

18th August 2019

This summer we're exploring our fourth value, 'Courage'. As a framework to help us do this, on Sunday mornings we're going to be following part of the story of the Israelites, exploring what it means to have the courage to follow God wherever He leads. In the newsletters each week we'll be looking at the life of a different believer and their story of courage in the face of adversity.

Scott and Jennie Phillips

There are many stories of believers who have headed out into the wild unknown seeking to share the truth of the word of God; the reality of knowing Jesus personally; and the impact the Holy Spirit can make on any, and every, life. The courage demonstrated by those willing to go 'where no one has gone before' is truly remarkable.

What is in no way surprising, yet still truly wonderful, is the way that just as He promised He would to the Israelites, God goes before those who head out in His name.

In 2003 Scott and Jennie Phillips, moved to Indonesia. Leaving well-worn and oft journeyed routes, they made their way to un-mapped parts of the country and in doing so met a group of people who had had no contact with the outside world previously, yet they were expecting the Phillips, in a manner of speaking.

The Dao people who Scott and Jennie encountered could be compared very easily to many other unreached people groups that missionaries have connected with over the centuries. The interesting thing with the Dao tribe, was that they had a vision story told amongst them over the generations : it was of a young couple with pale skin making contact with them.

The contact made by the Phillips' in 2003 resulted in the Dao tribe's vision-prophecy truly coming to real life. Through the grace of God in the years since their arrival, the Phillips' have seen many of the Dao people decide to follow Jesus. They are continually working to see the whole Bible translated into the Dao language and are now serving alongside the Dao people to see the Gospel taken even deeper into the jungles of Indonesia.

Since 2005 they have worked to plant more tribal churches in the region and have subsequently gone on to set up 'DAO Ministries' - Desiring Advancement Overseas. Its single goal is that of seeing spiritual advancement amongst unreached, isolated and remote peoples through making the gospel of Jesus Christ accessible to them.

"We exist to see a passion
for God spread to the
last unreached and
isolated people groups."

As I have delved deeper in the ongoing story of Scott and Jennie Phillips, I keep coming back to the fact that God went before them. As we seek the courage to follow God wherever He leads, may we be expectant that He will have gone ahead of us, preparing the way, softening the ground, opening the doors so we can live, serve and thrive for Him!

Ed