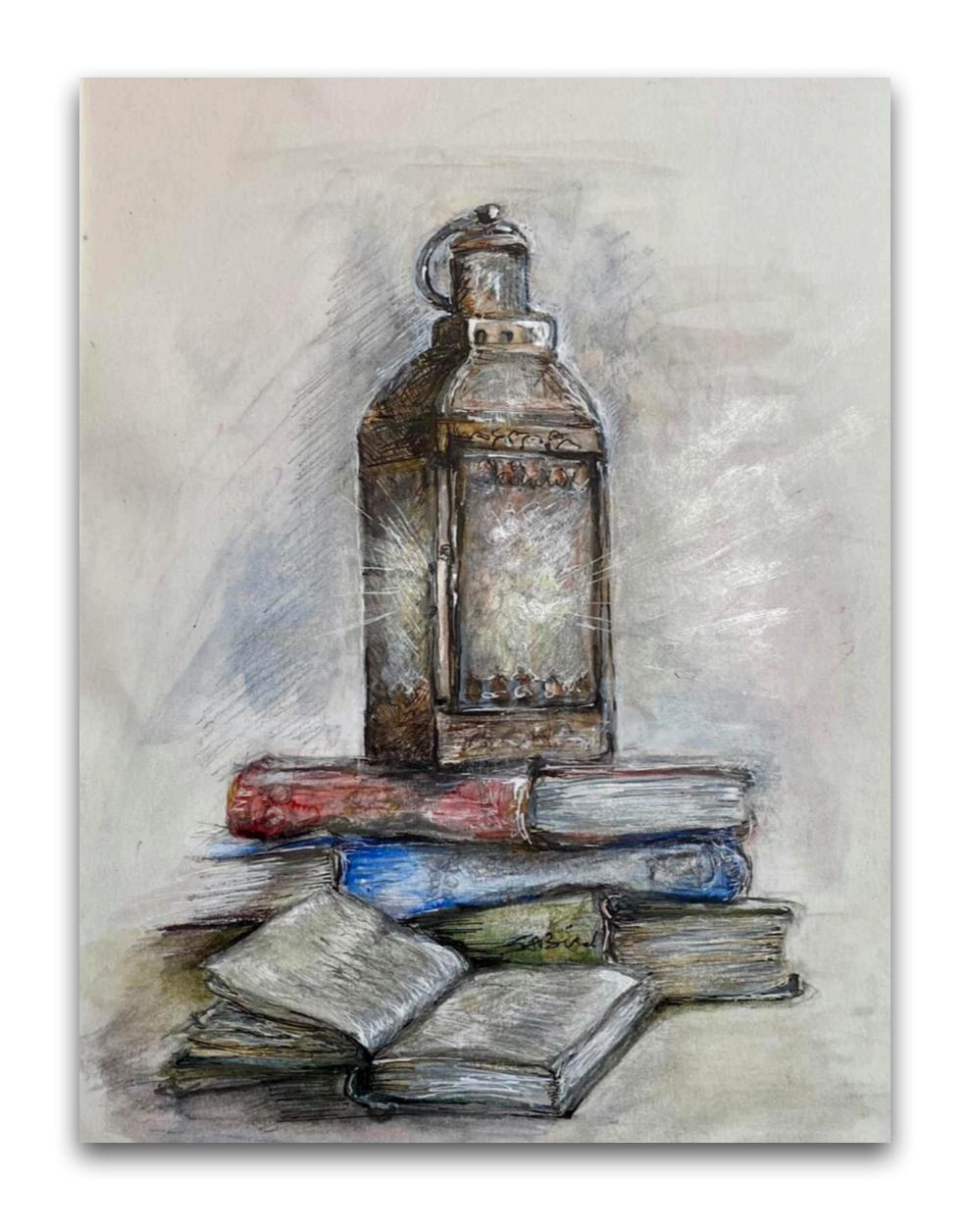
# Footsteps in Prayer

A journey through the Bible

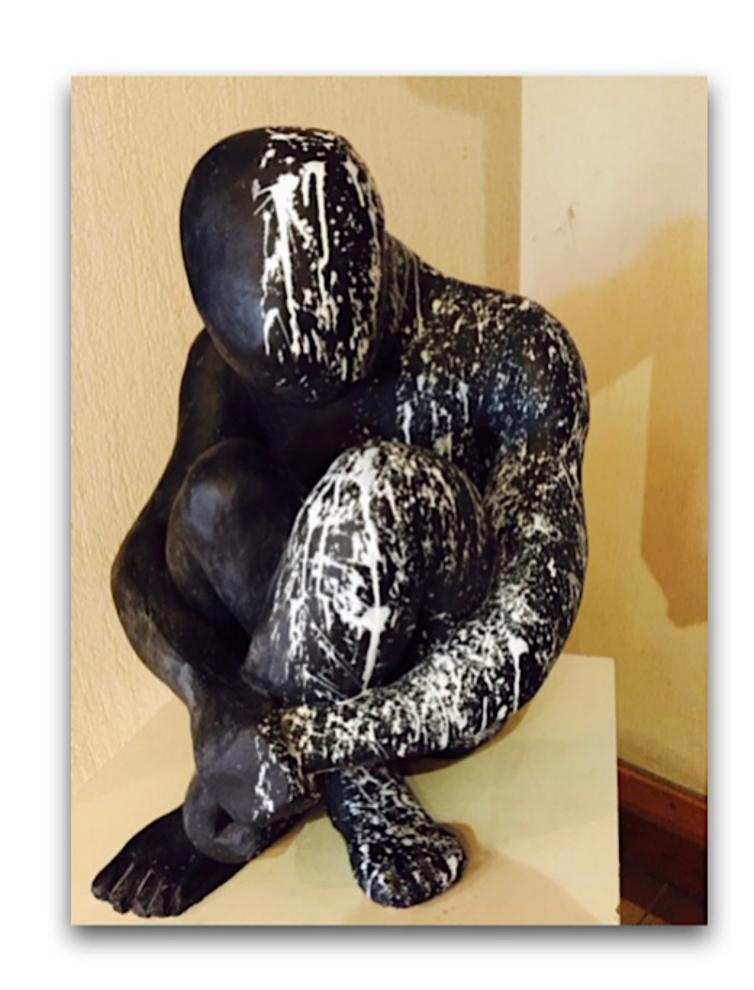
Acts (2)



- Find a place to sit quietly.
- Be aware of God's loving eyes watching over you.
- Sit in a relaxed position.
  - Become aware of your breathing.
  - The Holy Spirit is often called the breath of God.
  - Look back over the last 24 hours with thanks.
  - Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal where you have drawn close to God and where you have drawn away.
  - You might like to say sorry for the times where you have drawn away.
  - You might like to ask for a greater awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life and to respond to God's leading.
- You might like to listen to Hillsong sing <u>King of Kings</u> or to Misha Goetz sing <u>God Almighty Reigns</u>.
- You might like to listen to Rebekah Young sing What is he to you?



- You might like to listen to:
  - Day 1: At Your name sung by Phil Wickham then click here.
  - Day 2: Be Thou my vision sung by Audrey Assad then click here.
  - Day 3: Broken Vessels sung by Natasha Midori then click here.
  - Day 4: Majesty sung by Delirious then click here.
  - Day 5: Kristyn Getty sing My heart is filled with thankfulness then click here.
  - Day 6: This is my desire sung by Jehovah Shalom Acapella then click here.
  - Day 7: Chase me sung by Miriam Jones then click here.



### Day 1: <u>Acts 10</u>

While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, "Can anyone withhold water for baptising these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" And he commanded them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

- Read this passage from Acts 10.
  - What words or phrases strike you?
- Read these words again slowly.
  - Stay with one of the words or phrases that catches you and hold it in the stillness before God.
- What thoughts, feelings and images have emerged in this time of prayer?
- How has the Spirit been at work in your heart as you have prayed?
- You might like to note these down in your journal.
- When you have finished click here to continue.



### Day 2: <u>Acts 13</u>

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.

- Read this passage from Acts 13.
  - What words or phrases strike you?
- Read these words again slowly.
  - Stay with one of the words or phrases that catches you and hold it in the stillness before God.
- What thoughts, feelings and images have emerged in this time of prayer?
- How has the Spirit been at work in your heart as you have prayed?
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#### Day 3: <u>Acts 16</u>

Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

- Read these words from Acts 16.
  - What words or phrases strike you?
- Read these words again slowly.
  - Stay with one of the words or phrases that catches you and hold it in the stillness before God.
- What thoughts, feelings and images have emerged in this time of prayer?
- How has the Spirit been at work in your heart as you have prayed?
- You might like to note these down in your journal.
- When you have finished click here to continue.



#### Day 4: <u>Acts 16</u>

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!" The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptised. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

- Read these words from Acts 16.
  - What words or phrases strike you?
- Read these words again slowly.
  - Stay with one of the words or phrases that catches you and hold it in the stillness before God.
- What thoughts, feelings and images have emerged?
- How has the Spirit been at work as you have prayed?
- You might like to note these down in your journal.
- When you have finished click <u>here</u> to continue.



### Day 5: <u>Acts 20</u>

On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight. There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were meeting. Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead. Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "He's alive!" Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left. The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted.

- Read these words from Acts 20.
  - What words or phrases strike you?
- Read these words again slowly.
  - Stay with one of the words or phrases that catches you and hold it in the stillness before God.
- What thoughts, feelings and images have emerged?
- How has the Spirit been at work as you have prayed?
- You might like to note these down in your journal.
- When you have finished click <u>here</u> to continue.



#### Day 6: <u>Acts 21</u>

When the seven days were nearly over, some Jews from the province of Asia saw Paul at the temple. They stirred up the whole crowd and seized him, shouting, "Fellow Israelites, help us! This is the man who teaches everyone everywhere against our people and our law and this place. And besides, he has brought Greeks into the temple and defiled this holy place." (They had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with Paul and assumed that Paul had brought him into the temple.) The whole city was aroused, and the people came running from all directions. Seizing Paul, they dragged him from the temple, and immediately the gates were shut. While they were trying to kill him, news reached the commander of the Roman troops that the whole city of Jerusalem was in an uproar. He at once took some officers and soldiers and ran down to the crowd. When the rioters saw the commander and his soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. The commander came up and arrested him and ordered him to be bound with two chains. Then he asked who he was and what he had done. Some in the crowd shouted one thing and some another, and since the commander could not get at the truth because of the uproar, he ordered that Paul be taken into the barracks. When Paul reached the steps, the violence of the mob was so great he had to be carried by the soldiers. The crowd that followed kept shouting, "Get rid of him!"

- Read these words from Acts 21.
  - What words or phrases strike you?
- Read these words again slowly.
  - Stay with one of the words or phrases that catches you and hold it in the stillness before God.
- What thoughts, feelings and images have emerged?
- How has the Spirit been at work as you have prayed?
- You might like to note these down in your journal.
- When you have finished click <u>here</u> to continue.



### Day 7: <u>Acts 28</u>

"Therefore I want you to know that God's salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen!" For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!

- Read these words from Acts 28.
  - What words or phrases strike you?
- Read these words again slowly.
  - Stay with one of the words or phrases that catches you and hold it in the stillness before God.
- What thoughts, feelings and images have emerged?
- How has the Spirit been at work as you have prayed?
- You might like to note these down in your journal.
- When you have finished click here to continue



- You might like to listen to these pieces of instrumental music by Patrick Hawes from his album Towards the Light
  - Day 1: Pavanne
  - Day 2: Quanta Qualia
  - · Day 3: Ebb Tide
  - Day 4: Annunciation Final
  - Day 5: Sleep Song
  - Day 6: Songs of Innocence
  - Day 7: Stargazer Final



#### Psalm 47

Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy. For the Lord Most High is awesome,

the great King over all the earth.

He subdued nations under us, peoples under our feet.

He chose our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom he loved.

God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.

Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.

God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.

The nobles of the nations assemble as the people of the God of Abraham, for the kings of the earth belong to God; he is greatly exalted.



#### Proverbs 14:2

Whoever fears the Lord walks uprightly, but those who despise him are devious in their ways.



#### Many parts

God has an amazing way of integrating the different parts of our lives - the people who have shaped us, the experiences we have had, the way we see God at work in all things.

- You might like to watch this <u>video</u> of a collage made of many different materials.
- \* What do you notice as you watch?
- \* How is God calling you to be both a fish and a fisher of people?
- You might like to make your own collage of a fish and as you do to pray for the mission and ministry of the church of God.
- You might like to look to join a creative arts retreat and have some protected time with God to refresh and restore. Click on the image to the right to see some opportunities there might be to do this.
- You might like to ponder. The disciples were told they would be fishers of men. This year, what would you like to declare about God, so that others might know him better for themselves?

#### Creative prayer





He is the colourful creator of the cosmos,

Accessible Architect of all

Compassionate One-

Justice and Joy

Nearer than you think; closer than a heartbeat;

present in the light times, the blackest space and all the grey margins in between

He has your back, leads the way and is by your side,

but never pushes in - always waiting for an invitation first.

She is the instigator of miracles,

adept at fresh starts and generosity beyond all understanding.

God- the Great Gift Giver

He's in the business of transformation:

Redeeming, resurrecting, restoring, repairing, renovating-

making all things new, wiping out the mess we often find ourselves in.

Closest friend yet all powerful One,

Infinite, Three in One - One in Three,

Forever Father, Servant Son, Supporting Spirit

All Found in the midst of pain

Burden Carrier, Wiper of Tears,

Carrying the Cross

God: perfect love

Relevant yesterday, today and forever

Practical paradox

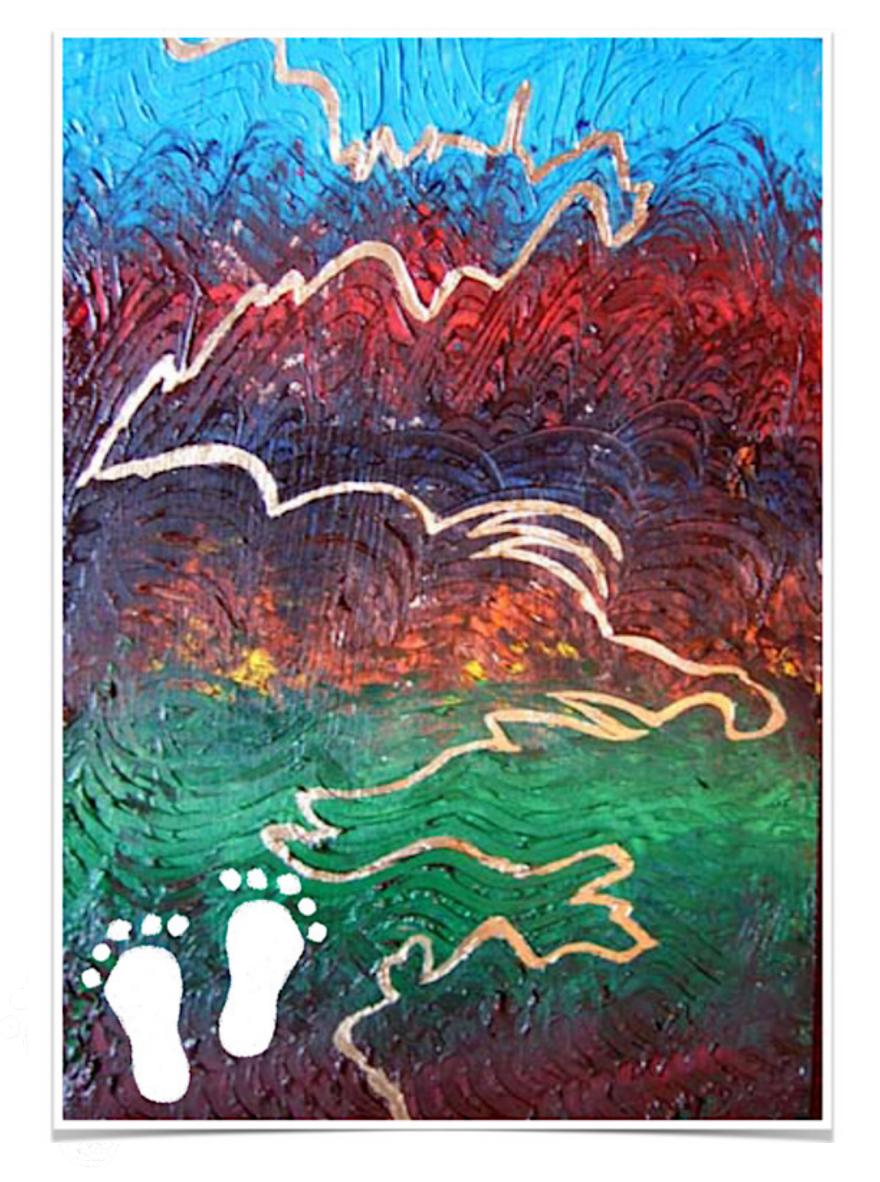
Mystery



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A journey through the Bible

The second part of a graphic introduction to the book of Acts can be found <u>here</u>.



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The Pathway by Kate Austin (Adapted) Used with permission.

This prayer station and other resources can be found at <u>The Prayer Room</u>