

CAPERNEWRAY

News

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You choose...

It is quite apparent in Scripture that the men and women who chose to serve the Living God totally and utterly and with their whole heart, suffered for it in the process. It was costly. Moses chose "to be ill-treated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time". Ruth chose to go with her embittered mother-in-law to an alien land leaving behind all that must have been familiar to her; the apostle Paul, brilliant academic that he was and way ahead of his years, chose to leave it all behind to follow the very One he had been persecuting, and boy did he suffer in the process! But in each case look at the glory that resulted.

Caleb (quite a popular name in England right now) had a choice to make. Chosen as a leader of Judah (the biggest tribe numerically) to spy out the land from Kadesh-Barnea, he came back with the other eleven with a choice to make. Either to move forward in the purposes and plans of God, or turn back. As a result of the choice he made, he goes down in Biblical history as "the man who followed God fully".

Three things Caleb didn't do:-

- he didn't allow other people's negative opinions to rob him of all the glory that lay ahead
- he didn't listen to the voice of discouragement, & grumblings of a people who exaggerated their circumstances to rationalise their decision to go back.
- in 45 years he never wavered from his original decision despite the sufferings of the 40 years of desert wandering.

Instead, three things he DID do:-

- he proved that a majority is not always right!
- he proved that His God was bigger than a few giants and walled cities.
- as a man of 85 years when the land was shared out amongst the tribes, he chose - in fact he ASKED for - "this mountain" rather than the softer option of a green and pleasant valley. (Joshua 14:12 KJV). What a guy!

Some years later Joshua at the end of his life once the land had been possessed he gathered them together and gave them the choice - "Choose for yourselves THIS DAY Whom you will serve". This was to a people who, in New Testament terms had been "saved" and who were "in Christ". One of the things I long for as I grow older is that I might finish well, and to be able to say along with Caleb and Paul, "I have finished the race. I have kept the faith".

But this depends on the choices I make TODAY.

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Graih - I am originally from Barrow in Furness and I was a student at Capernwray in 1982/83. I've been working in the Housekeeping Department for nearly 27 years. Within that time I have seen many changes here at Capernwray and yet other things always stay the same; there is always dust to clean and beds to be made especially in a house as big as ours!

In the summer our department, 8 plus myself, is responsible for keeping Capernwray clean and preparing accommodation ready for when the guests arrive. We do daily cleaning but as you can imagine Saturday is our busiest day with one group of guests leaving at 10am and the next arriving by 4pm. We also run the Beehive, which is our coffee shop and milkshakes are our speciality!

Summer is probably the time of year with the most variety and challenges because as well as the constant change of guests there is a constant stream of volunteer staff as well. The Lord has provided 74 willing helpers this summer to join us in serving the guests and they all need to be trained by myself and other Heads of Departments. As well as running the Housekeeping & Beehive I am also responsible for organising the Baby Listening during Family Weeks, co-ordinating the health & First Aid cover, involved in the re-furbishing of rooms and, during bible school, organising and supervising the student duties.

Capernwray's mission statement is "Our mission is to proclaim the transforming presence of Jesus Christ through Biblical teaching and practical training, equipping men & women for service in His Church Worldwide". I see part of my ministry here at Capernwray is to help show staff and students working with us that what we do practically is serving the Lord by serving the guests and other staff. Our work may be 'behind the scenes' but it is just as important as those on the platform, as we provide a place for guests to relax and unwind, ready to hear the spoken word from the Lord and also see His love in action.

When I was here as a student all those years ago little did I think I would be doing what I am doing now, and if someone had told me I would have probably been 'down the road like a shot'. Isn't it good at times that the Lord doesn't show us what He has 'planned and prepared' for us because we are still a work in progress and I am so glad he has trained and equipped me along the way in all that I have been doing here at Capernwray and continue to do.

The biggest changes for me at work this year will be Laurie leaving in September and then Amber assisting me during Bible School. Enough from me I'll leave the last words with Laurie and Amber.

Laurie - What a privilege it has been to work with Graih over the last two years. I have learned so much from her. I have learned about organization, multi-tasking, caring for the students and how to use students left behind towels to mop the floor! As much as I am leaving behind the role of Assistant Housekeeper, Capernwray will not be able to get rid of me that easily. It has become so much part of my life that I hope to be able to continue to support and encourage staff and students in the coming years. Our children are all growing up so quickly and I am feeling they need a bit more of "mum" at home so this will be a great opportunity to spend more time with them especially with Joshua our oldest in his last year at school. I will also be attending a Christian Counselling Course in Carlisle over the Fall Term. I look forward to seeing how God will continue to work through Graih and her team and also in my life in the coming years.

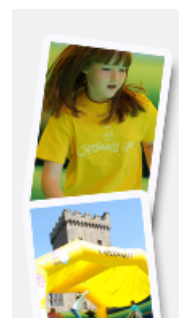
Amber - If anyone had told me just last year that I would be working at Capernwray for a year, I would have laughed. But God had more in store for me than I had for myself it would seem. I came from Washington State in the US for Winter Bible School last Fall, and it didn't take long for me to know that, somehow, God would be calling me to serve Him here after school was completed in March. I came back in June, ready to learn all about housekeeping in such a large capacity. The summer programme has been varied and busy, but people are hearing about Jesus, and it's so exciting to be a part of that, even while doing simple cleaning tasks. I absolutely love working with Graih, and am looking forward to partnering with her in the months ahead.



Thank you for praying with us.

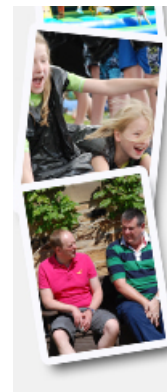
Here are some answers to prayer...

- **Holidays** – A fantastic period of weather has added to our great summer programme of holidays with great teaching and lots and lots of fun.



... and some requests

- **Cook** – please continue to pray that we are led to the right person to replace Joel in the kitchen before he leaves at the end of August
- **Holidays** – please pray that all our guests will be refreshed physically and spiritually during their holiday at Capernwray this summer
- **Everyone** – will you pray for all guests, staff and volunteers that through this summer season our desire 'to know Him more' will grow



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