### **MY ACTION POINTS**

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# Practical Christian Living

A workshop to encourage thought and action...

### **Outline**

### 1. Foundations

Understanding the real nature of the Christian life. What it is and what it is not. What hinders it and what enables it?

### 2. What has changed?

What is happening in the world around us? A case study: Homosexuality. What does the future look like?

### 3. Home & family life

What can we learn at home and how much does it count?

### 4. Sexuality & Relationships

Bodies, fashion, flirting, dating, marriage and manhood.

### 5. Free time, me time, my time

How do you spend your time? The GIGO principle and red lights.

### Please help!

We don't have all the answers, but we have prayed that through the fellowship that this time allows the Lord will work among us so that we are enabled to live an increasingly full, obedient and fruitful life in Jesus Christ.

We will spend as much or as little time on each section as seems appropriate when we come to it.

PLEASE participate with honesty, openness and humility and help us make the best use of the time we have together.

My notes and comments:

### 5c. Free time, my time - Red lights

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. (Galatians 5:1)

Many people fear that if a person tries to go all out for the Lord they will fall into legalism and hypocrisy or just burn out. How can a believer be protected from the snares and pitfalls that zeal makes possible?

### Am I on the right road?

What is determining the choices I make?

What do I really want in life?

What are my goals? When will they be realised?

What place does love have in my daily life?

What part does Jesus' cross have in my life?

Do I frequently have to remind myself of my faith in God?

Does the future look dull and uninteresting?

Is Jesus my Lord and do I delight to do His will?

Is there something that keeps unsettling my faith?

What makes me afraid?

Do I feel guilty?

Do I have joy in the Lord?

Am I drifting or pressing onward?

Can I worship the Lord easily in private?

Do I really want others to share the life I have in the Lord?



### But before we begin...

"Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its flavour, how shall it be seasoned? (Luke 14:34)

WHERE DO YOU STAND? Take this True or False test	TRUE	FALSE
I am sure that Jesus lived, died on a cross and rose again.		
I understand that God is holy and must judge sin.		
I know that I am a sinner and without excuse before God.		
I have turned from my sin and trusted Jesus to forgive me.		
I am sure that I have been accepted as He promised.		
I know that I am now God's child—I have been born again.		
I believe the Bible was given to us by God for our profit.		
I want to grow in my knowledge of God.		
I am willing to lose friends if need be for His sake.		
I want my life to be a good witness to the Lord Jesus.		
I am willing to give up pleasures or advantages for His sake.		
I want the Lord Jesus to have first place in my life.		

### To live the Christian life...

- ⇒ You must know that you are a child of God by faith in Jesus Christ.
- ⇒ You must be the Lord Jesus' disciple, actively seeking to learn from Him and to be true to what you learn.

Is this YOU?

# Jesus said: "Follow Me." Each of these people will tell you that they believe, but who is really following Jesus?

**Meet Patrick**. He knows the Bible very well and has been a Christian for over 50 years. He often complains at some length that Christians are not as devoted as they once were. Most people avoid talking to him now, but noone dares tell him why because they know he would only be offended.

Meet Clover. She is a busy wife and mother, caring for her young children and keeping house. She found that without planning and discipline she couldn't find time to quieten her heart before God and pray over the things, known and unknown, that would make up her day. But now she has found the time she needs and rejoices in the grace that marks each busy and often rather messy day.

Meet Micah. He is heading into Year 12 and is actually pretty cool about it. His marks are up there and he is a leader among his friends. Gaming eats up a fair bit of his time, but he says it's just a social thing and he would be up late anyway. He goes to Youth Group for his parents sake—it's OK but a bit boring. He was baptised a while back but is embarrassed when people want him to pray or do things that are a bit religious. Why do they pick on him?

Meet Max. Last month he was baptised. His family were shocked—they are Christian but not, as they would say, fanatical about it. But something made Max take notice when he heard a description of Jesus' life. It made him see his own life in a new way, both good and bad. They say he is really changing, though some of his friends think he's gone crazy and avoid him. It doesn't seem to worry him though.

My notes and comments:

### **5b.** Free time - The GIGO Principle

The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:9)





**Meet Harry.** His parents sweated blood to give him a good education. Now that he is married and has his own business he knows that nothing is more important than that his children also get the best possible education to secure their future and that of their families. He is often working seven days, and, although he rarely spends time with his children, he knows that he is doing the best for them.

**Meet Leah.** She is a smart young lawyer, recently graduated with honours and keen to pursue her career. She is planning to get married in about two years and have children only once she is properly established in an international law firm. She enjoys being part of her local church, but finds she can't fit in much more than Sunday morning what with the gym, coffee with her friends and of course, time for shopping.

Meet Greg. He is a smart young man who never had any difficulty at school and is sailing through Uni. He feels he can serve others by teaching. He enjoys the church he goes to—people look up to him there—but he finds a lot of the preaching pretty ordinary. He wants to get a chance to preach himself and is sure everyone will be impressed by his message. But his patience is wearing a bit thin and he has begun to look around for a more suitable arena for his gifts.

**Meet Trish.** She is one mixed up kid! That's what her family say anyway. She seems unable to concentrate on anything for very long and can hardly put a sentence together without breaking off and talking about something else. The only thing she is consistent at is reading the Bible. She admits she can't understand much, but she says she really wants to. When people complain about her, she smiles and says she is asking Jesus to change her.

### 1a. Foundations - What is this Life?

If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do? (Psalm 11:3)



### Two Trees

What's the difference?

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Take th	e test	Prayei	<i>Worshi</i> j r	p Fastir	ng	Independe	nce
Holi	ness	-	Solitu	de	Godliness	Goodn	iess
	ort	Preaching Children	Witnes	sing Marriage	Sharing	Peace	
Duty	Obea	lience <sub>E</sub>	Blessing		nksgiving	Music	Joy

Note!	Satan's biggest lie is

My notes and comments:

# 5a. Free time, me time, my time

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;... (Philippians 2:12)

HOW I SEE THINGS	True	False
I consider myself a spiritual person.		
You can't be spiritual all the time—you need a break.		
With godliness, I always think "balance and moderation".		
My time is my own—to think otherwise is real bondage.		
We all need me-time in order to find personal fulfilment.		
You cannot really be yourself amongst others—we all act.		
Hobbies take your mind off things and help you relax.		
To live a godly life now is harder than ever before.		
I am not affected or influenced by movies or the media.		
Physical exercise helps me spiritually.		

I am What I am When I am alone.

My notes and comments:

# 1b. Foundations - Another way altogether



"As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me." (John 15:4)

What does "abide" mean? .		
What is the fruit?		
How does it grow?		
Who owns the fruit?		
Yes, BUT HO	OW?	 

My notes and comments:	

# 4c. Sexuality & Relationships - Men

Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. (2 Timothy 2:22)

Definition of a "real man":	
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	QUICH
Sexual desire has incredible power to deceive!	
Strategies for victory	
Remember Satan's biagest lie?	

My notes and comments:

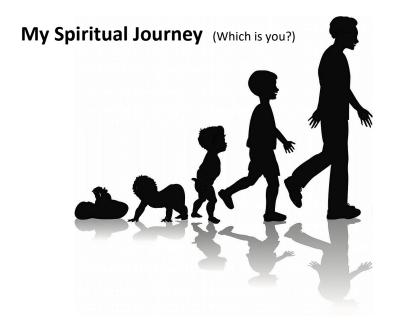
# $1c.\ Foundations\ \textbf{-}\ \text{The fear and the challenge}$



"...and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight." (Numbers 13:33)

### **Numbers 13**

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My notes and comments:

# 4b. Sexuality & Relationships - Women

She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue is the law of kindness. (Proverbs 31:26)

Fashion & Modesty
What drives fashion?
What is the logic behind modesty?
Flirting & Dating
The bait and the catch
Marriage
Why not marry an unbeliever? It's better than nothing! You can't have a fulfilled life if you don't get married and have children!
What does "like the angels" mean? (Matthew 22:30)

My notes and comments:	
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# 1d. Foundations - What hinders the Life?

"But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" (Mathew 13:8-9)

The seed:	
The hard ground:	
The shallow ground:	
The weeds:	
The good ground:	
Me:	
	On masks and meetings
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My notes and comments:

# 4a. Sexuality & Relationships



So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (Genesis 1:27)

It is all very well to say that God invented sex by making us male and female, but what does godly sexuality look like, if there even is such a thing?

And how can you talk about morals in an "anything goes", relativistic world where standards and values are based on rights and individual preferences?



"In the beginning God" Why did Jesus go back to Gen taught about marriage? (see Mark 10)								
What makes some Christian parents urge their children to marry unbelievers, and why do many young Christians also ignore the Scripture's guidance and enter into these relationships anyway?								

My notes and comments:

### 1e. Foundations - What nourishes the Life?



Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. (1 Corinthians 9:24-25)

Note!

Let your heart retain my words;

Keep my commands, and live.

Get wisdom! Get understanding!

Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth.

Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you;

Love her, and she will keep you.

Wisdom is the principal thing;

Therefore get wisdom.

And in all your getting, get understanding. (Proverbs 4:3-7)



My notes and comments:

# **3b.** Home & family life - God's order?

... let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (Ephesians 5:33)

Headship in the home.	Who, how and why?
Children in the home.	What profit is there in obedience?

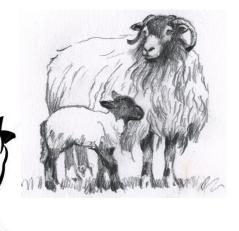
My notes and comments:

# 2a. What has changed?

"Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves." (Mathew 10:16)



"But we all have iPhones now..."



### Case Study:

marriage?
How does this change impact you as a Christian?
How should we answer people who ask our attitude to these issues?

My notes and comments:

### 3a. Home & family life



(2003)

WHAT IS HOME TO YOU?	True	False
Home is the one place where I can relax and be myself.		
Everyone has some conflict at home—you put up with it.		
No-one expects obedience in children now—young or old.		
Women no longer need to submit to their husbands.		
The discipline of children is bad and old fashioned.		
The church should not intrude into home life.		
Teenagers need to go through a rebellious phase.		
I learn mostly from the preaching I hear and from books.		
What happens at home stays at home. Privacy matters.		
Most parents do not understand their children.		
God is not about happy homes, He is building His church.		
Parents should not influence children—let them choose.		

# I have forgiven them: Gladys Staines By Prafulla Das



BHUBANESWAR SEPT. 22. As the Designated CBI Judge, Mahendra Nath Patnaik, handed out the death sentence to Dara Singh and sentenced 12 others to life imprisonment for killing the Australian missionary, Graham Stuart Staines and his two sons, Gladys Staines, widow of the slain missionary, said that she had forgiven the killers and had

How could she do this?

My notes and comments:

## 2b. What has changed? - The next 10 years

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

### Daring to look ahead 10 years ...

How a generation without a moral foundation may raise its children:
What schools and universities may look like and teach:
What social media and the entertainment industry may contain:
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What Christians may look like and how they will be treated:

My notes and comments:	