

Don't Give UP

“He sent servants to collect his produce”

“Next he sent more servants, a larger number”

“Finally he sent his son”

He did not give up

To be of faith is to use belief in what you are doing. To use belief in what you are. To keep on going.

Not blind fanaticism, But faithful; application.

The child who takes up the playing of the violin. The practice of gymnastics, the place in the local football team. The struggle with a language at school.

The parents encourage, force, reward, and endure the struggle of the child so that the child learns.

To keep on trying.

Learns not to give up.

The child never learns to play in a symphonic orchestra. Never plays for the Rovers, or on an Olympic floor exercise. Never communicates fluently in French.

However the child learns the skills of faithful application. Not fanaticism. But a belief in self, and in what they are doing.

Thus there are rewards in many different directions. In many applications. All over the rest of the life of the child.

The married couple in the early years of romance dream of an idyllic lifestyle, moving effortlessly through the years, and finishing with a pain free entry into the wisdom of old age.

A teething small child and sleep deprivation demands endurance. Unable to chastise the baby they simply scream at each other.

In an atmosphere of love, the insecurities and annoying compulsive habits emerge, and call upon the patience of the partner.

Circumstance throws in, crisis, illness, in-laws.

The couple encourage, force, reward, and endure the struggle of making it work.

They do not become the Starry-eyed image of compatibility.

However they learn the skills of faithful application. Not fanaticism. But a belief in self, and in what they are doing.

Thus there are rewards in many different directions. In the many applications of the rest of their lives, and the lives of their family.

In my brief time in Kenya I suffered from malaria a little bit. However much more painfully I saw children die as a result of malaria. The insect borne disease gave the children diarrhoea, which in turn dehydrated their little bodies and shut down the systems of life.

This week the World health Organisation has accepted and put into mass production a vaccine developed by scientist's led by a group in Oxford University. The R21 malaria vaccine has been shown to have up to 80% efficacy.

When interviewed on Radio 4 this week it emerged that the lead researcher had been working on this project for 30 years.

That is 30 years.

These champions of achievement, must surely have tried, and failed, and tried again. They must have thought themselves close to the solution only to be disappointed on many occasions.

However they obviously developed the skills of faithful application. Not fanaticism. But a belief in self, and in what they were doing.

The rewards will be felt in the lives of millions of families. In the health of millions of children.

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The example explained by the Christ himself

Is that it is divine

Sacred

Not fanaticism

But faithful application

From the child learning to read

To the couple learning to breath

On, on to the heroes and heroines of our age

Do not give up

Develop lives

Of faithful application.