

Hello everyone

Over the Summer we've been hearing details of journeys from members of the congregation. Holiday journeys. We've also been looking at Paul who is often on a journey in our Bible. Maybe work trips rather than holidays. But he does seem always to be on the move.

As Sarah finished the series on Sunday, I wondered what did I remember about holidays as a child. Like Paul we always seemed to be on long journeys. Not to different churches preaching the good news, but off to check up on various family members. Off round the country we'd go to see Aunts, Uncles and grand parents.

AS I drifted into my memory, I also started to wonder just what would be my ideal holiday. Nothing active, I thought. No walking from city to city like Paul for me.

My ideal holiday?

Well it would probably be two weeks sat in a chair reading a few books. The only thing that might improve my ideal holiday would probably be if the chair was in a dunny position next to a warm

swimming pool just outside my Mediterranean hotel balcony. And one other detail that would add to the break would be regular deliveries of my favourite foods timed to appear in the intermission between chapters.

It seems to me that apart ideal holiday would be pretty far from Paul's trips to his friends in the various churches he founded.

Re reading the book of Acts may not be everyone's holiday reading, but it is an exciting story of the start of the church. That time when the church develops from a band of followers of Jesus and sets itself on a path full of discussion and decisions until we reach the church we have to day. Those journeys Paul took, unlike my holidays ideal or real were definitely all about the work of spreading the good news.

And as he does so, we can feel the excitement Paul feels about being with God and speaking about Jesus and the Holy Spirit. It's not always easy for him. He meets opponents, but that picture of the excited hard working spirit filled Paul is one to hold onto as we worship God to day and every day.

Let us pray using a poem prayer written by Donald
Hilton

Spirit of the living God

Speak again to us

And all your people

Transforming

Confrontations into love

Pessimism into joy

Tension into peace

Impetuosity into patience

Sinfulness into goodness

Apathy into kindness

Fickleness into faithfulness

Anger into gentleness

And

Lack of discipline into self-control.

Then

May we enjoy

To the full

The gifts

You provide

For us and all your creatures

For the enrichment

Of your world.

Amen