

KEY Notes

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me." (Mark 1:17)

Dear Friends,

Recently, out of nowhere, an old camp meeting chorus popped into my mind. I hadn't heard it in perhaps 50 years, but suddenly, there it was: words and music. I found myself merrily singing a happy song I hadn't sung in a long, long time.

My Lord knows the way thru the wilderness—
All I have to do is follow; (2 times)
Strength for today is mine all the way,
And all I need for tomorrow.
My Lord knows the way thru the wilderness—
All I have to do is follow.



Reading to grandkids

When I sang those words as a child, I had only a shallow understanding of the journey of salvation and the "wilderness" of life. But the wisdom of age now makes the chorus pregnant with meaning. Life is hard and often I don't know which way to turn. But the living Lord is with me and provides for all our needs, one day at a time. *He* knows the way. All I have to do is follow. Profoundly simple. Simply profound.

It's now been 17 months since Katy's stroke and though she is stronger, we see only minor improvements in her paralyzed left side. The wheel chair defines our activities. She can be left alone for only a few hours at a time. Workers and friends come and go through the week, helping to provide for her care and making it possible for me to continue with my work as president of FAS. Though my working hours are reduced, I'm still able to carry a full load—barely.

The realities of Katy's condition have caused me to say "no" to all international travel. Most of my travel here in the States consists of short commitments (2–4 days away) for activities in close geographical proximity (a day's drive). I've decided to step down from my position as Spiritual Dean for PAACS (Pan African Academy of Christian Surgeons), a role very dear to my heart. Though this feels like a real loss, we have peace that it is the right thing to do.

In April, Katy's dad (Dennis Kinlaw, age 94) stepped into eternity. What a gaping hole he has left in our hearts and lives. Before he died,



Dr. Kinlaw reading the Bible
in Hebrew

he insisted that I preach his funeral. The assignment was difficult, but God was faithful to give both the message and the emotional strength to share from II



The Kinlaw family outside Hughes Auditorium



Preaching at Dr. Kinlaw's funeral

Corinthians 2:14–16 to a large congregation about “The Aroma of Christ.” The fragrance of Papa’s life lingers on and the influence of his witness continues. The video recording of the funeral can be accessed from The Francis Asbury Society website:



Grandkids at graveside



After the burial service

There is also a blog post dedicated to stories about Dr. Kinlaw: www.francisasburysociety.com/dennisfkinlaw.

Perhaps the most important thing I’ve done in recent months is to write. Last year, I completed a book on Revelation entitled *The Last Word: What Revelation Says about Today’s Troubled Times* (Warner Press, 2015). In March of this year, Francis Asbury Press (FAP) published *Marriage Matters: Examining the Biblical Roots of Civilization’s Most Significant Institution*. This fall, Warner Press expects to publish my book *Jeremiah: Fire in the Bones*. And after lengthy editorial work, we are almost ready to reissue my devotional book *Face to Face*. These ministry resources have been years in the making and we are so thankful for *your* faithful prayers and financial support that have made them possible! We simply could not achieve these goals without your help!



My speaking schedule for the past 6–8 months has included several exciting ministry opportunities:

- Speaking three times on “The Theology of Medical Missions” at a Medical Missions Summit in Charlotte, NC (Sept. 2016).
- Preaching at Salem Camp Meeting in Mississippi (Oct. 3–9, 2016).
- Serving as the plenary speaker (plus a workshop) at the Global Missions Health Conference (GMHC) in Louisville, KY (Nov. 2016).
- Preaching at a missions conference at St. Andrews Evangelical Church in Columbia, SC (Mar. 3–5, 2017).



Salem Camp Meeting



Speaking at GMHC

- Speaking at a Spiritual Life weekend at Liberty Chapel United Methodist Church in Ohio (Mar. 17–19, 2017).
- Leading and speaking at a *Marriage Matters* retreat with Tim Philpot at The Hemlock Inn in Bryson City, NC (Mar. 24–26, 2017).
- Preaching at a revival at Orangeburg United Methodist Church in Kentucky (Apr. 2–7, 2017).
- Speaking at a ministers and wives retreat in Tennessee (Apr. 18–20, 2017).

I've also had the honor of conducting two weddings (Virginia and Kentucky). I continue to teach the Tuesday night Bible study at the FAS Ministry Center and serve on the boards of One Mission Society and the Pan African Academy of Christian Surgeons.

On the family front, Anna is completing her seventh year as a teacher at Black Forest Academy (Germany). Even from afar, she stays in close touch with her mother's needs. Her trips home during breaks in the academic year have helped greatly with Katy's care. Sarah and Adam (Michigan) adopted a handsome young man this past February (Noah, age 9), giving them a total of five children. Elisabeth and Ben (Chicago) just bought a new home and will celebrate Josiah's first birthday in June. Our children and grandchildren make us proud (sanctified pride, of course!).

"Follow me," Jesus said when he first called his disciples. But he made no mention of *where* they were going! As they walked together, however, Jesus slowly began to reveal that the way would be difficult and the cost of following would be great. "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23). "All I have to do is follow," the chorus reminds me. He gives strength for today and all I need for tomorrow. It just doesn't get any better than that! Life is hard. God is good. His kingdom is forever!

In the Name,



A word about finances:

Our financial support comes from three sources: a modest stipend from FAS, honoraria when I speak outside of FAS, and the faithful gifts of people like *you*. Katy and I stand in humble amazement at how God has provided for our needs since we left the security of a full-time pastorate over four years ago! With the extra expenses that have come to us related to health needs and home care providers, our wonderment and praise only grows deeper! Our support account continues to maintain a healthy black balance and we simply want to say, "*Thank you.*" Your gifts express love and encouragement and enable us to remain in ministry.



If You Will Only Let God Guide You

Georg Neumark (1641)

Translated from German to English by Catherine Winkworth

*If you will only let God guide you,
And hope in Him through all your ways,
Whatever comes, He'll stand beside you,
To bear you through the evil days;
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
Builds on the Rock that cannot move.*

*Only be still, and wait His leisure
In cheerful hope, with heart content
To take whate'er the Father's pleasure
And all discerning love have sent;
Nor doubt our inmost wants are known
To Him Who chose us for His own.*

*Sing, pray, and keep His ways unswerving,
So do thine own part faithfully.
And trust His word, though undeserving,
Thou yet shalt find it true for thee.
God never yet forsook in need
The soul that trusted Him indeed.*

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