

Prayer meeting 7th July 2019

Assignment

To pray into the word from this morning about the coffee shop and bike ride and to consider Jimmy's word which is part of the answer: To be led by the willing hand of God into the full use of what God has made us for within the mission He has given us.

Word from this morning:

Tino got a picture in the prayer meeting this morning of a cycle ride where cyclists had already completed a good number of miles. They needed rest and stopped at a coffee shop for coffee and cake. After the rest stop only some got on their bikes and carried on the ride. Some chose to stay behind in the coffee shop continuing to eat cake and drink coffee. As time passed, those that remained in the shop got fatter and more unfit. Those that continued the ride were fit and lean and flourishing in the journey.

Tino felt that this picture was a metaphor for relationship with God, service and use of gifting. God invites and continues to invite us to participate with Him in relationship in the race of life. During the race we have rest stops in order to recover and fuel up. These are a necessary part of the journey. However, rest stops are temporary. God still calls and expects us to continue the race using that which He has invested within us.

Initial Feedback

Jackie Chapman felt that the way that church is organised and set up lends itself to the majority being apathetic and leaving the few "appointed" ones to serve. She made mention of it being centred around Sunday morning, that worship was being chosen by worship leaders and the few that are on the rota to preach etc as examples. All of us agreed that Sunday mornings are not what God had in mind when He dreamed up "church". His vision for what church means is so much more than ours!

Prayer:

We started with a time of worship centred around the exultation of Jesus. God's presence was felt amongst us.

Jim Wallace read a poem (I'll add it here when I find out where it was from!)

Marian prayed that we don't want to stay in the coffee shop but go out on an adventure with God. We want to see a breakthrough for ourselves and our brothers and sisters to get out of the rut and into the fullness of the adventure God has for us.

Geraldine prayed that we would be able to now see our blind spots. The areas that keep us in the comfort of the coffee shop.

Tino prayed that we wouldn't allow ourselves to box God in any longer. He prayed that we would grow in expectation, dependency and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit. To allow God to be God.

Anita mentioned that the term "passing on the baton" perhaps has been misinterpreted as the older ones being "put out to grass" to "make way" for the younger ones. But there are many older people that still have a great desire to make changes for good within the body and bring to bear their gifts, talents and words for the good of the church. Tino responded by reiterating his desire to encourage the use of the gifts from all and repented on behalf of the church for the message being received in

the way Nita shared. Nita felt that perhaps this issue should be highlighted at the leadership level for us to continue to consider in prayer.

Jimmy felt that the younger people have perhaps been put on a pedestal unfairly, that too much is perhaps expected of them.

Marian felt that the “passing on the baton” caused people to withdraw whilst waiting for someone to pass the baton onto. She felt that the gifts, talents and calling are still inside her and she wants to partner with younger people to see everything fulfilled.

Jimmy felt the “Esther” calling upon all of us in the church. We are in a desperate situation, the church in the west faces extinction. There is an enemy that wants to slaughter us. We need to take the responsibility (without reference to age, gender, position etc) to go before the King and get the new letter with the seal of the King to see things change. We are in trouble. We are in slumber, sleep, lethargy and need to respond to God’s invitation to rise up.

We all sense a divine discontentment that is leading us to earnestly pray and press in for change, personally and corporately and also in our nation. That we wouldn’t “serve foreign gods or any other treasure” but put away the distractions to take up in obedience the power of the Holy Spirit.

Geraldine prayed that we would be set free so that we can in turn help others to be set free that don’t yet know the Lord. Cheryl prayed for those that are bringing up children and that God would move in such a way as for us to be an influence as keys that unlock this young generation and awaken them to Jesus.

Jim prayed that as John and Peter were unlearned men that the world would also see that like them, we were with Jesus!

Jimmy prayed that God wouldn’t do a patch up job but allow us to be new wineskins for the new wine. We must have the NEW wineskins for the new wine. He prayed that we would die to the old to embrace the new thing that God would do. Don’t allow flesh, good intentions, the ways of the old to be patched onto what you would do Lord God! Moses my servant is dead.....therefore GO OVER the Jordan into the promised land.

Marian then stood for the older generations in the church and prayed for the older people in the church. For those that have “settled” and have been affected by “pass the baton on” she repented that they had been affected by the word and prayed for breakthrough in the name of Jesus against being deceived by such a word. “For those that have got weary, Lord forgive us as there is always something in our hearts, gifts, talents that we can use for God’s glory”.

Anita called forth the younger generations into their giftings and ministries and into the prayer meetings. We acknowledged our need of them and their need of the Holy Spirit.