

Llew Paul's Fascinating Bus Trip Testimony - Friday 6 November 2015

Llew sent me this great account of his journey to Levin last Friday, and with his permission, I include it for you as an example of continuing to abide in Christ and trust when things don't go quite as you planned...

Hi Stewart,

I had an very bewildering trip on Friday, travelling from Gisborne to Levin by bus. It was enjoyable travelling in a double decker bus with full reclining, leather bound, single row seats on the lower level with individual WiFi connections. All for \$1. Really enjoyable. That is until we got to Woodville. I got off to use the toilet. I came out to see the bus disappearing into the sunset with all my stuff and my cell phone. What do you do? Jump up and down cursing the other passengers for not informing the driver. Calling yourself an idiot for not ensuring the driver had heard what you were doing. I decided on an alternative. Sit down and say; "Lord there has to be something in this." "I can't see it yet but help me to see it." 'Be still and know I am God.' came in a flash. The Woodville i-Site office was around the corner so I head in there. The lady arranged for my luggage and my cell phone to be taken off the bus in Palmerston North, a ticket from Woodville to Palmerston to connect with a bus going to Wellington at no cost. Whooaah! This looks promising. Thank you Jesus. I bought a phone card to ring my daughter to let her know the new arrangement. Went to the only phone booth in town and rang. A message appeared; *"We are sorry but this phone is temporarily out of order please try again later."* Aaagh! "Are You there Lord, can You hear me!?" I figured I didn't have a week, only an hour and 20 minutes so I'd look the town over and see how it ticked. Took me all of 5 minutes. Nothing much to see. I called into the Sallie Army op shop. Very friendly ladies. Offered me a cup of tea, no biscuits, but one of them let me use her cell phone to contact my daughter. I made it back to the bus stop with plenty of time to spare and waited... and waited..... and waited..... and.....oh heck! I must have got so engrossed in a testimony in the Sally Army 'War Cry' magazine, I never heard the bus come, and as I didn't make any motion to catch it, it left. "Lord my frustration is going off the scale here and I'm finding it really difficult seeing." There was something I could see though something I'd never done in my entire life and I was dreading it....hitch hiking. I stood on the side of the road endeavouring to pluck up the courage to stick my thumb out. I waved and smiled, the people in cars waved and smiled as they drove pass. "Get over your pride Llew and stick your thumb up." I continued waving and smiling. "I'm finding this really tough Lord I wasn't expecting this." Finally, I'm hitch hiking. I'm thinking of all those hikers I'd driven passed calling them..... Going through my mind also was what made me stop for the ones I had picked up. At last somebody stopped. Man, it wasn't so bad after all. We exchanged pleasantries. He was an Aussie who had worked at a Christian School in Whangarei. "Wooh! So you're a follower of Jesus too huh" The trip went really quick as we shared our faith journeys together. It was amazing he had worked as a leader at a re-hab centre in Aussie at this church. He talked about this guy from Levin who they had taken in. He mentioned his name. It was the same guy who my daughter had formed a

relationship with at the church we attended in Levin! The relationship fell over because he had begun to dabble in drugs while they were together. He had now become a participating member of the church over there in Aus. Hallelujah!

Hope you're still with me? The journey gets better. As we are coming in to Palmy he says, "Llew I'd like you to meet my father-in-law." He was already turning into the street. "It won't take a minute." Typical Aussie. I said "No problem", while looking at my watch. His father-in-law was the Chaplain of the Linton Prison. One of the guys he was working with had become a believer. 3 weeks ago he had been released and gone to.. Gisborne. Would I be willing to look him up and begin to share and encourage him if he was contacted? "Now I see it clearly Lord." "This is what you had been arranging all along." Another issue too. It was a great time to deal with my pride that would hinder the flow of the abiding Life of Christ I had come into. "You are so awesome Lord." It doesn't end there though. As we left he turns to me and says. "I want to take you home to meet my family." It was 10 past 7 my bus was leaving at 10 to 8. "Don't worry I'll get you to your bus on time." "We'll grab your bags, grab some tea and go home. Typical Aussie. I said; "No problem", while nervously looking at my watch. We ended up having a wonderful fellowship tea. We prayed together before I left. I saw in his son a real tenderness towards God that needed to be specially nurtured but he was in the right family for that to happen.

Well I got to the bus the driver had the motor running waiting for me? 11 and a half hours after leavin Gisborne, I arrived in Levin. The time meant nothing bro! If it was for anything less yes I would be highly frustrated. But when our times are in His hands we serve our awesome God with gladness. He works everything according to His plans and purposes. The abiding life makes those plans work for our good.

Thanks for taking the time to read this. It's helped me to see things a lot clearer too. From Palmy to Levin there were other things God opened up to me as well. If you have time I'll share those with you to. (see P.S. below).

My prayer is that those 'fun' times that He wants to enjoy with you will increase more and more. Jesus is Awesome.

Llew

P.S.

- God can use anyone of us.
- No matter what our background is, what we have done, or what we haven't done. (faithlessness, doubt etc.)
- It's about His grace and His mercy.
- What I don't deserve I receive. - grace
- What I do deserve, I don't receive - instead I receive mercy
- All I have to do is be open to receive and don't doubt.