will fail!’”

Charles E Cowman’s vision was a Bible in every house in Japan – 60 million people, 10

million houses.

The enemy is there again, whispering “impossible”.

“JUST THINK.

Just think of the millions of homes.

Just think of the congested cities.

Just think of the boundless alleys.

Just think of the mountains to be crossed.

Just think of the transporting of the literature.

Just think the innumerable villages in the far interior.

Just think of the 1,000s of hidden homes in the snow clad mountains.

Just think of the impossible roads and paths.

Just think of the inhospitable reception of idol worshippers.

Just think of the 100s of difficulties.

And so, the enemy of the soul whispered on, ‘Impossible.’”

“There are those who say it can’t be done and there are those who go and do it.”

He did it – a Bible to every house in Japan.

“Out of their deep poverty, they gave.

Winter – men took off their coats and laid them on the platform, leather shoes, brief cases, watches, spectacles, blankets, hair pins; one precious lady gave her return rail ticket home, gladly willing to walk 340 miles; owners of land gave one or two acres and yoke of oxen. The giving meeting started at 2pm and finished at 10pm. Converted to money - \$3,500 (remember this was The Depression). Cowman continues, “Support from England and America wishing to help sent \$5 – one thousand of them. \$5 was sufficient to purchase a Bible and pay workers travelling expenses.”

Well this challenged me again to encourage.

If TRS has monthly supporters from £5 a month, that’s £60 a year.

IF (impossible) we could get 100 x £5 per month, that’s £6,000 per year.

And IF (impossible) we could get 1,000 x £5 per month, that’s £60,000 per year.

My brother Lee (now gone ahead), was a tank driver in the Australian Army and he said “In life there are lots of ‘gunners’” – going to do this, going to do that – gunners.

Nike sportswear says – “Just do it!”

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

We will send some of our horse staff for a couple of weeks in Romania. Pam’s contacts are developing stronger and stronger RE horses from Hungary, with papers, with delivery.

We have also been in contact with a previous TRS worker who is looking likely to come maybe for the whole summer, if not 2nd half. (Watch this space!)

So Poland and Romania, biggest and best ever, now things coming together RE horses, not

there yet, pray on. But what about TRS? Never forgotten – I am often under pressure from well-meaning people in this regard.

This year, without funds in place, we had decided to gut the old toilets/showers downstairs at the end of the season, fit a new boiler to replace 3 small ones, new disabled toilets and showers, wet wall the whole area. We sourced quotes from plumbers, builders, engineers etc, with them doing all the work - £125,000. So our man, Finlay, began to apply to trusts for help here and there. BUT AMAZINGLY one trust, The Peter Vardy Trust, rang yesterday and said that they would pay for the whole venture and they will send their project manager to see Bob! They will supply all the workers and supplies and do the job from beginning to end.

“I don’t know what to say!” – said Brian Gevers, one of our workers. C.T. Studd, the great missionary, said it’s the laugh of faith; people around TR and every one that we are sharing it with are saying “Amazing, absolutely amazing!”

Doubt sees an obstacle – faith sees the way.

When Jen and I got married, we had nowhere to live; amazingly we were given the rectory on the hill in Camden, NSW, Australia for 1 year – rent free. When I told my dad, his words were “Someone up there likes you, Bob!” Today when I shared the latest miracles with him, now 86, we remembered that conversation 38 years ago and we laughed together. “38 years of someone up there likes you, Bob – more like LOVES you, Bob!”

So I (we) stumble on, often encouraged by many, jeered by some. Who even, with this latest miracle, will stand in their stubborn, stiff necked, “Ye of little faith” ways? NOT non-believers, but folk who say they follow Jesus, which Jesus, I don’t know. Paul said “if any preach another Jesus, you put up with it well.” 2 Corinthians 11:4

My appeal is not for you to come on side with me/us, but ask yourself, “Is my Jesus-God, the one who said in Ephesians 3:20,

“Now to Him who is able to do
ABOVE
ABUNDANTLY

EXCEEDINGLY

... all I can ask or think”, or is he just the Jesus-God who says “Steady as it goes, boys!?”

JUST THINK!

Just think of Charles Cowman’s “Just Think” and remember that all things are possible. With all this happening along with the amazing, is the daily normal working day of TRS, struggling to stay on top of projects, and maintenance with a lot of small midweek camps, bills to be met, wages to be paid. No gift is ever too small and remember the direct debit system – you forget you’re doing it, it will just happen. TR will be blessed and the young people of Scotland and these other countries will have the wonderful places to enjoy and consider what God says.

Coming Up:
TRS Picnic: 1st July 2017
TRS Summer Camps: 2nd July – 12 August

Thanks again,
Love to all – encouragers and jeerers.
Bob, Jen & TRS Staff



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