

## Five Smooth Stones

October 20th, 2013

Then he (David) took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.

**1 Samuel 17:40**

## The Four Ingredients of the Extraordinary Story

1. The Place of a Famous Tree
2. The Preparations of a Young Boy from Bethlehem, Judah
3. The Boasting of a Giant
4. Five Smooth Stones

## The Storyline of the Kingdom

The Ordinary, Everyday Kid that Proves the Unlikely Hero and Changes the Course of History

## The Vision of Ellerslie

- The Return of the Irish Elk
- The Re-Emergence of the Mighty Men of Old
- The Formation of Hudson Taylors and Amy Carmichaels
- The Return of the Faithful, Fearless, Immovable, Unstoppable Church

## The Planting of the Terebinth

# Terebinth

A Mighty Tree (often referred to as an Oak), impervious to all weather, immovable, bearing a striking appearance - The Great Terebinth measured between 17 and 23 feet in circumference and the Jews believed them to have been around since Creation, terming them *Ogygian* - or Almighty, Gigantic from the very beginning. The Terebinth was an emblem of both strength and durability. For a Terebinth to become a Terebinth, it must be planted well, rooted deep, and grounded in the soil to such an extent that it will not, and cannot be moved . . . forever.



The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called **trees (Terebinth) of righteousness, the planting of the LORD**, that he might be glorified. And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.

**Isaiah 61:1-4**

# The Planting of the Lord

## A Brief Study in the Planting of Trees

When trees are first planted, there is an establishment period lasting at least two years when intensive maintenance is required.

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New plantings also require frequent inspections and intensive care to maintain them through the critical establishment period. In order to achieve these goals, a program of monitoring, soil treatments and pest management is required.

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# The Planting Program

## Two-years of watchfulness and care

1. Monitoring
2. Soil Treatments
3. Pest Management

New plantings are very fragile and can decline and die rapidly due to environmental stress or pest infestations. Frequent inspections are essential to detect subtle changes in plant health and pest infestations.

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# Ellerslie's Mission Dilemma

# Ellerslie's Greatest Challenges

## Challenge #1 - The Foolishness of the Current Generation

Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

### **Proverbs 22:15**

- Sophmoric - wise in their own eyes, braggarts, puffed up, thinking they are “all that”
- Contentious, wanting to pick a fight
- Impetuous, impulsive, and rash
- Dismissive of elders, critical of parents
- Quick to betray their mentors

## Challenge #2 - A Christian Culture that Supplies Honor Too Early

As snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, so honor is not seemly for a fool.

### **Proverbs 26:1**

- Everyone’s opinion is regarded as the same, the hierarchy of wisdom has been lost, and the hierarchy of respect has wholly dissolved
- Emergent/post-modern thinking says “let’s dialog; you share your perspective; I’ll share mine, both are equally valid (the sixteen year old kid’s opinion - who has known Christ for 3 months - is on equal level with the opinions of the seasoned pastor of sixty years)

## The First Three Years

A Testimony of Grace

## God’s Refinement

Three Deeper Steps for the Ellerslie Training

1. A surface humility has been cultivated, but not a deep humility
2. A simple reverence has been cultivated, but the fear of the Lord is lacking in many of the graduates

3. A mimicked honor has been cultivated, but the spirit of Honor has not been effectively passed on

## The Novice Principle

This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desires a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that rules well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) **Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.** Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

### **1 Timothy 3:1-13**

He that sends a message by the hand of a fool cuts off the feet, and drinks damage. The legs of the lame are not equal: so is a parable in the mouth of fools. As he that binds a stone in a sling, so is he that gives honor to a fool.

### **Proverbs 26:6-8**

## Sending a Fool with the Gospel Message

He that sends a message by the hand of a fool cuts off the feet, and drinks damage.

**Proverbs 26:6**

## Don't Proclaim Someone "Ready" Unless He's been Proven

... let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon . . .

**1 Timothy 3:10**

As he that binds a stone in a sling, so is he that gives honor to a fool.

**Proverbs 26:8**

Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

**1 Timothy 5:22**

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

**1 John 4:1**

## The Novitiate

The Novice in Training, not yet ready for the responsibilities of leadership, acclaim, criticism, or spiritual oversight. A Hidden one and a Humble one - a student in preparation, wrapped in the cocoon of anonymity while the roots of spiritual strength stretch deep and the wings of readiness are developed.

## The Cocoon of Innocence

## The Cocoon of Anonymity

# Novissionaries and Missionaries

What is the difference?

## What is a Novissionary?

It is a novice missionary; one not yet ready to handle the rigors of the mission field and effectively deliver the gospel of Jesus Christ amidst extreme hardship. It is a missionary in training; one preparing to be sent - one preparing to endure the most challenging difficulties that face those bearing the Name of Jesus.

## What is a Missionary?

A sent one, or one ready to be sent. One that is no longer a novice. One deserving of the title “Christian leader.” One who has completed the rigors and strains of Novissionary training and has proven ready to endure the hardships of Christian leadership and thus bear the Name of Jesus, the world over, with excellence.

## What Prepares a Missionary?

### **Preparation Level #1**

Being planted in Christ, and having Christ planted in them

### **Preparation Level #2**

Being rooted and grounded in Christ, and having Christ rooted and grounded in them

### **Preparation Level #3**

Being fixed, unbending and immovable in Christ, and having Christ fixed, unbending and immovable in them

### **Preparation Level #4**

Tested and fully proven over time to have been planted well, rooted, grounded, and firmly established in the Grace of Jesus Christ

## The Leadership-Ready Test

1. **Honor** - Do they bear the nobility, purity, and decorum of Heaven consistently in their daily life?
2. **The Fear of God** - Do they understand the exceeding sinfulness of sin, consistently tremble at the Word of God, and reverence God as holy, holy, holy?
3. **Humility** - Do they, as habit, reject the bait of self-exaltation, willingly and happily enter low circumstances, and consistently prove both teachable and malleable toward their instructors?
4. **Obedience** - Do they demonstrate instant obedience to the Words of Scripture and toward their superiors in the discipleship process?
5. **Diligence** - Do they showcase a vigorous work ethic, a constancy and an excellence in every aspect of their daily life? Would they rightfully be termed a spiritual athlete?
6. **Joy** - Do they wield the power of rejoicing, and do they consistently prove a leaping lifestyle, a joyful soul, and a thankful heart?
7. **Love** - Do they consistently show the love of Calvary in their words spoken and in their deeds performed? Is it obvious that the glory of God and the benefit of others about them is the highest priority of their soul?
8. **Peace** - Do they possess a calm soul, an unruffled mind, and a tranquil heart? Do they consistently show themselves to be untouched and unintimidated by baits of fear and anxiety?



9. **Respect** - Do they reveal a high regard for their elders, a deference to leadership, a sensitivity to the lowly, a proper hold on the process of appeal, a full understanding of jurisdictional boundary, and a loyalty unto their parentage?
10. **Biblical** - Do they have a firm hold on the Biblical framework for life and godliness? Do they rightly handle the Words of Scripture? Are they groomed for excellence in both their doctrine and in their behavior? Are they Christ-centered in all things?
11. **Unimpeachable** - Do they have a character above reproach? Is there any aspect of their life where there remains a doubt as to their sincerity, their purity, their aptitude, or their character?
12. **Patience** - Do they possess a heavenly perseverance, an unflinching confidence in the Almighty, and the ability to endure any and all hardships? Are they ready to suffer for the sake of Christ and even die for His glory?

## The Improper Planting

And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

**Mark 4:5-6**

## The Planting of the Lord

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he does shall prosper.

**Psalms 1:3**

## The Valley of Elah

The Place of the Great Terebinth

## The Readyng of the Novice

- The Shepherding
- The Exploring of the Valley of Elah
- Living in a cave -
- The Slight (the oversight)
- The Anointing
- The Return to the Sheep
- Climbing the Great Tree
- The Lion
- The Bear
- The Service unto Saul
- The Return to the Sheep
- The Errand Boy
- The Moment - at the Place of the Great Terebinth

## Being Proven for the Task

Now when the words which David spoke were heard, they reported them to Saul; and he sent for him. Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."

But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, "I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. "Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God." Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!" So Saul clothed David with his armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head; he also clothed him with a coat of mail. David fastened his sword to his armor and tried to walk, for he had not proved them. And

David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these, for I have not proved them."  
So David took them off.

**1 Samuel 17:31-39**

## Novissionary Training

Proving God Faithful and Being Proved by God as Faithful

### The Four Restraints of the Novissionary

#### 1. Restrained to not claim a position that has not yet been given

Then Abishai said to David, "God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day. Now therefore, please, let me strike him at once with the spear, right to the earth; and I will not have to strike him a second time!"  
But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD's anointed, and be guiltless?"

**1 Samuel 26:8-9**

#### 2. Restrained to Serve Unnoticed and Unappreciated

- Serve Family
- Serve Unnoticed
- Serve Unappreciated
- Respond with Heroic Action even when no one notices
- Sprint unto every challenge with confidence
- Serve the Church currently plagued with Weakness
- Deliver bread and cheese unto your elders

#### 3. Restrained to the Simple Shepherd's Artillery - Faith in the Lord of Battles

Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine. ... So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.

**1 Samuel 17:40,48**

#### 4. Restrained to Always Take the Lowest Place, and Never Presume a Higher One

And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron *was*. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but *it was* He who said to Him: You are My Son, today I have begotten You.

**Hebrews 5:4-5**

But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, Friend, go up higher. Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you.

**Luke 14:10**

He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.

**Luke 16:10**

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# The Storyline of the Kingdom

The Ordinary, Everyday Kid that Proves the Unlikely Hero and Changes the Course of History

## The Vision for Ellerslie

The Return of Ruddy Shepherd Boys to Israel, Who live in the shadow of the Great Terebinth and remember His Almighty Power. And who reach into the Brook and grab five smooth stones instead of just one.

## The Four Additional Stones in the Shepherd's Bag

*2 Samuel 21:16-21, 1 Chronicles 20:4-7*

1. Ishbi-benob, of the sons of the Giant, slain by Absihai, the son of Zeruiah {David's sister}
2. Saph, of the sons of the Giant, slain by Sibbchhai, the Hushathite
3. Lahmi, the brother of Goliath, slain by Elhanan, a Bethlehemite
4. The 6-Fingered Giant, of the sons of the Giant, slain by Johnathan, the son of Shammah