

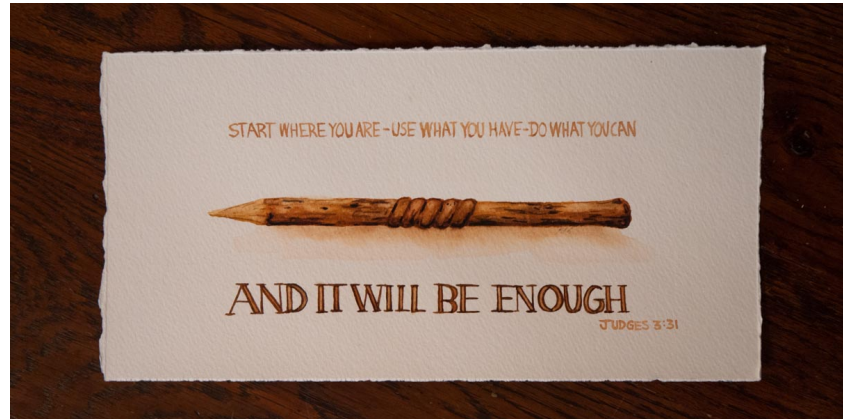
Life Church Sermon Sheet:

Date: Sunday, March 18, 2018

Rev. M. Dixon

Getting into the Game: with Faith & Hope

Title: Once you are in the game
Play like you Expect to Win- Hope



- From Faith to Persevering Hope and true and natural love.
1. **Identity to Actions... Jesus focusing on who he was and then on his task. As we get ready for Easter, we have to focus on our identity- on God's team, and what he wants us to do on the field. MARK 8:27-33 Who do you say I am...**
 2. **Faith gets us moving to the Field, Hope keeps us in the game...God gives us the rules as our commander and coach. (Science Olympiad, Chick-Fil-a)**
 3. **Hope happens away from the stands... We are in Enemy Territory... Like Gideon's 300.**
 4. **Real Hope get's ready when no one is looking.**



- a) In Prayer, Knowing the rules, Testimonies and stories... Like Jephthah Judges 11
 - b) In doing the basics we are called to do. Like Shamgar on the farm. Judges 3:31
 - c) Using those Stories to build up our Hope and do the math. Gideon's 300.
5. **Hope is Thankful for ALL things,**
 1. Story of Betsy Ten Boom (Corey's big sister who was her Shamgar).
 2. <http://deeproootsathome.com/betsie-and-the-fleas/> The Story that built Corey's hope in a concentration camp.
6. **Hope doesn't sweat the "haters".**
 - a) Hope doesn't consider what the Fans in the stands say, only the coach!
 - b) Deborah and Barak. Judges 4:4-10
 7. Surrounding ourselves with testimonies and those who build up our hope Heb. 12:1-3
 8. Hope Doesn't disappoint- Isaiah 49: 22-23
 9. Romans 5- our Hopeville Station.



This week's Questions: Being on the Field requires Hope/ Practice, using what is in your hand/or even bugs in your bed!

1. Who/what "Fleas" do you need to thank God for? No really!
2. What/Who Zaps your Hope?
3. Who Builds it up? Who is your Shamgar/ Betsie? Who are you Shamgar/Betsie/Nokseng for?
4. How do these differ from "yes" men? We must be careful of those who zap hope and those who make sure you check your faith- following the coach.
5. What drills do you need to become the Extra-ordinary Spiritual warrior (athlete, Farmer) God is calling you to be?
6. What is in your hand for you to use?
7. What Game is God calling you to win? Like defeating the Philistines, Helping Jews in concertation camps, Converting the Garo People? Your family members...



“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

Theodore Roosevelt

Getting on the Field. Knowing we are players and letting the other players and our coach sharpen

US...

BIBLE Study- Exodus 1-6 God as Hero of the Story

Watch Bible Project Exodus 1-18

Exodus (NIV) 4: ¹⁰Then Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I *am* not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I *am* slow of speech and slow of tongue."

¹¹So the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? *Have* not I, the LORD? ¹²Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say."

¹³But he said, "O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever *else* You may send."

¹⁴So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and He said: "Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And look, he is also coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. ¹⁵Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do. ¹⁶So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God. ¹⁷And you shall take this rod in your hand, with which you shall do the signs."

Moses Goes to Egypt

¹⁸So Moses went and returned to Jethro his father-in-law, and said to him, "Please let me go and return to my brethren who *are* in Egypt, and see whether they are still alive."

And Jethro said to Moses, "Go in peace."

¹⁹Now the LORD said to Moses in Midian, "Go, return to Egypt; for all the men who sought your life are dead." ²⁰Then Moses took his wife and his sons and set them on a donkey, and he returned to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the rod of God in his hand.

²¹And the LORD said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do all those wonders before Pharaoh which I have put in your hand. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go. ²²Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: "Israel *is* My son, My firstborn. ²³So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn.'"

²⁴And it came to pass on the way, at the encampment, that the LORD met him and sought to kill him. ²⁵Then Zipporah took a sharp stone and cut off the foreskin of her son and cast *it* at Moses' feet, and said, "Surely you *are* a husband of blood to me!" ²⁶So He let him go. Then she said, "*You are* a husband of blood!"—because of the circumcision.

GETTING INTO
THE GAME

AND OUT OF THE
STANDS OF OUR
FAITH



WHERE ARE YOU RESIDING? IN THE STANDS OR ON GOD'S FIELD?

- ✘ What is the difference ?...
 - + Faith, Hope and Love I Corinth 13 are the hallmarks of those on the field- Good Soil Matt 13
 - + Fear & Lack of understanding, real Roots, preoccupation on worldly things- Distracted.

GOD IS NOT LOOKING FOR FANS BUT FOR PLAYERS

- ✘ The Lord made Disciples and said go make more, not converts or Religious people. Matt 28
- ✘ Do not get entangled in the game outside the Game... II Tim 2:1-7 Like a Good Soldier, Athlete or Farmer.
- ✘ Gideon had his 300 who where in the game, the other 31,700 were “fans” wanting the championship but not the fight.
- ✘ If God was picking a team, would you make it?

A GOOD TEAM PLAYER KNOWS WHAT POSITION THEY PLAY AND DOES THEIR JOB

➤ Gideon and his 300

Players don't question

The coach, especially

When he is picking the team. Jesus did not pick everyone, He even did anti Altar calls...

Discouraging people who couldn't hang. Faith is getting on the field, religion is staying in the stands. Faith requires following the coach,

Religion is following an interpretation of rules, or even a team. No suffering required...



FAITH

- ✘ Faith-Fearlessly following the rules of the Game and the game plan set up by the coach.
- ✘ Hallmarks of team Play...
 - + “I only do what I see my Father (the coach) doing”- Jesus
 - + “Ye of little faith” the Captain of the team before he had to go to teammates who had some set backs.
 - + That dude has faith- the captain to an opposing team member who understood how to follow the Gameplan

FAITH FOLLOWS



- ✘ I have decided to follow Jesus- A great Hymn of Praise
Written by a Indian Missionary Sadhu Sundar Singh
was about to commit suicide by throwing himself on
railroad tracks and He gave God one more chance to
reveal himself. That Night he had a vision of Jesus who
opened his soul to the truth. He told his father, who
denounced him, his brother tried to poison him, they
threw poisonous snakes in his house, he received
Episcopal religious training (and learned about hymns)
but they didn't accept him and discouraged him from
going to Tibet, where he felt he was called. On one of
those journeys he heard about Nok seng, a Garo man, a
tribe from Meghalaya which then was in Assam, a part of
India.

I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS



- ✘ Nokseng was a Garo man who followed Jesus to the end. This Story brought me to tears as I looked into it... From Wikipedia: Nokseng, along with his family decided to follow Jesus Christ in the middle of the 19th century through the efforts of an American Baptist missionary. Called to renounce his faith by the village chief, the convert declared, "I have decided to follow Jesus." His two children were killed and in response to threats to his wife, he continued, "Though none go with me, still I will follow." His wife was killed, and he was executed while singing, "The cross before me, the world behind me." This display of faith is reported to have led to the conversion of the chief and others in the village.^[1] The fierce opposition is possible, as various tribes in that area were formerly renowned for head-hunting.^[2]
- ✘ To this day the Garo People -population over 1 million in India are predominantly Christian! This is Faith in action...

BEING ON THE TEAM OR THE STANDS

- ✘ What are characteristics of being on the field?
- ✘ What are Characteristics of being just in the stands as a Christian?
- ✘ What is the difference between 1st world and 3rd World Christianity?
- ✘ What are the challenges of both? What can we learn from each other?

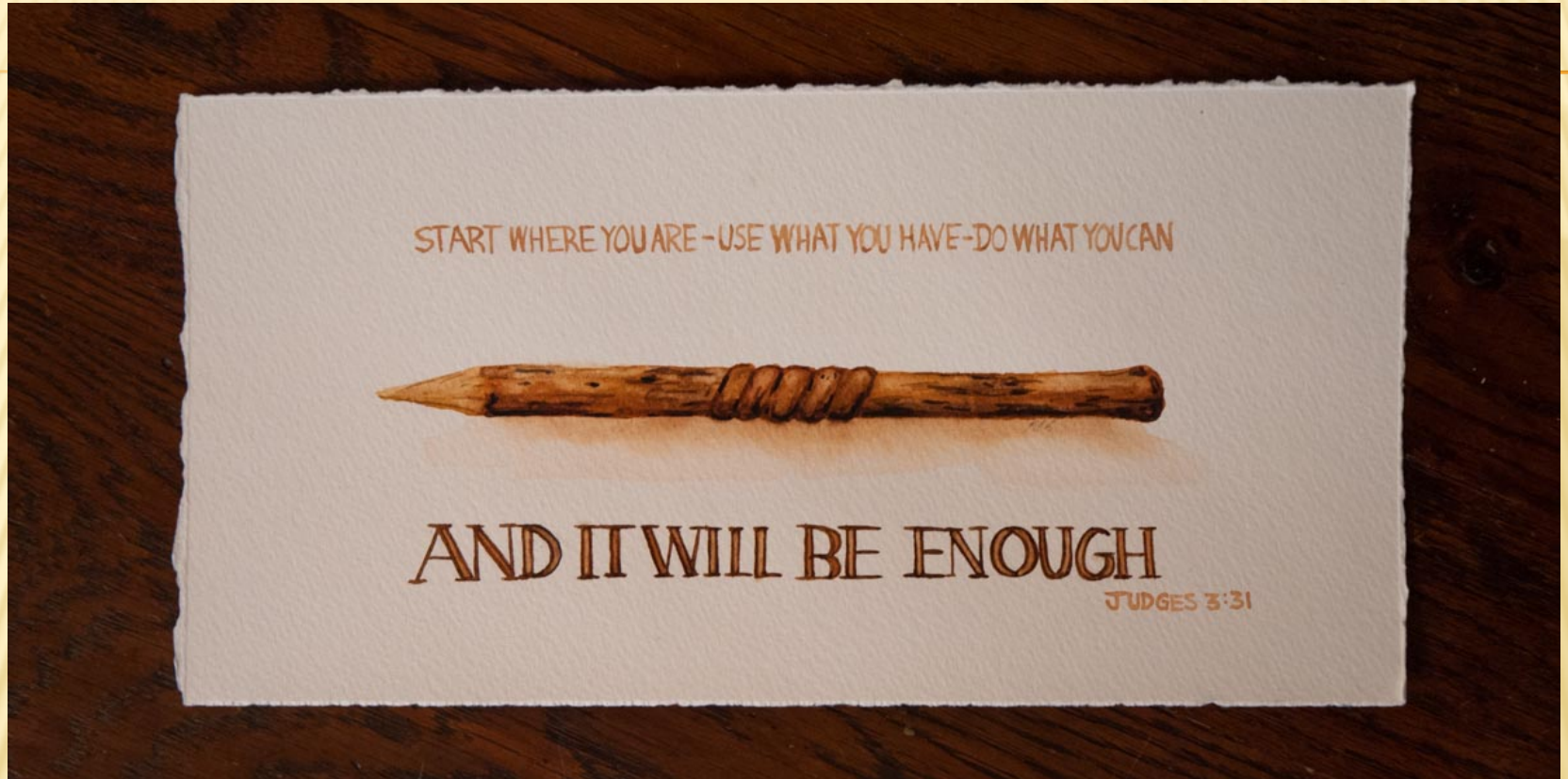
BIBLE STUDY TIME GEN. 46-50

- ✘ Manasseh and Ephraim
- ✘ **48** Some time later Joseph was told, “Your father is ill.” So he took his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim along with him. ²When Jacob was told, “Your son Joseph has come to you,” Israel rallied his strength and sat up on the bed.
- ✘ ³Jacob said to Joseph, “God Almighty^[m] appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and there he blessed me ⁴and said to me, ‘I am going to make you fruitful and increase your numbers. I will make you a community of peoples, and I will give this land as an everlasting possession to your descendants after you.’
- ✘ ⁵“Now then, your two sons born to you in Egypt before I came to you here will be reckoned as mine; Ephraim and Manasseh will be mine, just as Reuben and Simeon are mine. ⁶Any children born to you after them will be yours; in the territory they inherit they will be reckoned under the names of their brothers. ⁷As I was returning from Paddan,^[n] to my sorrow Rachel died in the land of Canaan while we were still on the way, a little distance from Ephrath. So I buried her there beside the road to Ephrath” (that is, Bethlehem).
- ✘ ⁸When Israel saw the sons of Joseph, he asked, “Who are these?”
- ✘ ⁹“They are the sons God has given me here,” Joseph said to his father.
- ✘ Then Israel said, “Bring them to me so I may bless them.”
- ✘ ¹⁰Now Israel’s eyes were failing because of old age, and he could hardly see. So Joseph brought his sons close to him, and his father kissed them and embraced them.
- ✘ ¹¹Israel said to Joseph, “I never expected to see your face again, and now God has allowed me to see your children too.”
- ✘ ¹²Then Joseph removed them from Israel’s knees and bowed down with his face to the ground. ¹³And Joseph took both of them, Ephraim on his right toward Israel’s left hand and Manasseh on his left toward Israel’s right hand, and brought them close to him. ¹⁴But Israel reached out his right hand and put it on Ephraim’s head, though he was the younger, and crossing his arms, he put his left hand on Manasseh’s head, even though Manasseh was the firstborn.

JACOB'S "BLESSING" OF THE 11 OTHERS

- ✘ Joseph gets a double portion.
- ✘ Ephraim and Manasseh- Jacob blesses the 2nd Born... Like himself
- ✘ Dan is a viper...
- ✘ Not mentioned in Rev. 7:5-8
- ✘ These were prophetic utterances not merely "blessings" one reason why they were not taken lightly. They could not be revoked- like with Esau and Jacob...
- ✘ Next week Exodus and Baby Moses

Life Church Boston Weekly Sermon...
Michael Dixon 3/18/18

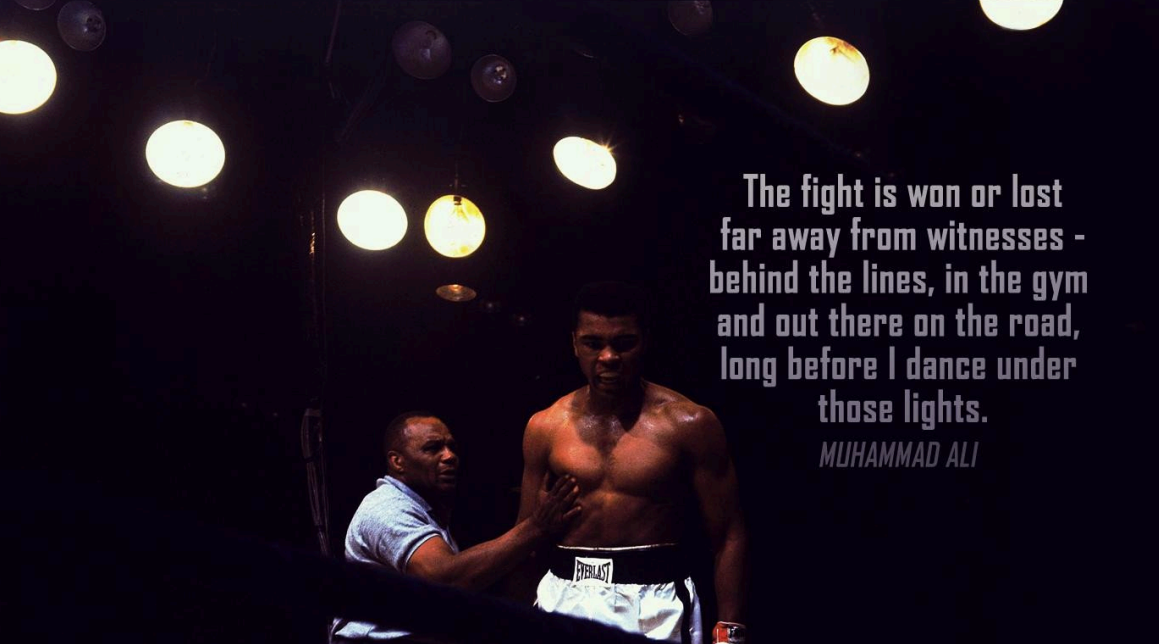


ONCE YOU ARE IN THE GAME
PLAY LIKE YOU EXPECT TO WIN- HOPE

FAITH HOPE LOVE AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN

✦ 2 Peter 1:5-7 New International Version (NIV)

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

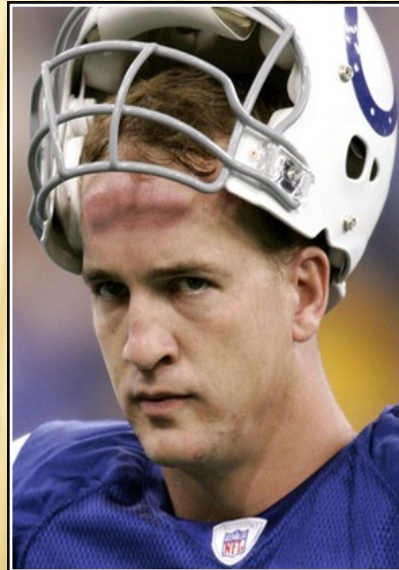


The fight is won or lost
far away from witnesses -
behind the lines, in the gym
and out there on the road,
long before I dance under
those lights.

MUHAMMAD ALI

Hope Occurs away from the Stands

Hope gets us through hostile situations. Winning in Hostile Territory is all we have as Christians... on this side of heaven (Home). Think of fans of the other team Screaming at you-Distracting you from the coach, and also not nice things, discouraging you. Hope gets you through those challenges and words.



It goes without saying, winning against a good team in a hostile crowd on the road, it's just an absolutely huge win.

— *Peyton Manning* —

AZ QUOTES

HOPE- PRACTICE FOR WINNING IN ENEMY TERRITORY

- ✘ Hope is the perseverance with expectancy for accomplishing what our Coach/Commander/Lord has commanded us to do. This is always in alignment with the spirit of the Word.
- ✘ Perseverance- through hardship, Pain and training, overcoming distraction, putting up with a tough coach, for the sake of winning. Being ready to win on the ROAD... Like Gideon's men, unintimidated by the situation AND prepared for the situation and the fans against you. through Practice, through not agreeing with the coach's timing for practice, the suffering we have to go through and the like.

HOPE

- ✘ Real Hope Makes us ready like Gideon's 300. They weren't merely "hoping" to win, they expected to win.
- ✘ We expect to win so we fight, even if we don't have much in our hands... Like Shamgar (Judges 3:31) was the man! He used an ox goad (a pointy stick maybe with a iron tip) without known super strength and killed 600 men by himself.
- ✘ Real hope is based on testimonies and witnesses. We use the testimony of our witnesses, and those around us to encourage us. Samson used a jawbone, but at least he knew he was super strong and defeated a lion (testimony) . The 300 had heard of Shamgar! May have even met him...His example gave them REAL hope not false hope! Do the math! ($600 \times 300 = 180,000$ more than enough to defeat the current enemy!) Encouraging folks who build up our Hope are Vital for us!



HOPE AND FLEAS

Betsy ten Boom,
Corrie's big sister
and Shamgar!



- ✘ Hope is Thankful for everything including hard practices, knowing it make you ready for the game. Being thankful for everything even the “bad” stuff because the coach uses everything for our good.. Corrie Ten Boom's Sister's thanking God for bedbugs in a Nazi Camp (they weren't Jewish). <http://deeproootsathome.com/betsie-and-the-fleas/>
- ✘ Hope doesn't sweat the “haters”. Hope doesn't consider what the Fans in the stands say, only the coach! They will lie about you, swear at you, etc. even if you do what the coach asks of you but the outcome wasn't what they wanted. They often covering up that they want to be you... or even the coach. Barak and Deborah for example.
Judges 4:4-10

WE ARE STRENGTHEN BY THOSE WITH HOPE AROUND US. SURROUND YOURSELF WITH THOSE WHO WILL BUILD UP YOUR HOPE

- ✘ Hebrews 12:1-3 New International Version (NIV)
- ✘ **12** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

HOPE DOESN'T DISSAPPOINT

- ✘ Isaiah 49: ²² This is what the Sovereign LORD says:
- ✘ “See, I will beckon to the nations,
I will lift up my banner to the peoples;
they will bring your sons in their arms
and carry your daughters on their hips.
²³ Kings will be your foster fathers,
and their queens your nursing mothers.
They will bow down before you with their faces to the ground;
they will lick the dust at your feet.
Then you will know that I am the LORD;
those who hope in me will not be disappointed.”
- ✘ *Stephen did not get delivered from stoning, Noksens did not get delivered from his death or that of his family... but their hope did not disappoint.*

ROMANS 5 OUR HOPEVILLE STATION

- ✘ Romans 5 (NIV+ MDD) Therefore, since we have been justified through faith (Following God our Coach, and Christ our Captain), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope (Swag that comes from knowing God has equipped you to win) of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings (during practice), because we know that suffering produces perseverance (being able to stay in the game); ⁴ perseverance, character (Playing sacrificially and according to the rules); and character, hope (trust in the process). ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us (to make us like Shamgar and use what is in our hand).

BEING ON THE FIELD REQUIRES HOPE/ PRACTICE, USING WHAT IS IN YOUR HAND/OR EVEN BUGS IN YOUR BED!

- ✘ Who/what “Fleas” do you need to thank God for? No really!
- ✘ What/Who Zaps your Hope?
- ✘ Who Builds it up? Who is your Shamgar/ Betsie? Who are you Shamgar/Betsie/Nokseng for?
- ✘ How do these differ from “yes” men? We must be careful of those who zap hope and those who make sure you check your faith- following the coach.
- ✘ What drills do you need to become the Extra-ordinary Spiritual warrior (athlete, Farmer) God is calling you to be?
- ✘ What is in your hand for you to use?
- ✘ What Game is God calling you to win? Like defeating the Philistines, Helping Jews in concertation camps, Converting the Garo People? Your family members...