

Inspire

Winston Churchill (A Study in Greatness) by Kevin Wilcock

Recently I shared at our men's retreat about Winston Churchill, the renowned wartime leader of Great Britain. I thoroughly enjoyed preparing for my talk as I studied his life. I felt the greatness of this man, the destiny to which he had been called, and the accomplishments he achieved while under severe opposition and pressure. May this brief study of his life inspire you in your own calling.

"Kites rise highest against the wind, not with it." - Winston Churchill.

"The empires of the future are the empires of the mind."

The Early Years

Winston Churchill was born in Oxfordshire, England in 1874. His father was a conservative politician and his mother an American heiress. His parents lived a very social life and had very little time with Winston. They never visited him while he was in boarding school. In fact, it seems his father didn't really like him.

Winston was brought up by his nanny, Mrs Elizabeth Everest, who believed that she was called by God to look after young Winston. He called her "Woomany." Churchill would later speak fondly of his nanny, saying, "This is the woman who raised me and cared for me." He kept her photo by his bed until he died.

A sickly child, Winston was of a stocky build and had red hair. He was called "Copper Knob" at times. He also had a stutter and a lisp. He didn't do well at school, even though he was very intelligent. He was great at history and English, but he was often in the lowest class with the lowest grades and ended up not completing upper school.

"Never, never give up."
Winston Churchill.

"Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference." - Winston Churchill.

The Military Years

At the age of 18 Winston entered the Royal Military Academy in 1893 after two previous attempts at admittance. He graduated eighth out of 150 students in 1895, and led his class in tactics and formation. Active service for three years in Cuba and India followed.

"Nothing in life is so exhilarating as to be shot at without result." - Winston Churchill.

After active duty he worked as a war correspondent, first for the Daily Telegraph newspaper in India and then for the Morning Post in Africa during the Boer War. While in Africa he was captured and imprisoned in a POW camp for a month, from which he escaped.

The Political Career and Military Disaster

He began his political career in 1900, a career that would span some 50 years. He would see some amazing achievements and some horrible disasters. By 1908 he rose to the office of Home Secretary. Then in 1914 he was made First Lord of the Admiralty of the British Navy. He did well in a number of areas but in 1915 made a bad judgment that helped lead to the loss of over 200,000 soldiers.

Winston was blamed for this disaster. He quietly returned to the infantry as an officer on the western front. Eventually he returned to politics, where he played an important role in the development of the tank.

I think that most people, after being part of a major disaster for which they were held responsible, would have shrunk into the background, never to rise again. Not Winston Churchill! Although it was gradual, he once again rose in influence, and even assumed the office of First Lord of the Admiralty again at the outbreak of World War 11.

"If you are going through hell, keep going." - Winston Churchill.

"Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm." - Winston Churchill.

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal—it is the courage to continue that counts." - Winston Churchill.

Family Life

Winston was married at 33 years of age to Clementine, who was 23. They were completely different. She was a vibrant, upbeat woman, who was a little independent, but she was a perfect partner for Winston. She carried him through some dark times. They had pet names for each other. He was Pug, which eventually became Pig, and her name was Kat.

They were devoted parents, Winston, of course, remembering his lack as a child. They had five children, one of whom died in her early years, an event that crushed them deeply.

Wilderness Years

Churchill experienced wilderness years when he became a backbencher in politics. During this time he wrote, lectured, studied and travelled. During a visit to Germany he was shocked at the rise of Nazism. Back then it was virtually an unknown force but he spoke out about the threat, even though he was only a backbencher.

Many people thought that Churchill was a crackpot. Very few listened to him. It was as if he had a prophetic gift for this time to see what others could not see, but no one paid any attention as he cried out his warning in a wilderness of ignorance.

In 1935 he was put in charge of air defence development. He proceeded to build the Royal Air Force to such great strength that it was credited for holding back the German Luftwaffe in what became known as the Battle of Britain.

Again it was as if he carried a prophetic sense of foreknowledge as he warned Parliament about the Nazis and the military build-up in Germany, but his warnings were dismissed...until the Munich Games in 1938. Then people began to see him in a different light.

Germany had risen from the defeat of World War 1, from the hardship of the Great Depression, to become a superpower. Yet, when Adolf Hitler invaded Poland in 1939, the world still tried to ignore the terrible threat to world peace that he posed.

England declared war on Nazi Germany in 1939, and in May of 1940, Winston Churchill became prime minister. When he first faced the British Parliament as the new wartime leader, he committed himself and the nation to all out war until victory was won. He went on to say:

"I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat. We have before us an ordeal of the most grievous kind. We have before us many, many long months of struggle and of suffering. You ask, what is our policy? I can say: it is to wage war, by sea, land and air, with all our might and with all the strength that God can give us; to wage war against a monstrous tyranny, never surpassed in the dark, lamentable

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catalogue of human crime. That is our policy. You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word: it is victory, victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory however, long and hard the road may be; for without victory, there is no survival. Let that be realized; no survival for the British Empire, no survival for all that the British Empire has stood for, no survival for the urge and impulse of the ages, that mankind will move forward towards its goal."

By 4th June, 1940 Britain and the Allied forces were pushed to Dunkirk, where 340,000 troops were miraculously rescued from the coast of France. ON that day he delivered the famous speech that stirred the world:

"We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be; we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender, and even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this island or a large part of it were subjugated and starving, then our empire beyond the seas, armed and guarded by the British fleet, would carry on the struggle, until, in God's good time, the New World, with all its power and might, steps forth to the rescue and the liberation of the Old."

A man born with a stutter and a lisp, Winston Churchill rose above this handicap and became a powerful speaker and encourager. He had a great sense that God had brought him into leadership for this hour.

During the bombing of London where 14,000 civilians were killed during the course of the war, he would travel around London giving the victory salute and instilling strength into people's lives. This was probably England's darkest hour. When Churchill was asked, "What were you doing during the bombing of London?" he replied, "I was planning the invasion of Europe."

Churchill was named "Time" magazine's person of the year for 1940. In the accompanying article, it said, "He gave his countrymen exactly what he promised them—blood, toil, tears, sweat—and one thing more: untold courage. It was the last that counted, not only in Britain but in democracies throughout the world...On his behaviour hung the shape of the future. His civilised toughness, his balanced courage and his simple pride altered the course of history in 1940."

We need to realise that even though it is God that delivers, He uses people. He uses us! You see that in Joshua's life. When God commanded him in Joshua 1:6 to "be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land," with confidence and determination Joshua obeyed and took command. We have land (an inheritance) standing before every one of us that God has promised to us. But we need to move in and take possession of it. We as leaders also need to be strong, very courageous, and obedient. We read of his success late in the book of Joshua when the borders of their inheritance

are described: (Joshua 16:7-9)

This is a message for this present time and situation, and for all leaders, whether they be pastors, managers, or politicians! Read Joshua chapter 1 and God will speak to you.

"One ought never to turn one's back on a threatened danger and try to run away from it. If you do that, you will double the danger. But if you meet it promptly and without flinching, you will reduce the danger by half. Never run away from anything. Never!" - Winston Churchill

Allies and Alliances

In 1941 when the Germans invaded Russia, Winston capitalised on this by stating on June 22nd: "...the Russian danger...is our danger," and pledged aid to the Russian people. He also began to plan a "grand alliance" among Great Britain, the United States and Russia.

After Pearl Harbour and Churchill's visit to the U.S., the grand alliance to fight fascism became a reality.

"You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life." - Winston Churchill.

"Meeting Franklin Roosevelt was like opening your first bottle of champagne; knowing him was like drinking it." - Winston Churchill.

It is very important that you create allies and alliances in your world—with people who will fight with you and for you. It doesn't mean you agree or argue on everything, but you realise that you are allies for a particular purpose or task.

"You can always count on Americans to do the right thing—after they've tried everything else." - Winston Churchill.

"Socialism is a philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy, its inherent virtue is the equal sharing of misery." - Winston Churchill

"Russia is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma." - Winston Churchill

In 1943, Churchill and Roosevelt held the Casablanca Conference on 14th January, declaring that they would except nothing short of unconditional surrender from the enemy (Germany, Italy and Japan). Later that year, they met with the Soviet leader Joseph Stalin in Tehran, the capital of Iran, where they discussed their military campaign against Hitler and confirmed their decision to accept only an unconditional surrender from Germany. With two years of this alliance, the war was won.

Who has God called you to align yourself with? Or what about your church, your ministry or business? You see, one might be able to put a thousand to flight, but two will put 10,000 to flight. Alliances multiply our effect and our influence.

Internal or Emotional Strength

Leaders, managers, politicians or any other upfront person must be strong and resilient, having good internal fortitude and emotional capacity.

"In war, you can only be killed once, but in politics, many times." - Winston Churchill.

Winston Churchill made mistakes in his leadership, some that cost thousands their lives. He made some decisions that are still morally questioned today. He was spoken against often by his own fellow countrymen and allies. Many attempts at assassination were made on him but he had a

doglike tenacity that caused him not to give up or bow down. Even though he suffered with depression, he never let it rule his life or leadership. One time a woman declared to him, "Mr Churchill, you are drunk!" He simply responded, "Yes, and you, Madam are ugly. But tomorrow, I shall be sober!"

Another time, while Churchill was on the toilet an aide told him that there was an angry foreign ambassador on the phone, Churchill replied, "Let him wait! I can only deal with one shit at a time."

Nothing would faze him or deter him. It is interesting to note, however, that within a very short time after the end of the war, his party was voted out.

Churchill went on to write six volumes about the Second World War and won the Nobel Prize for Literature.

In 1949 he was named "Time" magazine's person of the year for the second time. "Starting with superb confidence, the 10th Century plunged vigorously forward from ambush to ambush," the magazine stated. "Shock after shock threw civilisation into confusion. As the 20th Century plunged on, long-familiar bearings were lost in the mists of change. Some of the age's great leaders called for more and more speed ahead; some tried to reverse the course. Winston Churchill had a different function: his chief contribution was to warn of rocks ahead, and to lead the rescue parties. He was not the man who designed the ship; what he did was to launch the lifeboats. That a free world survived in 1950, with a hope of more progress and less calamity, was due in large measure to his exertions."

In 1951 he was again elected prime minister and served for four years, but without any significant achievement. It was as if Winston Churchill had been born for that hour of England's history—or even the world's.

In 1954 Queen Elizabeth 11 and the British Parliament acclaimed him as the "greatest living Briton." He retired from politics in 1964, and six months later, on 24th January 1965, Winston Churchill died of a stroke.

What a life this man lived! What an inspiration!

Let me finish with this last quote:

"Pastor, leader, business owner, manager, never, never, never give up!"

Winston Churchill





GlobeReach some of the works we support overseas

Indonesia—Colin & Kim Crago

Life In the Spirit Institute

Life in the Spirit Institute has, so far, turned out two graduating classes that have almost all gone either into Church planting, Pastoral work or further Theological study.

In our efforts to enculturate the school and fit it into the local context, while maintaining our Biblical and Spiritual integrity, we have decided to upgrade the curriculum and rename the school. From now on it will be known as: **Life in the Spirit Academy.**

From The Heart Ministries are pleased to announce that our next intake of students, due July 14th 2009, will be enrolling in an expanded course for 2 years. There will be 7 months of lectures, 5 months of practical training in a local Church followed by 2 semesters of 5 months each. This fits into an already established framework here in Indonesia. At the end of March we have had 11 serious enquiries for positions in the school with over three months before

commencement date; 24 will be our maximum.

Our school will have some new, experienced faces on the faculty and should maintain the balance between over educating students so they become academics and under-educating them so they are not fit for ministry. In all cases we want to see people love God with all their hearts and humbly serve their fellows.

Educating people is an expensive business. This is a live in school. It requires bunks and bedding, wardrobes, eating facilities (I was going to call it mess facilities but that's too close to the truth),. Books, lecturers stipends and a host of other things. Equipment such as bunks and wardrobes are very flimsy here and require constant maintenance. We would be happy if someone would come over and build us some strong bunks and wardrobes.

This is a vital ministry. We want to train people to reach out all over Indonesia and its 250 mill people the largest Muslim

country in the world. We need to increase our efforts to build new disciples and effective ministers. Will you partner with us to help bring in the harvest? Finance is urgently needed.

Colin & Kim Crago

Email: colin.crago@gmail.com

Web: www.fromthehearttotheworld.com

Support can be given to Colin & Kim's ministry via direct deposit into:

BSB 012-830

Account No. 5103-86214

Kev's new 6 pack# 5

Six pack # 5 is six great messages for people who are coming to faith with titles such as:

- ◆ Shame
- ◆ It's o.k. to doubt
- ◆ Regrets
- ◆ What's holding you back
- ◆ The spirit of the digger
- ◆ 14 years in jail

Packs are only \$20.00 + \$5.00 postage & handling. To order your copy today Ph Life Church Office on 4961 0211.

Word from Kevin

It was beautiful to catch up with my good friends Paul & Veronica and their three great children. We had lunch at Dapto at a Chinese restaurant but still it was not enough time so we moved to the next venue, which was a children's birthday party at Hungry Jacks, where we just caught up

on all the great things that were happening in South America – San Juan. I cannot recommend this couple to you enough. If you have not met them, heard them, please try to attend one of their meetings. They are speaking all over the place. If you are a minister, leader or business person or

in fact just anybody that would love to support their work and ministry, contact Paul on his mobile while he is in Australia. He would be more than happy to talk.

Yours in Christ
Kevin Wilcock



Argentina, San Juan—Paul & Veronica Harb

Its good to be back and after five years of ministering in San Juan Argentina. We left in the middle of a revival there and we have seen a lot of souls get saved. We are just about on the edge of planting another church in the slum areas and it has been great there, the Lord has allowed us to work with both the poor and the rich.

Basically, we have decided to come back to Australia to catch up with family, friends and church and it has been great. We have seen a lot of great things happen here in Australia among the church. We are surprised that a lot of churches have opened up to us in Sydney, Campbelltown, Newcastle, Mildura and we are excited

about the doors that God is opening up and a lot of support. There are a lot of people hopping on board to support us and a lot of interest in short term missions coming over to San Juan in November this year, so there is a lot excitement for us.

We are really excited here but cant wait to get back to Argentina because there is also so much happening there.

If you get a chance to be at any of the meetings we are speaking at please come along.

If anyone is able to make our farewell on 29th August, at Berkley, please come along.

If you would like to get in touch with Paul or would like to know more about his work you can contact Paul on 0423 661 397

- 5 July Life Church Newcastle
- 12 July Calvary Chapel—Sydney
- 19 July FCF MacArthur—Campbelltown
- 26 July Mildura Victoria
- 2 Aug Church on the Highway
Michinbury
- 9 Aug Griffith NSW
- 16 Aug SCCC Shellharbour
- 22 &
- 23 Aug, Essington Church Westmead
- 29 Aug Farewell at Berkley Community Hall,
Winnima Way, Berkley at 5:00pm

Having Life Outside of the Ministry - Kim Hammond

Give me a million dollars (or more) and I would open a Movie theatre. It is a gathering place for people I want to reach and places I like to go. Film is the most modern means to communicate narrative. We go to the movies and come out learning about life, debating theology and questioning our mortality. We are inspired to action and moved to tears, we can be shocked, horrified and bored.

Whether it be sacrificial love like in *Gran Torino*—Clint Eastwood teaches us that even the most irredeemable person can give their life for the least, the last, the leaper, in this case an Hmong teenager and his sister. Or the burden of guilt and sin in *Seven pounds*—Will Smith carries a burden of guilt that would overwhelm him and the audience that watches him.

We cheer for the boy from the slums in *Slumdog Millionaire* or the girl from an orphanage in *Annie* even the murderer in jail serving a life sentence as he digs a hole over twenty years to freedom in *The Shawshank Redemption*. Sometimes they do a better job communicating to our audience than most sermons. They fill our imagination and ignite our minds with images, pictures and sounds that outlast words from a common lecture.

Preaching can and is anointed and supernatural and I have seen it change lives. However I have never seen more people sit around talking, debating, retelling and re-quoting a sermon like they do a truly memorable film.

I watch films often, whether at the cinema or in my lounge room, I always go with friends and we always find ourselves in this discussion, one to rival any small group.

Movies are not a one way dialogue, people go in groups, watch them outside in parks, drive-ins are back with lounge chairs and blankets and footy before the show. I have spent many nights outside in Dandenong with friends and family watching a movie and eating, laughing and crying with the people I love. Can you remember a church service that gave you that experience? Church doesn't have a multimillion dollar budget like a film however we need to engage this medium far more seriously.

Friday Night Lights is my favourite TV show by far right now. I cry a lot when I watch it. I love the story and characters, their brokenness and friendships and sadness stuck in middle class middle America with all the pressures,

hopes and dreams based around High School Football. I watch these young people and I literally want to move their and help them.

When all is said and done about FNLs the main character and coach is what I really love about the show. He is the kind of leader and man I wish to be, and realize often I am not. He is a great family man, an amazing strong, dedicated coach who loves the young men he coaches. Over the course of the season the show unfolds to reveal far more than a football series. He takes in Riggins the roughest kid on the team, he works with flash after he graduates, he visits Jason Street in the hospital after he cannot walk.

Kim Hammond
Email: kim@kimhammond.com

Friends in Ministry with Kim Hammond



Date: 20th July
Time: 11:00am until 2:00pm
Cost: Whatever you buy for lunch
Venue: Wellspring Café (Corner Town Hall Lane & Queens Street, Auburn).

Ozreach Gathering—13th to 14th November 2009

Speakers:

Dave Ferguson
Kevin Wilcock
Kim Hammond



Dave Ferguson is a founding pastor of Community Christian Church; an innovative multi-site missional church with nine locations locally that have grown in average attendance from 5 to over 5000 since its beginning 19 years ago.

Cost is \$100.00 (2 lunches included)
Early bird registration is \$90.00 if paid before 1st October 2009.

Venue: Life Church,
15 Denison St, Newcastle West
Email: info@lifechurch.org.au
Phone: 4961 0211

Kim Miller—Book Launch Friday 24th July @ Life Church

SoapBox Presents

Book Launch

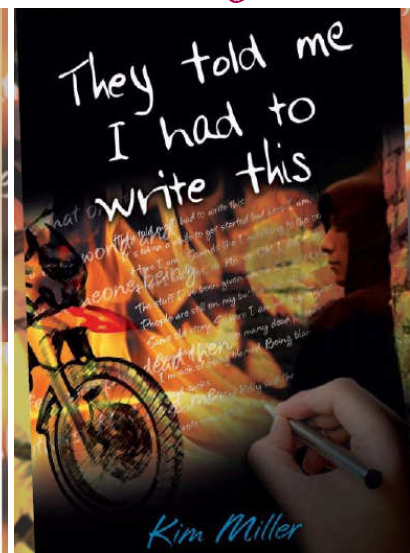
They Told Me I Had To Write This

by
Local Author - Kim Miller
www.kimmiller.id.au

A compelling story that offers an insight into the life of a troubled teen ...
Terry O'Connell
Australian Director, RealJustice.org

Friday July 24th - 5:30pm
Life Church - 15 Dennison St
Newcastle West
www.lifechurch.org.au

Book launch sales support Soul Café
Feeding Newcastle's homeless and hungry



Kim Miller grew up freewheeling the dusty streets of country NSW. From back streets to boys' home, from Pizza hut, to PhD, from Cathedral to Correctional Centre, Kim's travelled the road. These days he works in Newcastle with people in and out of prison, managing a community chaplaincy project called Home for Good.

"They Told Me I Had To Write This" is his second book.