



Empty Nesters

<http://kwoodham.sdf.org/empty-nest.pdf>

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Where we want to go today

- Capture the Hill Country (Caleb)
- Renew a sense of Adventure (Prisilla & Aquilla)
- Run your Race (Paul)

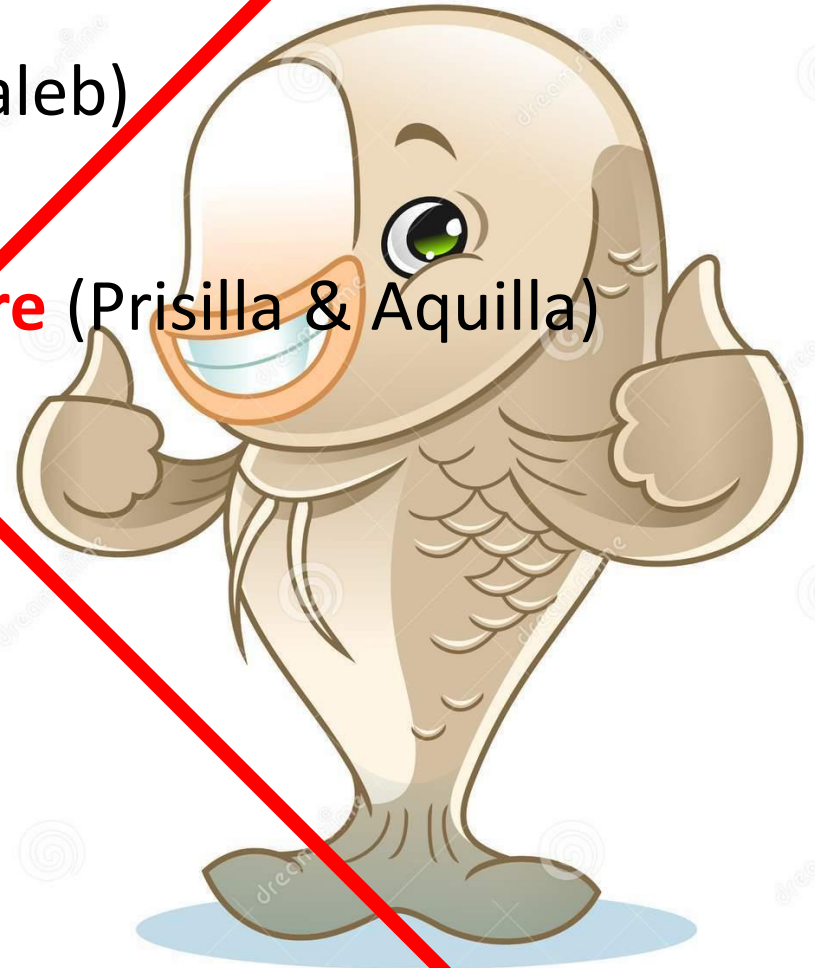
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Where we want to go today

- Capture the Hill Country (Caleb)
- Renew a sense of Adventure (Prisilla & Aquilla)
- Run your Race (Paul)
- Persevere!



Where we want to go today

- Capture the Hill Country (Caleb)
- Renew a sense of Adventure (Prisilla & Aquilla)
- Run your Race (Paul)
- Love!

Who's Carl?



Where we want to go today

- Capture the Hill Country (Caleb)
- Renew a sense of Adventure (Prisilla & Aquilla)
- Run your Race (Paul)
- Everything Else...



Capture the Hill Country (Caleb)

Caleb's Request and Inheritance

⁶ Then the people of Judah came to Joshua at Gilgal. And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the ^rKenizzite said to him, “You know ^swhat the LORD said to Moses the man of God in Kadesh-barnea concerning you and me. ⁷ I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD ^tsent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land, and I brought him word again as it was in my heart. ⁸ But ^umy brothers who went up with me made the heart of the people melt; yet I wholly followed the LORD my God. ⁹ And Moses swore on that day, saying, ^v“Surely the land ^won which your foot has trodden shall be an inheritance for you and your children forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.’ ¹⁰ And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, ^xjust as he said, these ^yforty-five years since the time that the LORD spoke this word to Moses, while Israel walked in the wilderness. And now, behold, I am this day ^yeighty-five years old. ¹¹ ^zI am still as strong today as I was in the day that Moses sent me; my strength now is as my strength was then, for war and ^afor going and coming. ¹² So now give me this hill country of which the LORD spoke on that day, for you heard on that day how the ^bAnakim were there, with great fortified cities. It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall drive them out just as the LORD said.”

Capture the Hill Country (Caleb)

- Captured a vision years before
- Discouragement, and the sin of others kept it out of reach
- Did not lose the vision
- Waited for the door to open (On hold until the next generation had been raised)
- Kept in shape for 45 years!
- Knew the challenges – “It may be...” – dream was worth the risk

Capture the Hill Country (Caleb)

- Sometimes raising the next generation means that you put some dreams on hold
- Maybe the opportunity has come to reawaken them
- What shape are you in? Ready to go after them?
- Faith
- Spiritual (and maybe physical) exercise
- Ready to take your hill country?

Capture the Hill Country (Caleb)

Introducing the

CALEB CORPS



STILL TAKING MOUNTAINS

Capture the Hill Country (Caleb)

THREE TRACKS



Expertise

Leadership

Missions



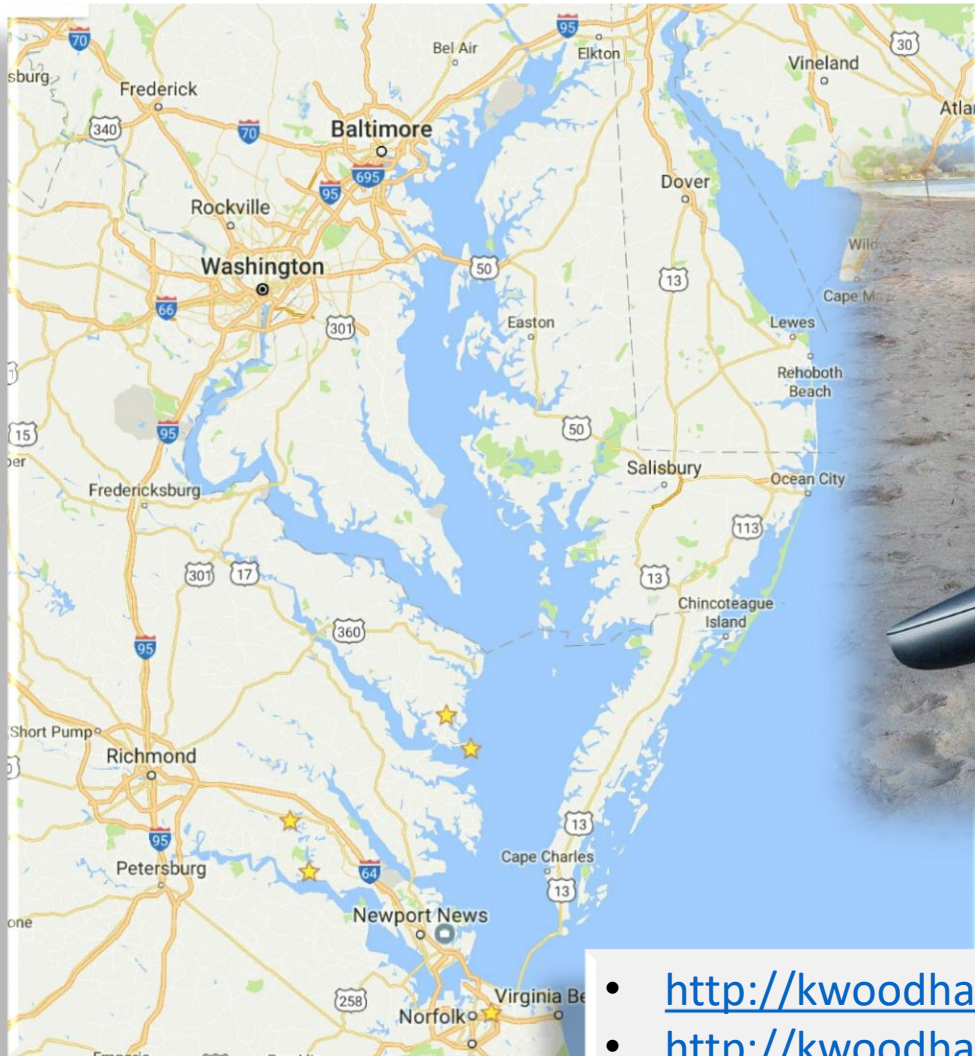
Renew a sense of Adventure (Priscilla & Aquilla)

- Acts 18
- Part of expulsion of the Jews from Rome (Emperor Claudius)
 - Suetonius: Claudius expelled the Jews from Rome because they were rioting on account of someone named Chrestus
- Left for Syria with Paul, stayed in Ephesus
- Met Apollos (Alexandria) “they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.”
- Romans 16:4: Greet "Priscilla and Aquila" my helpers in Christ Jesus.
- 1Cor 16:19: The churches of Asia salute you. "Aquila and Priscilla" salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.
- 2Tim 4:19: Salute "Prisca and Aquila", and the household of Onesiphorus

Renew a sense of Adventure (Priscilla & Aquilla)

- Tempted to lay low after Rome fiasco?
- Always mentioned together
- Partners in everything – think of the adventure to be with Paul
- This is my dream: always wanted this as the biblical role model – go through life as partners
- How's your marriage? Raising kids was a joint enterprise-may have been focus of your marriage.
- Take opportunity to grow as companions!

Side note: Gotta have Adventure!



- <http://kwoodham.sdf.org/slowboat.html> - 2013
- <http://kwoodham.sdf.org/ep2> - 2015

Side note: Gotta have Adventure!

- Adventure should have:
 - Challenge
 - Exhaustion
 - Intimidation
- Adventure should yield:
 - Accomplishment
 - Confidence
- Adventure must have
 - Preparation & training
 - A reliable support crew

note: Gotta have Adventure!

- Adventure
 - Accomplishment
 - Confidence
- Adventure must have
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Renew a sense of Adventure (Priscilla & Aquilla)

- Time in your marriage to talk about adventure
 - What are the needs?
 - What are your dreams?
 - Where do they overlap?
 - How can you enable them for each other?

Renew a sense of Adventure (Priscilla & Aquilla)

- Final thoughts on Adventure
 - Local mature, spiritual men and women are an amazing support and encouragement to ministers, evangelists, and women's ministry leaders.
 - Have a unique role:

Titus 2:2 Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. ³ Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, ⁴ and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵ to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

Run your Race (Paul)

- 2 Tim 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
- Heb 11:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Race Analogy



- Mile: 4 x 440 yards
 - First lap – start fast to establish position in pack, settle in (typically fast lap)
 - Second lap – Still fast, but have settled into pace
 - Third lap – where training and endurance surfaces – fatigue, *“Do I have enough gas to finish?”*
 - Fourth – bell gives boost, start to stride out, relaxed along back stretch, accelerate in corner, dump on all you have left in straightaway, run through finish.

Race Analogy



- Life: 4 x 20 years

- First lap – start fast to establish position in pack, settle in (typically fast lap)
- Second lap – Still fast, but have settled into pace
- Third lap – where training and endurance surfaces – fatigue, *“Do I have enough gas to finish?”*
- Fourth – bell gives boost, start to stride out, relaxed along back stretch, accelerate in corner, dump on all you have left in straightaway, run through finish.

Issue: Energy to finish strong

- Isa 40

³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;

³¹ but those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

- John 15 – Remain in the vine

- Mark 4 – Parable of the sower

Issue: Energy to finish strong

- Unless we stay vigilant, we become complacent and independent
- We can cloak these
- Need...
 - Training
 - Nutrition
 - Coaching
 - Teammates
- The strength of your relationships and the level of your personal vulnerability is **critical**

Everything Else (SWOT)

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wisdom/Knowledge• Ministry experience• Some: flexibility• Some: substantial time available• Financial resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spiritual/Emotional injury• Fatigue• Transitional parenting
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Caleb Corp• Local Ministry• Mentoring• Pursue dreams	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preoccupied with retirement• Degrading health• Complacency

Bottom-line Take-aways

- Must not follow the pattern of this world (Rom 12:2)
- This is a time for re-evaluation
 - Marriage & parenting
 - Plans
 - Ministry – talents and passions
- This is a time to dream
 - Reawaken those that have been shelved
 - Rekindle a passion for adventure
- This is a time to retool - prepare to finish strong
- This is a time to ~~CAR~~, ~~CARP~~, ~~CARL~~, **CARE!**

Phil 3:12-16

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained.