

Sounding Out



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An update from Tom

A circular image showing a bright sunset or sunrise over a dark, cloudy horizon.

A sad farewell



News from

**Voice of
the Gospel,
Poland**



**The posture of
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Welcome to *Sounding Out*



POST TENEBRAS LUX

In recent days I've had the phrase 'post tenebras lux' in my mind. Before you get too impressed with my mastery of Latin - I must confess, it is the only one I know.

Translated into English it means 'after darkness, light' and it's famous for being the motto of the Protestant Reformation. The gospel had been largely lost during the Middle Ages and people were in the 'dark' but then, through the prompting of the Holy Spirit, it was rediscovered and brought into the 'light' by figures such as Martin Luther and John Calvin.

The phrase was in my mind because it has been something of a dark season for me recently. Two of my friends have experienced the death of their babies and two other members of my church have died. One of our GNBA board members is dealing with a life-changing diagnosis in his close family and long-serving board member, Stephen Hall, died suddenly in January (see next page). Our struggle to recruit an accountant for GNBA and to fix a long-standing issue with our video set-up has also been frustrating. All this against the backdrop of the many troubles in the world right now! Life

always has its share of stresses and strains but these have seemed greater recently.

But as the winter season has just started to give way to spring and the mornings and afternoons are not quite so dark, it's been a visible reminder to me that God is still with us and is working through GNBA to push back the spiritual darkness.

When Christ is prophesying about the difficulties that will come upon His disciples during the time of the Temple's destruction in AD70, He makes it abundantly clear that 'the gospel must first be preached to all nations' (Mark 13:10). That is a command that still stands today. GNBA is preaching the gospel in season and out of season, in darkness and light and as far and wide as possible. I am so grateful that even in dark times God is using our programmes to bless, encourage and equip believers through media.

I am excited about some 'signs of light' for our accounting situation going forward and thankful for some invaluable help, generously offered for the short term. In the last few days our video issue also seems to have been fixed - thanks Paul! - for which we're very grateful.

I'm also excited about future partnerships and some new contributors to our programmes (more on that soon!) but, even if none of those things happen, I am still grateful that God has given us this platform of preaching His word through radio and video. GNBA has been doing this for almost 70 years and we aren't stopping any time soon!

Please do continue to pray for us. Your interest and support is greatly appreciated.

God bless, *Tom*



GONE TO GLORY



It is with sadness that we report the death of GNBA board member Stephen Hall. Tom and Henryk had this to say:

"It was a privilege to serve on the board with Stephen and I am grateful for his involvement. He joined a year before I took over at GNBA and I always felt very supported by him. Along with the official meetings he would also join us for the Ministry Partners Zoom prayer meetings and would ring me occasionally just to catch up. He helped man our stall at Keswick a few years ago and we visited Poland together last September. It was a wonderful trip! He was such a lovely, humble, godly man who always seemed

to have a smile on his face. He was clearly dedicated to his wife, Delphine, and his family and his church - he talked about them often. I, and the rest of the board, will really miss Stephen but as 1 Thess 4:13 points out 'we do not grieve like the rest of mankind who have no hope'. Because of our hope in Christ we will see Stephen again". **Tom Ward**

"It's hard for us to believe that Stephen will no longer come to Warsaw. It was a privilege and joy for us to host him and Delphine in Poland. Stephen was always keenly interested in the missionary activities of the Voice of the Gospel and was directly involved with them. He was a sensitive, intelligent, listening man. For us, he was a real English gentleman with high personal culture, modest and warm. We will miss his smile, jokes and cheerfulness". **Henryk Dedo**

The posture of discipleship

'If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping' Mark 13:36

Mark chapter 13 is a complex and controversial passage. In it Jesus prophesies about the destruction of the Temple and then about His second coming. As the Temple was destroyed in AD 70 most of the speculation today surrounds how and when Christ will return and at what point in the passage He changes from talking about what will happen soon and what will happen thousands of years later.

The study of the end times, often called eschatology, seems to get believers very hot under the collar and pastors and teachers, particularly in America, get very passionate and dogmatic about their specific interpretation. But I think sometimes we can get so caught up in the debates that we can miss the clear

instruction from Jesus in Mark 13. He calls His followers to **watch** (v5, v35, v37) **be on your guard** (v9, v23, v33) and **be alert** (v33).

In Verse 37 Jesus makes it clear He is not just talking to His disciples:

"What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"

All these instructions are based around the same call to be ready for the return of Christ. I remember years ago seeing a picture of a very stereotypical blond-haired, blue-eyed Jesus next to the slogan 'Look busy, Jesus is coming!' It might make us smile but we're not called to *look* busy or even *be* busy - we're told to watch and not fall asleep (v36).

Now, Jesus isn't talking about physical sleep here (although you can find an example of Jesus rebuking his disciples for physical sleep in the next chapter of Mark!). Our bodies have been created by God with the need for rest and sleep. In fact it is God Himself who blesses us with sleep (Psalm 127:2). Jesus here is talking about our *posture* in discipleship.

Spiritually speaking, if we take things lying down and are lazy and lethargic then we won't be on our guard against the world, the flesh and the devil.

This got me thinking about other postures that we are called to follow in the New Testament. We are called to:

SIT at the feet of Jesus and listen to Him (Luke 10:38-42).

STAND our ground against the schemes of the devil (Eph 6:10-14).

WALK by the Spirit (Gal 5:25) and in good works (Eph 2:10) and in love (Eph 5:2).

RUN the race with perseverance (Heb 12:1) so as to win the prize (1 Cor 9:24).

But I can't find any verses that call us to lie down. I can't find any verses that call us to sleep in our faith. We are called to be ready and whatever signs you believe will come before or during Christ's return, whatever your view of the abomination of desolation or the rapture - Christ made it clear that He is returning soon and we need to be ready!

News from Voice of the Gospel, Poland

The war in neighbouring Ukraine has been going on for a year. Its consequences affect Poles and citizens of other European countries. In the editorial office of *Voice of the Gospel Foundation*, we are aware of the challenge and privilege of being called to bring the light of hope that does not fail to those who live in the darkness of doubt and uncertainty - to both Poles and Ukrainians, of whom we have already welcomed over 3.5 million.



In January 2023, we published Quarter with Mateusz - reflections on the Gospel of Matthew in 222 15-minute broadcasts on USB. We are currently seeking support to prepare and publish the Ukrainian version of it.

We managed to publish several thousand copies of a Ukrainian-language version of Bernie Dymet's brochure *The Battle Belongs to the Lord* and deliver it to Ukrainian soldiers on the front line fighting the occupiers.

We continue to prepare and broadcast our radio documentaries, reflections on the Gospel and short meditations from the *Drop of Eternity* series in over 60 radio stations in Poland. And we ask you for your special prayers for our service during this challenging time and for God's guidance for our employees and volunteers.

Henryk Dedo

CURRENT PROGRAMMES



Former GNBA board member, Stephen Thompson, is our guest speaker on *Bible Focus* for this series in John.



Tom is now nearing the end of his *Word Alive* series in the book of Mark and is looking at the cross of Christ.



In this *The Everlasting Way* programme, Tom asks if doing it 'my way' is really the best way. Listen at gnba.net.

PRAYER DIARY

If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 1 John 5:14

	March	April	May	June
Sunday	Praise God for His faithfulness to GNBA through the years.	Pray that many would hear and believe the gospel this Easter.	Thank God for all supporters of GNBA and that numbers would increase.	Pray for Tom, most likely preaching or teaching today.
Monday	Pray for Tom as he studies for this week's preaching.	Please pray that we would recruit more <i>Bible Focus</i> contributors.	 Pray that God would provide a staff member to oversee GNBA finances.	Pray for Mel this month as she designs <i>Sounding Out</i> .
Tuesday	 Please pray for the preparation of Easter radio programmes.	Continue to pray God would help us to produce more videos.	Pray that listeners would be helped by teaching on <i>Bible Focus</i> this week.	Pray for more listeners to subscribe to the <i>Sermonise</i> podcast.
Wednesday	Pray for the family and friends of Stephen Hall at this time.	Pray for a steady stream of material for <i>The Everlasting Way</i> .	Ask the Lord to uphold Tom in all the weekly producing and editing work.	 Pray that non-Christians would hear and respond to <i>The Everlasting Way</i> .
Thursday	Please pray for more subscribers to the <i>Word Alive</i> podcast.	Please pray for Mel in keeping the website and database up-to-date.	Pray for more visitors to our YouTube channel.	Pray for an increase in giving to meet greater broadcasting costs.
Friday	Pray for a smooth transition to new accounting and database software this month.	 Pray for wisdom for the GNBA Board of Directors.	Please pray for more opportunities to broadcast <i>Word Alive</i> .	Pray for the effectiveness of <i>Word Alive</i> broadcast on TWR Africa.
Saturday	Pray that <i>Word Alive</i> would be a blessing to many this weekend.	Please pray for Tom as he prepares teaching for Sunday.	Pray for the ongoing work of <i>Voice of the Gospel</i> in Poland.	Praise God for answered prayers for GNBA for almost 70 years.

RADIO GUIDE

TUNE IN ON YOUR RADIO OR TV OR LISTEN ANY TIME AT GNBA.NET

Premier Christian Radio Digital Radio: DAB Premier TV: Freeview 725 or Sky 0123 Radio: MW 1305, 1332, 1413, 1566 Word Alive: Sunday 6.30am	Trans World Radio TV: Freeview HD Channel 733, Sky 0138 or Freesat 790 Word Alive: Saturday 6.00am Sunday 6.00pm
Radio North Radio: 846 AM Bible Focus: Weekdays 8.45am	Radio Star Country Radio: MW 981 Word Alive: Wednesday 5.30pm
Branch FM Radio: 101.8 FM Word Alive: Sunday 6.00pm Bible Focus: Weekdays from 12 noon	Hope FM Radio: 90.1 FM Word Alive: Sunday 7.30am
Gospel 4 Grampian Internet: www.g4g.org.uk	Flame CCR Radio: MW 1521 or Internet DAB GNBA Show: Weekdays 10.30am

GNBA Conference

at The Hayes Centre, Derbyshire,
to celebrate our 70 year anniversary!

Friday 11th - Sunday 13th October 2024

With speakers: Derek Stringer, Stephen Thompson, Tom Ward.

More details to follow.



ON AIR
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BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION

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