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9th December 2007

Matthew - There were 2 things I said:

1. One of the songs was "This is the air I breathe".

This is the air I breathe
This is the air I breathe
Your Holy presence
Living in me.

This is my daily bread
This is my daily bread
Your very word
Spoken to me.

And I, I'm desperate for You
And I, I'm lost without You.

Also, Andy Goymer read from his Celtic book (*The Celtic Prayer Book, Volume One: Prayer Rhythms*, Ray Simpson, pub. Kevin Mayhew 2003). I think the words he said were from the "Advent Morning Prayer" (p. 155) where the Leader says:

In the wasteland may the Glory shine.
In the land of the lost may the King make his home.

I think what I said was to do with the fact that people really are LOST – in the worst sense of the word – without Jesus. But we have a hope: that the King will make His home in the land of the lost.

I do remember closing this section with the comment that we would be OK because our names are written in the Book of Life, at which point Andy G. gave a big "Hooray!"

2. The other thing I said was a story that had happened to me recently. I went away with 2 colleagues for a one day training course at Reading and stayed overnight. I was looking for a book to take with me and felt I should take "The Hiding Place" by Corrie ten Boom. I had a feeling that maybe I'd end up discussing it with my colleagues and perhaps giving it to one of them. In the end this didn't happen, but the next morning I remembered that on the last training course I'd been to at Reading I'd met a Quaker girl. I thought perhaps she'd be on that day's course, in which case I could give it to her.

Again, this didn't happen (she wasn't on that course). What did happen was this: Some months ago, a colleague of mine called Phil left my work to go on a two year secondment to another Government department in Sheffield. It turned out that a girl on the course was working in his team. My colleagues and I joked around with this ("We'll have to tell you all about Phil" and those sort of jokes). A funny coincidence, we thought. But as the day drew on I had a feeling that perhaps I should give the book to this girl. I wasn't sure, but then one of the lecturers said something. He is Italian and was explaining something with a comment like, "There's no getting away from this...there's no hiding place" and I took this as a little encouragement that I was supposed to give the girl the book. So at the end of the day I did so – perhaps not in the best way, as she thought something strange was going on – but at least SHE TOOK THE BOOK and hopefully will have read it.

After the story I said that the more seeds we scatter, the more we should see fruit.

JANUARY 2008

6th January 2008 -

Matthew - God is not into anarchy. He is a God of order. The Bible tells us that worship is meant to take place in an orderly fashion. So the main point here I felt was that going on the unknown path was not one which led into disorganised anarchy, with people vaguely flitting about from one thing to the next.

I also agree with you that the two paths can be in fellowship with each other. Jesus prayed that we would be one.

Meeting

- Worship in good times & bad (Simon); God's love is like a canopy over us wherever we are (Simon)
- Bamboo plant producing new shoots even in winter - even in the seasons of death the Lord will bring new flourishing life (Nicky)
- The wind blows wherever it pleases you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going so it is with everyone born of the spirit (Luke)
- Overwhelming peace - I rejoice in all situations because I know the God who loves me (Debby)

Talk (Ron)

- It's Jesus Church but we have been given the keys to the kingdom; listen to God, weigh, interpret and act upon God's word; Let Go and Let God
- The 'Known' and the 'Unknown' path; 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God'

13th January 2008

Meeting

- God is great and awesome – Jesus is greater than any circumstance or problem.
- Picture of Jesus holding stars in one hand and a new-born baby in the other (Matthew) – God is a God of Glory and might but also of great tenderness and love.
- Michelle noticed Andy helping Daniel to worship with the flag – felt God was saying sometimes we need to lean on His strength and not our own and ask God to help us.

Talks

Dan Isa 62:1-5, V1 God is passionate about making us become what He wants us to be; God is not waiting for us to be perfect but he gives us a new name - my delight is in you - & my bride; This year God wants us as a Church to know that God delights over us; The enemy can call us many names - but which name are we going to listen to?

Tony Examples from Nehemiah

- Need to possess that which God has taken hold of us for; There is ground God wants us to take in this community; We are called to be a people who in the midst of despair can see and present a different future; Are we willing to take on the burden of God?; Fasting changes us not God!; Need to pray & do; We are a people who carry a sword in one hand & tools in the other - Warfare & work; Don't become distracted, need to be discerning about what we do

20th January 2008

Meeting

Bill in the prayer time before the meeting Bill was reminded of a scene from a Harrison Ford movie when he had to step over a vast ravine with no visible means of crossing. As he makes the step a path appears beneath his feet. *Ron felt* God is talking to us about relying upon Him and being ready to step into the unknown trusting that He will provide the path for us. He may not even show us the next step – He may just say step anyway & trust Me!

Ron – felt God was saying ‘In this scarred & damaged world let My light shine. In all the brokenness & poverty & pain & ugliness of this world let My beauty be seen. I don’t distance Myself but draw close. I don’t withhold My mercy & grace, but I pour them out. My blood brings healing to a broken world.’

Andy G – Reminded of what Phil Jones said about the Olive press in the garden of Gethsemane – that everything of Christ had to be squeezed out of Himself to that place of pure obedience & surrender to the Fathers will & only through that squeezing could the Holy Spirit be released into the world.

Reminded of Matthews picture of Jesus standing with the stars in one hand and a baby in the other. God wants to minister into that place of being squeezed. God is saying on one hand I can bring about dreams, I can bring about building & I can bring about the Kingdom. At the same time there is the sense of God saying I will comfort you – I will hold you in the place of being squeezed.

Gideon was threshing wheat in the winepress – a place he shouldn’t have been – a place of squeezing. We may feel that we are hearing the talk of moving forward and the unknown path but you are saying Lord I’m still in the winepress. You say ‘I don’t want to be here, I want to be marching forward and creating the kingdom’.

Surrender to God in the place of squeezing, asking God to squeeze out anything of you. Squeeze out all our anger & resentment about not being able to do what we want to do. At not being the people we want to be, at not having the situation we want to have. This is a process.

Sung prayer – I surrender my all to you.

Never give up hope, never turn away, for I am faithful and I am near you, ever near you, always.

In the winepress was where Gideon met the angel of the Lord – if you feel you are in the winepress and you want an angel of the Lord to meet with you stand (Andy prayed for folk).

Talk

David Ring (from DVD – see Ron if you want to borrow)

- We want to be champions in the ‘game of life’ to win & not loose.
- Now look at me – I have Cerebral Palsy, now what’s your problem?
- You may have problems but ‘get over it!’
- Do you know God never says oops!
- Cannot do anything to change the past but we can do everything to change our attitude to the past.
- We’re not ok, but that’s ok because God loves us anyway!
- Learn to be content in whatever state we are in.
- I’m a somebody – I’m a child of the king.
- What are you doing for the kingdom of God today?
- God doesn’t want my ability he wants my availability
- I’m not giving up I’m moving on!

Summary of years meetings can be found under the resources section of the Freshwaters website

27th January 2008

Meeting

Andy G

- Shared Psalm 131
- David found a stillness & reassurance
- Let God hold & reassure us
- O (your name) put your hope in the Lord.

Talk

Luke

- Many do not understand their full identity In Christ
- Act 1 everything perfect - it was good
- Act 2 the fall - what went wrong?

Gen 3.1-5

- Adam & Eve had a choice, to listen to the voice of the deceiver & eat of the tree of knowledge of good & evil & to doubt the goodness of God - or to trust in God.
- In God's perfect love He gives us the choice to love or reject Him.
- Adam & Eve chose to do there own thing - what was the result?
 - Death is not just physical death -
 - Breakdown in relationship's with each other
 - Shame
 - Relationship with God was cut off.
- Adam & Eve threw God's love back in His face, Will God give up on them? -
- God's first response was to rebuke satan & protect His children & outline His plan of salvation - He then graciously clothes them.

FEBRUARY 2008

3rd February 2008

Meeting

Ron

- Exalt Jesus by humbling ourselves and accepting Christ's Lordship & by helping others to come to follow Jesus

Andy G – sung interpretation of tongues

- Humble yourself in the presence of Glory, Lift up your head in the presence of Glory.

Simon

- Reminded of Elijah & his servant surrounded by the enemy – but Elijah was not worried because he could see the armies of God in their vastness.
- Elijah prayed that his servant's eyes would be opened & they were.
- We can be like Elijah's servant – we see the army surrounding us – we see the problems & circumstances. We need that revelation from God, the spiritual eyes to see the armies of God arrayed around us. Then we know that the victory is assured & we know that we can truly be a people that can experience the peace of God.

Talk (Ron)

- From Phil 1:1-6
- Are we bond-servants (or slaves) to Jesus or are we slaves to someone or something else?
- The letter in Phil is to all God's holy people who belong to Christ Jesus – none are excluded and none are excused.
- Paul sets a context of Grace and Peace.
- Are we partnering in spreading the Good News?
- God is not finished with us – what He has begun He will continue until Christ's return – or until we go to be with Christ.
- Will we let God continue His work or are we hardened to challenge, correction, encouragement or inspiration?

10th February 2008

Meeting

Graham

- Come out from under the shadows

Ron

- Remind ourselves often of the faithfulness and goodness of God – God is in control!

Talks

Kelly – Have Fun – the joy of the Lord is our strength

Grace – Freedom – don't forget what God has said about you – and about Himself! – God loves you.

Georgie – Faith – Not something that you create out of your own strength, our faith is in God – in His faithfulness to His promises wisdom, power & goodness. Faith is a gift but we don't receive it passively – we need to want faith and to step forward to receive it.

Jim – Friendship. Keep it simple, love one another. Gal 5:6 Faith works through love. We express our love for God through our love for one another. Cast ourselves upon God's love & He will not condemn us.

17th February 2008

Meeting

Unfortunately for technical reasons the meeting was not recorded.

Andy Goymer gave a prophetic song about bowing the knee before Jesus and His glory.

Talk (Ron)

Phil 1:7-11

- As we support others we can enjoy with them 'God's special favour'
- Let's keep love alive with our action, decisions, sacrifice and work – and let us overflow with love
- Let's continually grow in knowledge **and/with** understanding (read prov 2)
- Let's continue to show our faith by showing the fruit of our salvation that is changed characters demonstrated by what we say and what we do.

24th February 2008

Meeting

It is easy to worship in times of ease – but in times of difficulty we are able to bring a real sacrifice of praise. (Simon)

Although our circumstances and how we feel about many things constantly change our God is the same yesterday, today and forever and He is worthy of our praise. (Simon)

Talk (Luke)

- We have done nothing to deserve Jesus bringing us back to God
- God's plan immediately after man sinned was to bring us back to Him perfect.
- God's first salvation plan Noah – start afresh after the flood, but man went back to sin & rebellion
- Next salvation plan Israel – through whom all nations would be blessed
- Gods promises to Abraham:-
 1. Personal relationship
 2. Growth into a great nation
 3. A land of their own
- In Egypt God delivered His promise number two. No matter how Pharaoh oppressed Israel they grew into a strong and powerful nation because God prospered them.
- We as God's church are a powerful force in this world if we would only recognise it. The enemy fears us recognising who we really are. (Matthew mentioned a quote from CS Lewis as follows In The Screwtape Letters by CS Lewis, a senior devil (Screw-tape) writes letters of advice to a junior devil (Wormwood). Wormwood afflicts a man – his "patient" – who has recently become a Christian. Screw-tape writes (Letter II): "My dear Wormwood, I note with grave displeasure that your patient has become a Christian. Do not indulge the hope that you will escape the usual penalties; indeed, in your better moments, I trust you would hardly even wish to do so.....the Church as we see her [is] spread out through all time and space and rooted in eternity, terrible as an army with banners. That, I confess, is a spectacle which makes our boldest tempters uneasy. But fortunately it is quite invisible to these humans. All your patient sees is the half-finished, sham Gothic erection on the new building estate."
- While Israel was receiving the promise of growth while oppressed in Egypt the promise of relationship and their own land must have appeared very distant – but God was not finished.

MARCH 2008

2nd March 2008

Meeting

Its all about Gods love and Grace (Sandra)

Prayer from Teresa of Avila 'Trust in God, let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you. **All things pass but God never changes.** Patience achieves all that it strives for. He who has God finds that he lacks nothing. God alone suffices.' (Andy)

Call upon the Lord. Call upon the Lord all you who are hungry, call upon the Lord all you who thirst for righteousness. Call upon the Lord the meek & the humble. call upon the Lord the meek and the lonely. Call upon the Lord all those who are weary. Call upon the Lord all those who need Him. (Andy)

Charles Spurgeon talked about personal revival – recognise your own spiritual need and don't try & strive to work it out yourself but cry out to God for you own revival. (Ron)

Begin a cry today for more of God's love and power and grace and presence. (Ron)

'We are the artwork of God created in the Image of Christ to live life as it is meant to be' (Eph 2:10 Jerusalem Bible) (Andy)

09th March 2008

Meeting

Exodus 2, v 25 – God looked down upon the sons of Israel and He knew

God knows in every circumstance and situation in our lives. (Andy)

For some a time of the beginning of the end for some things (Andy)

For some a time of finding God in all things, knowing there is a time for everything. (Andy)

God is bigger then the universe (Matthew)

Talk (Esther & Hannah)

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

- Without God in the centre nothing means anything
- God's plans allow for both joy & sorrow
- Even going through stressful times we can be confident in God's plans.
- God is in control – don't worry!
- You're not doing this alone, there's someone behind the scenes always watching your back, setting things out for the best, doing this all for your own good.
- The Lord makes all things beautiful in its own time.
- Life at its darkest is not so dark, not because everything that happens in life is fundamentally good, but because He gives it meaning.
- Jesus is the meaning and purpose of our lives

16th March 2008

Talk (Ron)

(Jer 50:1-10)

- Israel had sinned and God used Babylon to bring judgement on the people.
- Babylon overstepped the mark and in greed and pride continued to oppress and attack God's people, God said enough is enough now I will bring judgement on you.

Summary of years meetings can be found under the resources section of the Freshwaters website

- The Church in Harlow has given ground to the enemy causing us to be oppressed and attacked, through amongst other things a pact with the Freemasons, and division between the churches.
- Through repentance and working together more these things have begun to be addressed
- I believe there is a 'point of turning' here in Harlow and God is speaking judgement over the enemy who has overstepped the mark in attacking the church here.
- We need to recognise our inadequacy as individuals and the church to meet the needs around us in our own strength.
- As God's people there needs to be a 'point of turning' in our hearts and like the people of Israel in Jer 50:4 we need to '... come weeping and seeking the Lord'
- We need to be stirred to tears by the need around us for salvation, healing & deliverance and we need to raise a desperate cry to God.

23rd March 2008

Talk (Liz)

- Real Love
- All want to be loved
- There are many moments of love that are good, but there is a greater love, real love, a love that is strong, powerful, brilliant and free to anyone who would like it.
- Jesus cares for every single individual.
- Love hidden in a body in a tomb shone with radiance.
- Love held the Son of God to the cross as He took the punishment in His body for the things we have done
- Real love means that God says to us I'm always there for you, you're never alone. In your home, workplace, wherever you go even to the ends of the earth.
- Real love means that God says I want you to share My life & I can do immeasurably more than you could even think of ask for.
- Real love says love on another, I'll help you. I have enough love for everyone in the whole world.
- Real love says Trust Me & don't try to work everything out for yourselves.

30th March 2008

Meeting

- We need to cry out to God because of our desperation & need – but also because He loves to pour out His bounty upon us. (Ron)
- It's time to get out of the comfort of our homes and be liberated & in the freedom of Christ. Because of what Christ has done we are free.

Talk (Ron)

- Phil 1:12-19
- We are all part of the family of God, there is no superiority.
- We need to make sure that we are an open & welcoming family, both when visitors come, but also when we are talking about the church to others.
- Paul's imprisonment gave him an opportunity to reach with the gospel those he would not have been able to reach when free.
- We are connected with almost any other person in the World by no more than 6 degrees of separation, what you say to one person can be passed through them to another and so on – what we say to those close by can make a difference to someone on the other side of the World.
- Each person has an 'Oikos' (network of family, friends, colleagues etc. Each time we reach someone new with the gospel we break into a new Oikos.
- Paul's imprisonment demonstrated to those watching how he dealt with hardship – people are watching us to – do they see someone with hope?

- Paul's imprisonment inspired others to boldly proclaim the good news – does our example inspire others?
- There are different motives for preaching, our concern should not be for our reputation but that people come to know Jesus.
- The combination of prayer and God's Spirit is a mighty power to bring deliverance (or salvation).

06th April 2008

Meeting

Heb 9:14 'Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God.'

- Prayer for Zimbabwe that the joy of the whole earth would cover them. That peace would break out, that knowledge of God & His love would sweep through the land like a torrent and cover it like the sea. (*Matthew*).
- God is a God of process, like the process of a pot on the potter's wheel, being changed, reformed, massaged, drawn up, and pushed down. If we try to hurry or deny the process we can get out of kilter. OK to have a break or to be broken but don't step out of the process or close your hearts. God's after a malleable and soft people (*Andy*)
- Read from Psm 32 – songs of deliverance. God wants to come close & touch and heal – bit like a Horse whisperer, singing new songs of deliverance, a new way of being (*Andy*)
- 'What do you require of Me this morning My children, what do you need from Me that I cannot give? What do you have that I have not given you already? What do you want that is apart from Me? Draw close to me and let your heart be stilled within you. For My way is perfect. You need to hear that My love is unfailing. You need to hear that My faithfulness never ends. You need to hear that My grace is forever and without condition. Most of all you need to hear that I am there.' (*Andy*)
- Both pictures Andy shared are linked; both are to do with yielding to God and trusting in Him. The first picture to do with yielding to the potter in whatever way He wants to shape us. Like a thing of beauty that God creates. But when we resist God sometimes has to break down the clay again and re-mould. With the horse whisperer it's the same thing. We need to yield to the trainer, we need to know and trust Him, He may speak to us gently or harshly to correct us and bring us back to where He wants us to go. (*Ron*)
- Presence is free but Glory costs. We're used to presence of God in our meetings which is wonderful, but there is a difference between the presence and the Glory of God. For God's Glory to fall there is a cost of obedience – a cost of laying aside our sin. A cost of yielding our lives entirely to Him. God wants to come to us in increasing Glory but are we ready to pay the cost. Will we yield to Him, whether as the potter or as the trainer. Will we trust Him, will we know that He loves us? (*Ron*)
- God sometimes allows us to take a good look at ourselves. He exposes us and allows us to see our sin, our weaknesses, and our inability to become through our own strength what we are called to be or to become. The more we try to do this by our own strength the more we will fail and become tired and disillusioned. We've got to trust God is going to create us into that beautiful person God has called us to be. Sometimes we get frightened and want to keep control. But God says to trust Him that He can create, He can enable us to be the people He has called us to be. God is such a loving God that He is going to do it in a way that is not going to destroy us. God will not give up on us but wants to pour out His blessing upon us. God is passionate about us. Even if we run God will chase after us and pursue us. (*Simon*)
- The shipping news – man who perceives himself as ugly and a failure, reinforced by the way treated by others and by experience of failure. Went to the place of his ancestors and his whole history appeared to be tied up in a house (*Andy*)
- House full of Ghosts and memories founded on sin & wreckage, man came back for a new life but it just wasn't right. Like us unless we yield. Eventually house yielded & went into the sea and the man had a new life. Sometimes we still carry around our old Ghosts and our old histories. God wants to Finish us & as we yield to Him he will build us into a new home, a new house. John 18 – when Jesus had

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received the sour wine He said **It is finished**' Things in our past- it is finished, He wants to bring to completion and give us a new start *Nicky*)

- Picture of a heart with lots of different doors, some with a padlock on them. Will you open up the padlock – will you open the door and let God in?

13th April 2008

Meeting

- There is a divine exchange which took place at the cross that we can engage with an communion (*Ron*)
- We exchange our sin for forgiveness, death for life our weakness for God's strength. (*Ron*)
- There is a breeze of change blowing (*Nicky*)
- As with Moses staff, God takes what is ordinary to us, that we use day after day after day and He uses it for His glory (*Luke*)

Talk (Bill)

- Prayer is personal communication with God.
- Our loving Father is pleased when we pray & talk to Him
- By prayer we can change things
- Our prayers effect how God acts
- As we confess God forgives
- Jesus name represents His character, when we pray in His name it means praying in accordance with His character, or with His authority – don't use lightly!
- We need to be ready to persist in prayer.

20th April 2008

Meeting

- In the midst of your storm, in the midst of those things that trouble you and call fro your attention – turn to Jesus and hear Him say be still! (*Ron*)
- Come aside to be with the Lord (*Ron*)
- The Lord wants us to turn our hearts towards him. (*Andy*)
- Keep our eyes on Jesus in every circumstance (*Andy*).

27th April 2008

Meeting

- As the children were scooping down & lifting balloons in the air – so as we bow down and lift up God so others in the community can see God lifted up & He becomes visible to them (*Debby*)
- We need to submit to God and humble ourselves. Like John we say let us become less & let Jesus become more. It's God we want people to see. We want to become transparent so that we can show the love and faithfulness the beauty and majesty of God. (*Ron*)
- The Lord has said He will go before us that all the obstacles and the snares that the things that the enemy lays in our pathways in order to trip us up the Lord Jesus has gone before us. There is something that we need to do as well; we need to step in His footprints. We need to go the way that Jesus has gone before us. If we go off in some other way, if in our own pride or foolishness we follow another path then of course it won't be cleared because Jesus has not gone that way. We know that Jesus in good and loving

Talk (Terry Brewer)

- Eph 4
- First 3 chapters about what we believe next about how we work it out
- Called to walk with each other & Jesus
- Implies we are going somewhere
- God sought us by name

- He comes to us as individuals
- We are called to make allowances for one another
- We need to recognise God's love & invitation to each one of us.
- We must travel together in reality
- Everything we do as church is dripping with oneness - but we are not all the same, we also have different gifts.
- The road can be tough
- Gods gifts are given to help the whole church - if we hold back our gifts we deprive the rest of the body
- We should appreciate one another's gift s
- Paul is highlighting change
- We are changed by degrees
- As long as Jesus owns the church He will keep bringing change.
- 3 final points:-
 1. We are overcomers not under achievers
 2. We are God's first choice not second
 3. You are His best not His second best

4th May 2008

Meeting

- Its all about the presence of God (Simon)
- So often in church we can try to hurry God because we look at the clock (Simon)
- We come to church because we want to be in the presence of God. We want to know Him; we want to sense His presence. (Simon)

Talk (Jonathan & Helen)

Intimacy with God

- Only faith based on relationship with God - most important thing.
- Jesus model of intimacy

Mark 1:35-36

- Jesus went to an isolated space early in the morning to hear what God has to say.
- Ways of spending time with Jesus:-
 - Early morning
 - Part of routine
 - Put in diary
 - Go for walk
 - Before you go to bed
 - When baby has a nap
 - When driving alone
 - Walking to work
 - On tube
 - Go for a run
- Need to ask God what He wants from our time together

Mark 14:32

- Jesus is completely honest in prayer - in times of distress He went strait to the Father.
- Ok to be honest with God - He still loves us
- Jesus was also willing to share with close friends -
- Sometimes God will withhold His voice to see if we want Him or just the answer.
- Watch and pray - the more time we have with God the easier it is to resist temptation & keep short accounts.
- Needs to be 2 way, need to give time for God to talk - seamless prayer or worship can shut God out.
- Don't try to make things happen - be still & know that I Am God - don't need to worry if we don't think He has said anything
- Need to submit to God

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- Dare we give God the space to speak?
- Are we willing to surrender & how determined are we to respond to God and give Him the time.

12th May 2008

Meeting

Ron shared some pictures that Bonnie Inkster had shared on Thursday evening with leaders.

- The little engine that can, moves from 'I think I can' going up the hill to 'I knew I could' going down the other side
- As a fellowship we have reached the brow of the hill – but it is like a train, some are at the front and have reached the brow – but others are still climbing & finding it hard. However we will all reach the other side because we are all linked.
- We need to change our statement from 'I think I can' to 'I know I can'
- We have a 'green board' – that is a clearance to 'go' at all of the signals coming up down the line. We can come out of the sidings, we do not have to slow down or stop along the route in front of us – we can just go, go, go!

Talk (Ron)

- Phil 1:20-26
- Paul was not ashamed of the gospel & confident he would remain faithful even if his faith was tested – how about us?
- Paul while in prison faced the daily reality of the possibility of death, he was not fearful or depressed because he could not loose – to live was to live for Christ and serve the church he loved – to die was to be with the Lord the one He loved.
- What's our attitude to death – nothing to fear for the Christian.
- What are we doing with the rest of our life?
- Take stock, thank God for what we have, ask Him for what we lack
- Be ready for God's delivery method, e.g. do what He has already asked us to do, wait on God giving Him time to speak to us, enter into a relationship with a trusted Christian friend who can challenge and motivate us to move on.
- Joy is not the same as pleasure, joy is the fruit of a right relationship with God, it is not to do with circumstances.
- As we grow in faith then so will our joy grow.
- We need to grow now, not wait until we have more time, or the children grow up, or we retire, etc.
- Our lives should cause others to be proud of what Christ is doing in and through us.

19th May 2008

Meeting

- Isaiah 44 (Phil B)
- When we look around at the beauty of all that God has made, they are for our enjoyment but also to draw our eyes to the one who created them – to our Father God who loves us. We worship Him & Him alone and not the things that He has created. (Ron)
- So many people worship leaders, from the passage read by Phil they were things of wood and stone fashioned in the image of created things, weather people or animals, trees or whatever – but they are there to draw our eyes to the creator. (Ron)
- Speaking to Pete Doherty about a visitor who was an astronomer. He described how small and insignificant we are in the universe and that we should lift our eyes to our God who is creator of the universe. He showed a slide from the Hubble telescope of the most distant image so far seen in the universe, and it looks like a hole with the image of a cross. At the centre of the universe is Jesus who the bible says holds the universe together – we need to lift our eyes & worship such a great & awesome God. (Ron)
- Feeling for many people in the fellowship that things have been quite tough with pain & pressure – I feel there is a change and change is all about grace – receiving what we don't deserve. (Andy G)

Summary of years meetings can be found under the resources section of the Freshwaters website

- Psm 103
- A time of renewing, going back to youthfulness & exuberance in God. (Andy G)
- Easy to fall back on our own abilities, but we need to rely on God. (Andy G)
- Phil B shared some things thanking God for His perfect timing, His love, His mercy & His forgiveness and thanking others inside and outside Freshwaters for their love and support.
- Sin is the blockage to the goodness of God in our lives (And G)
- God is moving in our town, many of those things that are on our hearts are coming to be. (Ron)
- Change begins in our hearts & lives, it begins with a place we come to when we say 'Lord I need and I receive your grace. Because I don't deserve Your forgiveness, I don't deserve Your bounty & Your blessing and Your love but I know I need it, and then as we receive His grace & love then we get to a place where we are willing for Him to re-mould us, to re-shape us, to pour into us His bounty & then we are ready to do on to show that to others that are around us. (Ron)
- It is finished! (Andy G)
- Weeping may remain in the night but joy comes in the morning (Matthew)
- We hunger and thirst for more of you (Sung by Jonathan)
- We want more of God so we need to respond, it is the Holy Spirits desire is to give us more.

25th May 2008

Meeting

- On 27th April Terry Brewer said amongst other things 'we are called to walk with one another and with Jesus. That implies we are going somewhere.' (Ron)
- At the start of the year God was talking to us about an unknown path – following Him, trusting Him. Some can feel uncomfortable if things are not mapped out for them – but the Lord says 'trust Me'. Freshwaters is going somewhere, but we need to trust & rely on the Lord Jesus. (Ron)
- Bonny said at a leadership meeting that we have a 'Green Board' as a Fellowship that we are green to go at all the upcoming signals – there is not going to be a red light. Linking with the above – we are going somewhere and we are green to go all the way. (Ron)
- Last week we had a brilliant meeting, we need to have the expectation that God will continue to move & pour out His blessing, that momentum will grow, that our faith will grow. (Ron)
- Encouragement & blessing through Andy over recent months. This is God speaking through Andy to us – when Andy & Nicky leave this will not mean that God stops speaking to us. (Ron)
- It may be that you need to step up to the mark and stir the gifting God has given you! (Ron)
- God is working upstream (Matthew)
- Going through a difficult time at the moment with work but feel a real peace this morning - God has it in hand He says don't worry (Mark)
- God is moving people on, we may need to go to the mountain but God has been preparing the way before us (Claire N)
- Sense of the readiness of the church to do what God wants us to do – a sense of anticipation & hope, Eph 6:15 'and your feet fitted with the readiness which comes with the gospel of peace'. (Mike Clargo)
- Reminded last week of Matthew singing out, 'there may be weeping in the night but there is joy in the morning. There is a shifting going on, from mourning, sadness & grief to rejoicing, to thankfulness. (Ron)
- Forget about the sadness's of the past and look to the happiness to come. (Ron)
- Themes repeated of our change that we would change the community – of our readiness to out into the community to proclaim Jesus. (Ron)
- We can choose to hold on to the night or we can look for the morning. We should be the first to see it because we are looking for it. (Ron)
- It is rising, it's rising over Harlow and over Freshwaters, it's a new day, a day of rejoicing, a day of blessing & a day of transformation in the hearts and lives of the people in our town. It's a day of healing, deliverance and salvation. What we have longed and prayed for is coming to be. Are we ready – we must align ourselves with what God is doing. (Ron)

Summary of years meetings can be found under the resources section of the Freshwaters website

- I have a testimony, I made a promise with my God that if you make me walk again that I will stand in front of your people' (Livingstone)
- God uses me & others to go into the community and help change lives. (Livingstone)
- God can take the ordinary – that's us, and transform us by Holy Spirit into the extraordinary. (Ron)

1st June 2008

Meeting

- Need to thank God for what He has been doing for us (Sandra)
- Folk attending meetings in Lakeland Florida come because of a desperation for God to move and to do things (Sandra)
- God is moving here too! (Sandra)
- If you are desperate – you don't sound lovely, you sound desperate – let's call out to God in our desperation. (Sandra)
- We're free! (Andy)
- Peace & Grace (Andy)
- Asking for the Joy of the Lord (Andy)
- Do you know that you need God? do you know nobody else can fulfil that longing in your heart? Do you know that you can't make it without Him? We need to express that desperation, that cry to Him. (Ron)
- Jesus comes in response to our cry for help and He says 'follow Me'. (Ron)
- Follow Him & He won't let you down, follow Him and you will achieve all that He has purposed in your life. (Ron)
- We all have our desperate situations & needs this morning. Just one touch from the King changes everything. (Phil)
- Jer 33:3, 'Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you the great and unsearchable things you do not know' – our God wants to answer our prayers, He wants to give us all those things that will further our relationship with Him.

Talk (Simon)

Luke 5:12-16

- Man went to Jesus knowing He could heal him - Jesus was his hope
- He asked Jesus are you willing?
- Man didn't doubt that Jesus could heal him
- Leprosy was terrible curse - you were an outcast - not even able to worship
- Like the women with the issue of blood mentioned earlier
- Jesus was willing to reach out to those on the margins of society – for the rejected, the sick, the vulnerable, the lonely, the poor, the dispossessed, Jesus had a passion for them & Jesus was willing.
- Jesus wasn't just about bringing people back into society - although this was the case - but also much more; He was about loving them, healing them, and bringing them into the Kingdom of God.
- Jesus was radical - all inclusive did not reject any who came to Him
- That's what we're about also. Often we question if we can help as we have our own battles and struggles.
- God wants us to be available - come to God & ask Him to help us to be Jesus in our society
- Society is sick
- We must take up the mantle to reach out to those around us - to be Christ to ...
- Are we willing to be part of the solution - e.g. Luke & Amanda
- We are called to be a bridge - our stepping stones - Men, marriage, parenting & church family are to help people step over to the Kingdom of God.

Summary of years meetings can be found under the resources section of the Freshwaters website

08th June 2008

Meeting

Ron

- We are at an interesting time in the World at the moment
- God is stirring things up, but we need to make sure that we are holding on to the anchor of God's word.
- Need to make sure that we are looking to Jesus – our motivation needs to be desiring to grow closer to Jesus.
- Focus on God Himself – not just on an experience. We want signs & wonders & miracles because they point to Jesus.
- Are you thirsty enough for the presence of God that you are willing to dig a well, even when it's dry & difficult?
- God sometimes God gives us the smell of water & then it goes dries again as God encourages us to dig deeper & deeper until we find the source of that water.

Bill

- Castles Bay on Hebrides, Freshwaters well in a remote castle – God can provide Freshwater anywhere – in the most unlikely of places we can dig wells.

Ron

- If you want it & you agree with God that it is there & you are ready to dig then you will receive it.
- If you're not thirsty then ask God to make you thirst for more of Him.
- If you are thirsty ask God to help you to dig.

Talk (Ron)

Phil 1:27-30

- As Citizens of Heaven we are to live lives worthy of the Good News of Jesus Christ
- As citizens we have rights and privileges but also responsibilities
 - **Rights and privileges:-**
 - We are saved by God's Grace (Eph 2:8)
 - To become the children of God (John 1:12)
 - To draw near to God having been cleansed from a guilty conscience (Heb 10:22)
 - Sons & Heirs (Gal 4:1-7)
 - Eternal Life (John 17:3)
 - Abundant life/fullness of life (John 10:10)
 - To know God (John 17:3)
 - Peace (John 14:27)
 - To rule with Christ (Eph 2:6)
 - **Responsibilities**
 - Live as Children of the Light (Eph 5:8)
 - Love God & Love others
 - Obey Jesus commands (John 14:15)
 - Do what Jesus would do (John 14:12)
 - Flee Sexual immorality (1 Cor 6:18)
 - 1 Tim 6:6-21
- If we live in a manner worthy of the Gospel as citizens of heaven the result will be that we stand and fight together for the truth & values of that Kingdom expressed in the Good News of Jesus.
- In radical unity we are joined in Spirit so that we can together discern God's voice (Acts 15:28)

Summary of years meetings can be found under the resources section of the Freshwaters website

- We are joined in Soul so that we weep with those that weep & rejoice with those that rejoice (Rom 12:15)
- We are joined as the different parts of the body are joined & work together (1 Cor 12:12-31)
- We are in a battle against Satan who although defeated by Jesus in hatred & malice continues to attack us. He is formidable to face alone but pathetic as we face him together with one another & with God.
- We must not be intimidated, but as we live as citizens of heaven fighting together for the Good News we will be a sign to the principalities and powers of the enemy that they are heading for destruction.
- God gives us the privilege of fighting alongside Jesus and one another.

15th June 2008

Meeting

Phil B

- God is wanting to speak to us in all sorts of ways at the moment & wanting to reveal things about other people in the Fellowship at the moment & wanting to encourage one another.
- There are giftings that God is giving us at this time and keys to all sorts of things
- We have to be bold to go and share with those people & see if it means something to those people.
- Be strong & Courageous and bold and share with the person and let them pray about it and see what God wants to reveal.

Luke

- Stop fiddling around; ask of Me what you want because I love you abundantly.
- Boldly ask for what you want to receive from the Lord.
- Psm 1 given at Ellet but believe it is for the Fellowship.
- God wants us to hunger more, to step up a notch in reading God's word.

Matthew

- Stopped by field on the way to work, full of corn or wheat. Big field with many stalks – like looking at the whole world, each stalk representing a person
- Perhaps this stalk over here represents someone who has been abused, perhaps another stalk is a successful business-man, perhaps here is a refugee.
- Some stalk thought they had appeared out of the ground purely by chance, others believed they had been put there.
- Bible talks about the world being a harvest and people who know & love the Lord Jesus Christ & have been forgiven by Him and chose to follow Him will be gathered up & brought into their father's barn – but those who don't will be put on the fire & burnt. Not because God does not love them but because He is a just God and a holy God, but God's will is that none should perish, He wants to forgive us.

Ron

- Jesus encourages not particularly pray for the harvest, but to pray for harvesters. To pray for those who will bring in the harvest.
- Matthew identifies himself as one of the harvesters.
- Something we have been praying about a lot is that God would send us the harvesters, if we are going to see over ½ of Harlow following Jesus then it is not just praying for the people but praying for those who will tell the people about Jesus & the Good News.
- Can think it is about sending people from all over the World to help us – and I believe God is doing that, but it begins with us and then He calls others to join us.
- Do we identify that you are one of those who God can use to reach others with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Talk (Michelle)

- Judges 6:35-40, 7:1-25
- If we're honest there is a Gideon in each of us.
- How many fleeces do we put out when God asks us to do something?
- Gideon went on to trust God and do what God had asked him to do.

Summary of years meetings can be found under the resources section of the Freshwaters website

- We need to trust God when He asks us to do something.
- Gideon must have had his doubts when reducing the size of the army, but he did it anyway. Then God told him to reduce it again - I am sure there must have been times he felt like giving up – but he trusted God and pushed through his doubts – he persevered to the end and his army of just 300 men defeated the Midianites.
- When you run the marathon there is a point when you ‘hit the wall’ you don’t know when it is going to happen & you can’t really prepare for it.
- When you hit the wall your body wants to give up and you have nothing left in ‘the tank’. You have to tell yourself to carry on, the crowds and friends and family help cheer you on. You have to dig deep, push through your pain and stay focussed on your goal.
- You have to persevere to achieve your goal.
- Our lives are like a race – sometimes things are easy – we feel that God is running with us, but sometimes we hit a wall. You have to push through & go deeper with Him – God is the ultimate sustainer, He gives us everything we need.
- What are your walls? – do you need to push through & go deeper with God to achieve your goals and do what God wants you to do?

22nd June 2008

Talk (Ron)

- John 3:1-8
- Religious leaders added to God’s commands thousands of rules & regulations that became a barrier to seeking God and they had become proud about keeping these rules.
- When Jesus came he shattered their comfort and challenged their pride – He said look here, relationship with God is more than following a list of rules – in fact your rules have blinded you to the heart of God – which is love.
- Jesus will tell us what our hearts are longing to know – even if our minds haven’t acknowledged it yet
- When Jesus talks to Nicodemus about being born again and explains that to be part of the Kingdom of God you must be born of water and the Spirit He is explaining that we have a normal physical birth (of water)- and a spiritual birth (of Spirit) – the latter is no less real just because we can’t see it.
- Like the wind, although we cannot see the Spirit of God – we can see its effects in the lives of those who follow Jesus.
- As Jacob goes under the water it is like a burial of his old life as Jesus died & was buried.
- When Jacob comes up from the water it is like rising to a new life as Jesus was raised from the dead.
- You will not see a physical change in Jacob – but if you watch his life over coming months and years then you will see the effects of the Spirit.
- Other examples of the effects of the Spirit are:-
 - Tongues
 - Extraordinary love
 - Miraculous healings
 - Messages from God to people
 - Lots of others for those that have ears to hear and eyes to see.

29th June 2008

Meeting

Simon

- Even when the times are bad you can look back on past blessings & how He has answered prayer & we can worship Him – so there is never any excuse not to worship God!

Summary of years meetings can be found under the resources section of the Freshwaters website

Jonathan

- Reminded of the prophecy that there is a well of worship in Harlow but it has a cap on it. I feel it is like that with us this morning. Like a bottle with a lid screwed down on it but there is loads to come out from that bottle inside.
- God's listening & God loves our praises!

Talk (Nicky)

- The Lord is bringing us into a time of resurrection, restoration & destination.
- The number 8 represents resurrection – we are in 2008 – God is resurrecting His people.
- Ezek 37:1-14
- I really feel that God is opening up our 'graves' our 'places of death' our disappointments.
- V2 bones were really dry – definitely dead!
- God resurrected the bones through the Word of God. The word of God brought the bones together but the Spirit of God was also necessary to bring life.
- With the Spirit & the word together it causes resurrection and creative miracles.
- Coming into a time where there will be lots of creative miracles.
- God wants not just to bring new life but also restoration for our lives.
- Picture of being stuck in a spider's web, alive but stuck, unable to move forward. A lot of us are saved but tied to things in our past that prevent us from being free & who we should be. The Lord is coming to snip. Snip, snip – set us Free!
- As we overcome things in our lives, our fears, and the revelation of God in our lives bringing new life & restoration then we are going to be more effective for our church.
- God wants to move in His church to create an army for a purpose.
- Some of the strings in the web relate to ungodly soul ties, to sin or to habits.
- Can sometimes feel hopeless even as Christians.
- God promises hope of new things in the future.
- Restoration is a time of physical & spiritual needs being met.
- God can bring restoration in families.
- Joel 2:25 God can restore the years that the locust has eaten.
- Isa 61:3-7, God will give us beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning & He will rebuild the old ruins & repair the desolations of many generations.
- Destination – God has a plan for each & every one of us. God will place us in our own land.
- God's the great artist who is expressing Himself in us – Eph 2:10 we are God's workmanship & we should move forward.

06th July 2008

Meeting

Sandra

- The World which we live in is such an amazing place- a real treasure

Ron

- Our God is a great big God, He is the God of the mountains & the valleys, He's a God of the heat and the cold, He's the God of the whole of the universe, and the God of the intricacy of a little flower you find in a meadow. Our God is the God of Australia & Britain, or me & of you.
- In our lives & experiences there are heights & lows there are things really difficult & hard and things that appear light & easy and beautiful but God is big enough for all of those things.

Andy G

- England's flag – the red cross on the white background is an old symbol of resurrection.
- For resurrection sometimes you have to go through the place of the cross. A place of pain & a place of difficulty & sometimes of separation. That's where we are today, that place of separation as Nicky, I, Isaac & Ethan are separated from you. That's painful; there is a hurt to pass from what was to what is.
- It's a good thing that there will be a gap as we move on because others can fill it, but those staying may feel where does that leave us?
- Josh 14:6-15
- Ron has a real heart for Freshwaters and for Harlow and a heart for us.
- Ron has a hidden grace that is found in struggles, in finding that still place.
- In staying here & being faithful to Harlow Ron has got a really, really hard place. I think the passage was for Ron, he was born to fight, born with a sword in his hand & a desire for Christ that was undiminished all of his life.
- No idea what's in store for you guys but can say with confidence; the people of Freshwaters are here to support Ron. Difficult for Ron to hear, but he has been chosen to lead Freshwaters – hard journey to be called to be followed – to be followed means all your decisions are on show, any mistakes you make everyone see's – if there's any blame to be laid it will be laid at your feet. Look about what the people said about Moses.
- Does not mean people shouldn't follow Christ & listen to God.
- One of the best gifts Ron has is to release others into their full potential.
- There is a pain in letting us go.
- Called to follow Ron, to love him & look after him & help him to lead you on as he continues in his relationship with God. Love his family as they walk with him & find their place. Not easy to be the family of someone being followed often have to listen but are not able to speak out.
- Saw Christ's love in Celina last week – it hurt to feel love so strong.
- That painful love of Christ, so brilliant, so bright so vibrant beyond our comprehension, a love that can't be held by death, a love that can't be held by separation, a love that can't be held but can only be embraced, can only be touched lightly can only be allowed to drive into your very being & change you from the inside out, and that's the resurrection, the symbol you live under in this country.

Nicky G

- Thank Ron for believing in us & also Karen the unsung hero.
- Had on my heart the young people – not to settle for second best. The World is so tempting. You can choose to take the low road or the high road. On the low road there are little pockets of blessing but it's a life of compromise. The high road is a life of sacrifice but you live in the blessing.
- I really pray that God will give you courage young people to live His ways, in your relationships, in your work, in your families but particularly in your relationships because we settle for second best so often. So please, please, please consider God in all that you do and all that you say because He's got a bigger picture & a bigger plan for you.
- Thank you & all my friends.

Ron

- Will recognise more what God is saying as we work things out here & Andy & Nicky work it out in Australia – but must also bring it back to God. When thinking about the great things of Andy & Nicky's destiny, of our destinies then we have to look back to the greatness & glory of God who weaves all things together for His plans and purposes and also for our good.

21st July 2008

Meeting

Simon

- We need to press through in our Worship – ‘The joy of the Lord is my strength’.

Michelle

- Picture of a really big book on the front is the word ‘Freshwaters’ On opening 2 blank pages – on the top of the first page it says ‘New Chapter’.

Simon

- We need to press through in our Worship – ‘The joy of the Lord is my strength’.
- Picture of the generations coming together to worship God & all the divisions between young and old melted away in the awesome presence of God – a wonderful family of God from the youngest to the oldest.

Steph

- Chris has had a plant in the garden for the last 7 years – flowers in South Africa where it comes from – not likely to flower here! Around 18 months ago 2 flower buds appeared – but in March started to get bigger – last week opened up into a most amazing flower.
- We feel that sometimes that God is not working in us, but deep down He is working. What made that flower come out now – the conditions must be right. God is working in us and when the conditions are right He will make us flower and blossom – he’ll pour out his blessings on us.

Jacob

- Picture of a big house, He said that He wanted everyone from all over the World to go in this house, they are my family. Big corridor with flags from all over the World and they all said in their own languages Hallelujah.

Talk (Joth)

- Praise God for unity in the church in the Old Town so essential to worship & work together. God has promised His blessing upon the community around those who work together.
- Heb 12:1-13
- Run light – throw off everything that hinders & sin that so easily entangles & run light, don’t be burdened by the things of this world.
- Work can become sin if it is about selfish ambition not about God.
- Relationships can lead us into sin if they are not wholesome or holy.
- Phil 4:4 – Whatsoever things are lovely etc think on these things – this is the athletes uniform
- Keep you eyes fixed on Jesus
- A runner doesn’t want to get up & train – there are a thousand reasons not to, but remember your motivation.
- If you take your eyes off Jesus & look around you that’s when you start to loose the race.
- Jesus has dealt with all things, although we may face sickness & even death we know that it is Jesus who holds the keys to life and death.
- Endure hardship as discipline – it is the key to life. God is teaching you something.
- Training for a marathon is hard & tough but it is what will enable you to complete what you want to do.
- We discipline our children because we love them. God disciplines us for the same reason – He wants us to know there is only one person we can put our faith in.
- Be inspired by the great act of forgiveness on the cross & you will find that you can endure hardship.

Summary of years meetings can be found under the resources section of the Freshwaters website

7th September

Meeting

Sandra

- There is a momentum of things changing and a new season of things coming.
- There are things which are difficult which come against that – this week led to Hab 3:17-19
7 Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vine; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, 18 yet I will rejoice in the LORD! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation. 19 The Sovereign LORD is my strength! He will make me as surefooted as a deer F11 and bring me safely over the mountains (NLT)
- It's the Lord that's our strength through good things & things that are difficult, he makes sense of things.
- We haven't got problems we've got opportunities for solutions.
- Our past has given us the foundations for what is to come.

Phil

- We are to be a surprise gift to those around us.
- Greater things are still to come; greater things are still to be done in this city.

Talk (Ron)

- Historic and recent lack of response to evangelistic opportunities in Harlow.
- Lack of response to prayer and unity within the church
- Quote from national newspaper that Harlow is 'The most godless town in the nation'
- Ministers who have been successful outside Harlow struggle here.
- Asked the Lord – "what's wrong?" – felt the Lord say there is a spiritual apathy over Harlow
- Confirmed by minister in Harlow using exactly the same words to describe what he felt the Lord was saying about Harlow.
- If that is the diagnosis what is the treatment?
- Felt the Lord highlight a few things:-
- 1. 1 Cor 13:13, Harlow needs a message of Hope and Faith in a context of love. We need to flood Harlow with love, in words and actions, helping people realise that we care for them, that we accept them, that they are valuable – bringing healing, helping the poor, setting free the captive. In fact continuing Jesus mission described in Luke 4:18.
- Harlow needs Hope – Jesus is Harlow's hope and Jesus is in us – 'Christ in us the hope of glory'
- How bright is your hope? has your faith been diminished by past disappointments? Have you allowed the cloud of spiritual apathy over Harlow to cover you? Have you lowered your sights to the things you have seen – rather than reaching out for what is yet unseen?
- We need to live in an opposite spirit to the spiritual apathy in Harlow.
- Where we have had disappointments in the past we need to take them to the Lord and say we are willing to go again.
 - Do we gather enthusiastically or begrudgingly?
 - Do we volunteer willingly & serve graciously or flee from such opportunities?
 - Do we return to God the tithe that is His with thankfulness or do we rob God? – Do we give our offerings with generosity and hilarity or do we give just enough to salve our conscience?
 - Do we surrender to Christ completely or only with our words?
 - Do we love God & others passionately?
 - Do we worship with abandon like David or just sing songs while our minds are elsewhere?
 - Do we pray with faith & delight or just speak words with no connection to the heart?

- Do we hungrily devour God's word through the bible and through teaching – or do we file our bible for emergencies and during talks fix a look of interest on our face while our minds are elsewhere.
- If any of these or in any other way you feel that you have come under a spiritual apathy in Harlow then repent & ask God to refresh & renew you that the Hope of Christ would shine brightly in you and overcome the darkness of hopelessness and apathy around you.
- We need with our brothers sisters around Harlow to overcome the spirit of apathy through:-
 - Personal repentance and willingness to live in an opposite spirit.
 - Prayer and intercession to ask God to destroy the power and influence of the enemy – to lift the apathy over Harlow and to release faith and hope in an atmosphere of love.
 - Giving ourselves to the service of God and others spreading through our words and actions the love of God in our town and overflowing with the love of Christ who is in us.
 - giving ourselves to unity in Harlow – enthusiastically embracing opportunities to meet and pray, worship and work with our brothers & sisters around the town
- Romans 15:13

14th September

Meeting

Ron

- Jesus is bursting with power and glory and with love
- When we think about the different aspects of our life we need to give Jesus room to rise up in those situations. To reveal His glory, to show His power and His love.
- Nothing is without hope if we allow Jesus to rise up in us.
- The thing that makes up the deficit between what we deserve and what we receive is grace. God gives us complete love and acceptance.

Talk

Simon

Luke 15:11-31 - The prodigal son, 3 main points

1. The freedom to come or to go.
 - we are the pinnacle of God's creation
 - God's love is so great that He does not control us.
 - The Father was willing to let his son go.
 - Such is God's love for us He respects our choices.
 - He does not force obedience but invites us to choose.
 - We have to give others room to make their choices - particularly with our children.
 - If we force our children to come to church we deny them the opportunity to choose willingly
2. The love of the Father.
 - The Father embraced & restored the son on his return without hesitation.
 - God's love is extravagant for us, when we return to God He runs to greet us and to restore us as He recognises our repentance.
 - God takes no joy in punishing us.
3. Unforgiveness of elder son
 - He was not the one who had been sinned against but he set himself up in judgement & the result was bitterness.

Summary of years meetings can be found under the resources section of the Freshwaters website

- When we take God's place in judging others we can get in the way of God's love towards someone.
- Matt 7:1 - do not judge & you will not be judged
- John 8:3-11 - Women caught in adultery
- Our God is a redeemer God & if we are judgemental then we can get in the way of that.
- God will never say to a Fellowship you have loved people too much
- People know that they have done wrong what they need is to receive God's love

21st September 2008

Talk (Ron)

Phil 2:1-4

- Paul says if these things exist:-
 - Encouragement in belonging to Christ
 - Comfort in Christ Love
 - Fellowship together in the Spirit
 - Tender & compassionate hearts.
- Then these things will/should result:-
 - Agreeing wholeheartedly with one another
 - Loving one another
 - Working together with one mind and purpose
- All of us who belong to Christ have been given immeasurable riches, without prejudice or favour. The more we recognise this the less room there is for jealousy and envy – whatever the inequality of riches or influence or honour in this world we all inherit things of far greater value that are eternal.
- We were created to be loved by God and one another.
- Another person cannot completely fulfil our need to be loved – only God can
- In Christ we are ‘consoled in His love’ leaving us free to love others from that place of security and fulfilment.
- Fellowship in the Spirit provides a sense of belonging together in and through the power of the Holy Spirit
- We are part of this community not because of our merits but because of the work of the Spirit – so it removes any sense of superiority
- Our unity is not built upon our similarities or interests or political views or outlooks – it is based upon the Spirit of God who dwells in us
- As we grow in relationship with Jesus we will become more tender and compassionate because He is!
- Selfishness & attempting to impress others must stop.
- Pride is a dangerous and destructive sin that caused satan’s fall (see Ezek 28:12-19)
- Pride lifts up ourselves and pushes down or humiliates others
- Pride lusts after worship
- Pride corrupts wisdom
- Pride leads to rebellion
- To tackle pride in our own hearts we need to:-
 - Recognise & acknowledge it
 - Repent
 - Humble ourselves
 - Not false humility
 - Not a false view of ourselves but a correct view.
 - the Holman Bible Dictionary ‘Humility is ‘a personal quality in which an individual shows dependence on God and respect for other persons’.

Summary of years meetings can be found under the resources section of the Freshwaters website

- We need to develop a way of thinking that lifts others up and recognises the gifts, abilities and character of others that we can learn from.
- Will you put others interests before your own and become a servant as Christ did? (Matt 20:28)

28th September 2008

Talk (Jim & Bonnie Inkster)

- Moved into London plant a church not just a structure.
- Strategy to pray for city & gather young men & women, train & release them to do the works.
- Part of the nature of organic church is that the people go - as they have the faith to pursue their dreams
- Sent people to:-
 - Cypress
 - Egypt
 - France
 - Spain
 - Stanstead
 - Orkney Islands
 - Sidney, Australia
 - Ireland
- Realised folk in London were relying too much on us, we needed to move out to enable them to rise up & do the work
- Now folk left have been really growing & reaching out.
- In transitional place, think will do more training again

Bonnie

- Felt the Lord saying on Dec 20th 07 - there will be an economic downturn but you will be prosperous I am your sufficiently
- Call down the Isaac anointing - God's provision when there is famine in the land
- Look to Isaac - similar prophetic word from Sharon Stone.
- More financial difficulty as idles come down but God is going to use it to turn people to Him
- Gen 26:12 in a time of famine Isaac prospered.
- You will reap a hundred fold blessing
- God tells us in advance so we will not fear
- God has His ways of doing things

2 Kings 4:1

- If you are in need God will bless whatever you have - don't just ask for a few, ask God for what you need.
- The widow had to act on the prophets words
- We need to act in obedience & faith.
- We are not of this world -

- God wants to pour His blessing upon us, so that in a time of crisis people will see our peace.
- Some of us hoard the little we have but God wants us to offer what we have and live off what is left - and it will be without limit.

Mark 6:30

- Sometimes God tells us to do something we can look at the little we have & question if we can do it.
- God's government is beyond the government of the world.
- No matter how broken we are, by God's grace under His government we have all we need

1 Kings 18:41

- Elijah heard the rain before it came as He heard the sound in the Spirit
- We need to hear what God is saying at this time.
- Then Elijah prayed until what he had heard in the Spirit became real in the physical
- Use your mantle to call forth what is not until it is.

05th October 2008

Meeting

Ron

- We need to ask God to soften our hearts that we might have compassion for those around us.
- We need to ask God to send more workers into the harvest field, first us, then others – some harvesters will come from the harvest.

Bill

- Read from Isaiah 6:1-9

Ron

- For us Jesus is our burning coal – we can come before the cross of Jesus our guilt & our shame & our inadequacy, and because of what Jesus has done for us upon the cross we can receive forgiveness, we can receive cleansing and we can receive through the Spirit of God the power to stand even in our weakness and inadequacy and to say, inadequate as I am I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
- Remember the divine exchange that took place at the cross. Jesus the pure spotless lamb took from us our sin, our weakness, our shame and released to us forgiveness and cleansing and healing & the power to live lives that are pleasing to God.
- Jesus is higher than anything else in our personal lives or in the nation or world as a whole. Things that appear to be 'high' – but Jesus is higher. We need at such times to proclaim our confidence in Jesus who is higher.

Talk (Terry Brewer)

Eph 1:15-23

- God must love you ever such a lot!
- Church you are Holding back, worship team you are holding back. - need to worship as if there are thousands here.

1 Sam 30:6

- David encouraged himself in the Lord
- We need to be able to make ourselves 'strong in the Lord' not just being sustained by the message on a Sunday.

Summary of years meetings can be found under the resources section of the Freshwaters website

- Let rip on a Sunday
- You are equipped to do everything God has called you to do
- In The Greek God is called Holy Energy - how many of us have tapped in to that.
- In Haggai & Zechariah we see some lovely words - God stirred the hearts of the leaders the priests and the people. One version puts it, sparked the enthusiasm.
- We need Expectation & Expectancy
- Our God speaks - we just need to tune in to what He is saying
- When you come to Christ you come into family
- Jer 10:33 - God orders our destiny
- God wants to use you with your personality
- Free to disagree with one another but not to dishonour one another
- We need to honour one another in the fellowship
- Barnabus stuck with someone that no-one else would stick with - do we?
- Let a Spirit of encouragement fill the church
- Need more expectation - we get what we expect when we come to worship
- Worship team are quality
- All are quality in God's sight.
- Don't take things for granted.
- Expect in prayer that vision will become reality
- Walk into what God has for you.
- God can take the tiniest seed of faith & bring growth
- Psm 68 - the victor shares the spoils - Jesus shares the spoils with us in His victory
- Rom 1 darkness overcomes light
- Just before a women gives birth she goes into tension - but from that tension gives birth
- From tension in the church comes new life.
- God brings creative tension & we will have to live with it & you as a church are going to have to live with it because you are holding back & God is going to burst the dam
- Adapt for the future - let go and let God - your anointing is strong
- Wake up Freshwaters & live up to your name

Cindy

2 Kings 2

- How do you believe God will touch Harlow - God could have cleansed water without Elisha but used Him - God will use us to touch Harlow
- We are also called to be salt & light
- Need to be set free of things which cause us to loose our saltiness- e.g. Shame
- Need to be set free from anything that would make us stumble
- Need to be whole to reach Harlow
- Jesus died on the cross to see you set free
- Jesus didn't just die to be our saviour but also our redeemer and restorer.

Joan

- Season of change of reshaping, remoulding & re-adjusting.
- Realignment
- Realign yourself to the purpose, direction and calling of God on your life. You have heard what the Lord has spoken to you, take heed of His direction. Your ways may seem right but I know the end from the beginning says the Lord, do not struggle within yourself, I AM the way the truth and the life - walk as the Lord directs you. Nothing you can do can change the plans God has for you. I've called you for a purpose - if you do not head my voice I will call & use another. My timing is perfect says the Lord, no one can go forth unless I have prepared the way. Walk in My light, as I have directed you. You are my extensions, you are my eyes, my ears, my legs, my hand - you are mine & mine alone says the Lord. I love My creation & want none to perish but to be with Me in My kingdom. You are my extensions, each & every one of you. You are not your own - I created you with a purpose & designed you before the creation of the World with a plan, a blueprint for the extension of My kingdom both here on earth & on heaven. Submit your will to Me

Summary of years meetings can be found under the resources section of the Freshwaters website

& I will take you by the hand and lead you and direct you. You will bring My word in due season & in due season I will raise you up. Prepare yourself, abide in My word. Walk the narrow path, make the right choices I am the way the truth & the life. Abide in the vine. Unless a seed falls to the ground & dies it has no life - life begins with death to self it begins as you abide in Me & I abide in you. I am the author & perfecter of your life. Submit your life to My calling, submit your will to My calling. Listen & you will hear, look into My word & you will see My leading. Look into My face & you will see My healing. Come into My presence, Some I am waiting, I stand with outstretched arms, not by might but by power but by My Spirit says the Lord.

- This church will be a beacon of light in days to come in this community. People will come off the streets finding solace here. Like a community centre that will run every day. People will be drawn from near & far & will flock in this place & from this place you will go out to serve the community.

12th October 2008

Meeting

Simon

I had been speaking with Luke last Friday night & saying that I had not had much of a chance to share faith with those at the Contact Centre. Next morning at the Contact Centre after greeting a women and having general chit chat, just about to walk away when she asked if I could recommend a church for her. I introduced her to Hazel who arranged for her to come to church at Kingsmoor today – she also involved others in the conversation.

We should be expecting God to move – not about clever things we can say, it is about coming alongside people and being able to break down the barriers and build the bridges.

Phil & Sandra

First thing Bonnie said on the Sunday morning was get into the fresh flowing river – have to do something to get in. Terry said come on guy's we're holding back – we need to move forward, we need to encourage this fresh waters that we are to flow. What Simon has shared is an example of that.

Anything as individuals or as a Fellowship that might hold as back, we may need to re-align things. Maybe lack of zeal and enthusiasm, perhaps even sin. Perhaps the first love of Jesus has gone and you need to get that restored.

Perhaps sickness holding us back – we can come and be healed. Maybe [pride holding us back, we need to recognise our need of God. Maybe fear of man holding us back, we need to be willing to share our lives with folks.

Creative tension – when we're holding back nothing happens – but then when we let go there is a real release of power for things to move. We want to unlock the things that hold us back.

Things can slow down the flow of the river – like pebbles in the river. Keep the pebble with you all week to remember that you have taken your pebble out of the river so that the river can run faster. Those things that hinder us in our walk with God have been removed.

Helen

Had a picture at Jesus first meeting last Sunday - of a golden staircase that split into two, quite wide at the bottom. Met again at the top and Jesus was enthroned at the top of the staircase, when I asked what that meant God said you have to move forward with intent & purpose to enter his presence. It's an effort sometimes to climb a staircase not like a lift or an escalator.

Summary of years meetings can be found under the resources section of the Freshwaters website

Had the same picture during worship this morning but something added. From the throne there is the fresh-water – His Holy Spirit. As you put your foot on the first step the Holy Spirit will come to you and strengthen you to climb the staircase. But it won't come unless you take the first step.

Margo

The Lord's telling us to step forward in faith. God is there. Sometimes we have a seed of a thought planted but we think we can't do it – but unless we make the effort we don't know if we can make it or not. We can always talk to someone about it.

Matthew

Reminded of the story when the Israelite had to cross the Jordan with the ARC the priests had to step into the waters before they parted – they also picked up large pebbles to make a memorial.

Luke

Need a practical application, in day to day stuff of life we may get frustrated that people are not coming to know God – such frustration can be a good thing if we take that to God in prayer & cry out for opportunities.

Claire N

Freshwater brings all sorts of things to life, things that have either died out or been forgotten. Freshwater is to go where God tells it to go.

19th October 2008

Meeting

Ron

- Heb 10:24 is one of the keys to tackling apathy as we stir one another towards acts of love and good works.
- It is **acts** of love and good works, not just thinking & praying about these things but also doing things.
- How could we encourage one another towards acts of love and good works?
 - Encourage someone to pursue the vision God has given them, encouraging them that with God's help they can do it.
 - We can be an encourager to one another
 - Encourage people in their work
 - Remind people of God's word that is relevant to their situation
 - Share prophetic words & pictures God has given us.
 - Encourage one another as we gather and Worship together.

Graham

- God is an awesome, majestic and powerful God, but also compassionate, gentle & loving.
- We have listened to too many lies.
- We can hear God loves us but not take it on board because it is blocked. God unblocked filters for me over the last few days.
- God said He was proud of me as a son in such a clear way that I could not doubt Him.
- God is not ashamed of me or you. We do things that may embarrass us & God but He has not given up on us.
- He has restored me, He is restoring you to where you are supposed to be. God will bring you back to that place where He has called you to be.
- God loves you with an everlasting love that you will never be separated from.
- I've got to learn to start singing a new song, I am not a failure, I am not a disappointment to God, you are not a disappointment to God.

Summary of years meetings can be found under the resources section of the Freshwaters website

Talk (Phil Gray)

- Two Pathways Prophecy from 'Sword of Fire ministries' (speak to Ron if you would like a copy)
 - Unknown path works at both individual & corporate level.
 - Isn't it dangerous to trust yourself to an unknown path?
 - Col 1:9 – how can we be filled with the knowledge of God's will without being open to error on this unknown path.
 - 3 Characteristics that accompany walking the unknown path that mitigate against flakiness
1. Wholeheartedness
 - Num 18:7, Eph 3:7, Under the new covenant every believer is gifted.
 - 1 Cor 12:4-7.
 - You have been gifted.
 - Num 18 goes on to explain the Levites & Priests were to receive the best part and were then to offer the best part of that to the Lord.
 - Rom 1:9 – God desires our wholeheartedness, we should want to give God the very best in whatever ministry or work or position he has placed use.
 - Eph 6:7 to give God our best, not because God needs it but because God longs to bless & He can only bless what we do. We reap what we sow.
 - God honours those who honour Him, we honour Him by:-
 - Being committed not casual
 - Wholehearted not apathetic
 - If we are to reach our full potential and realise that with God all things are possible, we must be wholehearted.
 2. Prayer (Oral)
 - God's possibilities are ushered in through prayer
 - Jesus said repeatedly 'ask and you will receive'.
 - Mark 11:24 – you will receive whatever you believe and ask for in prayer.
 - Made to operate in the same way as God – God functions by faith, we are to live by faith.
 - Heb 11:3 God speaks, it's invisible & then it's seen.
 - Rom 1:17, Heb 11:6, Rom 14:23
 - Spiritual wisdom works through faith; we are called to speak out what God speaks into our hearts and call the invisible into being.
 - What do you have faith for? – speak it out & safeguard it by submitting it to the church leadership.
 3. Reliance
 - The more we are lead on an unknown path the more we need a grasp on the word of God
 - Josh 1:8 - we are to read, remember, reflect on, recite and rely on the word of God.
 - We need a greater reliance on the word of God.
 4. Knocks - hindrances to the unknown path.
- F**igs
F = Fear, 366 times bible says do not fear
- 2 Tim 1:7
 - Fear is one of the consequences of not being loved unconditionally
 - Need to face the fears with God
 - 1Cor 2:3 - Paul came in fear but he came
- I** = Inferiority
- Psm 139:14 - We are fearfully & wonderfully made
 - It's about knowing who we are & being thankful to God
 - 2 Pet 1:3, Phil 4:13 don't say I'm not up to it - only God knows what you're capable of and you won't know until your stretched.
 - Don't let faulty thinking or men's words limit you and don't limit God.
- G** = guilt,
- guilt robs us of our spiritual authority

Summary of years meetings can be found under the resources section of the Freshwaters website

- Cannot walk in victory & condemnation at the same time
- Rom 8:1 - no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus

S = slights, no shortage of opportunity to feel offended or slighted

- Forgive from the heart
- What is capping your capability
- The unknown path will lead us into creative works
- Waste challenges of people who do not know God
- Eph 2:10, 4:16
- Ask God to release the labourers into the harvest field
- Col 1:9

26th October 2008

Meeting

Jonathan

Tree from small seed grows into a big tree

Rebecca

If you are poor or rich you can still be part of God's family.

David

(Song)

Our Lord God, from the greatest canyon to the tallest mountain your world is beautiful

From the roaring ocean to the driest desert Your kingdom is great.

From the flattest plain to the deepest gorge Your love is powerful

From the longest snake to the tallest giraffe your miracles are astonishing

From the tiny ant to the giant blue whale you bless us

From the emptiness of space to the hottest star you are lovable

O thank you for Your beautiful World, Your great kingdom, your powerful love, astonishing miracles Your blessed for us and you are lovable.

So in return we love you, we praise you with all of our hearts, we pray to you, we pray to you with all of our hearts.

Jack

God made all of the fish

Hannah

I have made the colours, says God, and I have made there names

Our God has made us all, He is powerful & He looks after us, He is inside us, He has got us in His hands.

He has us in His head & in His hands.

He has made the church & He has been in our hearts. He has made you and me, and everybody. He has never been asleep. He has made the toggs and everything.

He has made the children & the sky and the grass. He's been good inside us & He's been in our heart for a long time, from when we were born – from 5 or 6 years ago!

Summary of years meetings can be found under the resources section of the Freshwaters website

Talk (Ron)

- The fire of the Holy Spirit is another key to tackling apathy.
- Acts 2:1-13 – the fire of the Holy Spirit was let loose at Pentecost!
- Joel 2:28-32 – the fire is for everyone!
- John chapters 14, 15, 16 Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as Parakletos, one who pleased our cause before God, and our Helper.
- Jesus also says the Holy Spirit will:-
 - Lead into all truth (14:17)
 - Teach you everything and remind you of everything I have told you (14:26)
 - Testify about me (15:26) – primarily this is done through us, as we testify, or witness to others about Jesus.
 - Convict the World of sin, God's righteousness and the coming judgement (16:8) – the Holy Spirit brings salvation, we cannot force it.
 - Tell us what He has heard from Jesus, tell us about the future and bring glory to Christ (16:13-16) – the Holy Spirit is the revealer of truth, the future and most importantly of Jesus.
- Acts 1:8 tells us that we will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon us and this will propel us out to witness for Jesus to everyone.
- Dan 7:8, 9 – the river of fire flowing from the throne of God. Like the river in Ezekiel 47, we need to receive in order to give. We need to be full of the fire of the Holy Spirit in order to take that fire to others.
- Its time for the fire!

2nd November 2008

Meeting

Phil

- Sometimes we can feel bad about things and God highlights our own attitudes and response to things.
- Sometimes it's good to ask God to do something in our hearts & minds to sort out some of our bad attitudes & approach to things.
- If you are feeling downcast and disturbed and there is something that you can do about it then stir yourselves and ask God to do something in my heart and attitudes and thoughts – its not always about someone else.

Talk (Phil & Sandra)

Sandra

- God has been speaking to the fellowship about fire and water lately
- We need that passion in our hearts re-ignited, that fire in our spirits to really ignite so we can be wholehearted as individuals & as a fellowship.
- Fire gives warmth & light & colour & people gather around it.
- In the darkness fire produces wonderful colours – we need & want some of that.
- Fire consumes, burns away waste
- Fire needs tending or it goes out, fire needs to keep being fed.
- Fire can be protection
- People can see fire from a long way, like a sign.
- Fire is like a sign of life
- Fire brings light in the darkness
- All of the above is relevant to the Holy Spirit, we want His life, His warmth, we want other people to gather around us so that we can share God with them. We want God's protection; we need His passion & His fire.

Summary of years meetings can be found under the resources section of the Freshwaters website

Phil

- Ezek 47:1-12
- 'There is a river' song
- Feel like this is a time when we have got to an ankle depth of things
- Looking back seen God's hand and felt His presence in different things
- Don't know why God appears to remind you of His presence in strange places, like M & S
- Tank God for those times when he shows up, but left with a bit of dissatisfaction.
- Want to see people coming to know God, want to see God using me.
- So many people who need God, I hear in the car all about people's lives which are such a mess.
- Would love to see some of these people have their lives transformed.
- If I need more fire then I want it.
- See God in different things but want more – we need God more!
- Want to align myself with what God wants
- We are in a good time & God is pouring more things out.
- If flames are lit today how soon will the fire be dowsed.
- Receiving more of God will take sacrifice.
- Stamford superstars didn't just turn up & win \$20m by chance. They have spent 6 weeks in a training camp. Getting up at 7am in the morning and training 7hrs a day. They have been looking at what they have been eating, and doing a lot of physical and team building stuff. They have had a curfew, not able to drink alcohol. As a result of this they have won the \$20m – others have seen the sacrifice made.
- We need to sacrifice more of ourselves & yield more of ourselves to God.
- Some sacrifice in training myself and getting me in a place where God can use me.

9th November 2008

Meeting

(Simon)

- Two ways we can respond to difficult circumstances, we can run away & hide & let the enemy have a victory or we can stand with our brothers & sisters and the power & anointing of the Lord and fight.
- Whether we have a physical illness or a financial need, God is still God & our God is a God of hope and He triumphs over our circumstances. He wants our security to be in Him and not in the things of man. Look at the way that the banking systems have collapsed, so many people put their hope in them, and their faith in things other than God. But God says that He is our hope, He is the foundation on which we should build. We should rise above the circumstances and allow God to give us courage, allow God to give us His victory.
- Remember those who died in the war on all sides
- Remember the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus made for us all on the cross, a combination of great sorrow but as we partake in the bread and the wine there is great hope and great celebration. Of Jesus victory over death.

Talk (Pastor Paul)

John 14:1-6

- Let not your heart be troubled
- Looking at the chapter before, it appeared Jesus was causing the trouble in their hearts as He says that He would be betrayed in fact in 13.21 it says that Jesus Himself was troubled
- We can choose whether we are troubled or not.
- We pray & want everything to go as we want it to. If all we asked for happened then God's word would not be true - e.g. that persecution would come.
- Disciples walked with Jesus for 3 years & there were wonderful things - healings, miracles, provision
- When the storm came the disciples were full of fear but Jesus was at peace
-

Summary of years meetings can be found under the resources section of the Freshwaters website

- Now Jesus was saying I will leave you but don't be troubled
- Don't give in to being troubled but believe in God
- Jesus was talking about the faith they needed to see God even in the midst of their fears
- Women pregnant for 15 months tried false God's but they could not help. Came to Jesus - we went to her home, bound the demons & prayed for her. Demons manifested, she fell down, cast out demons, she cried there gone. Prayed at 6pm, at 8am gave birth to baby.
- Believe in God but also know that in the Fathers house there are many rooms
- Jesus wasn't running away from the disciples because trouble was coming, He was going for a purpose - to prepare a place.
- The economy may collapse but God will not abandon His people.
- God is calling His people to know God & know where Jesus is & what He is doing
- Our hope is that we will one day be with Jesus in Glory
- Knowledge of God is beyond head knowledge, it is the heart.
- Jesus was not talking to unbelievers but to His disciples when he said I Am the way, the truth & the life.

Heb 10:19

- In the midst of fear we need to know how to access the throne room of the Father to receive help.
- We know the way - others don't
- Challenges of Africa greater than men can handle - not even Obama - but we know the way to God
- Nebuchadnezzar - He asked the impossible, to tell the dream & its interpretation - Daniel knew the way to the one who had the secrets.
- You & I are the Daniel of today. He prayed believing God was able to show him.
- If God is urging you to prayer don't despise that
- Read following verses in John 14 connected to prayer. Jesus said whatever you ask for in My name we will receive.
- Our call is not fear & worry but to have faith in God
- Man threatened to kill me, as we prayed felt the Lord say He laughed at the schemes of the wicked, he does not have the power God has
- When he came to look for me few weeks later could have hidden but decided need to be about the Lord's business
- God sorted out the situation

16th November 2008

Meeting

Graham

Heaven will kiss earth this morning

Barbara

Asking that God would come down through open heaven & bless us this morning.

Julie

Reminded of David's word about a ladder going up to heaven & chariots of fire coming down the ladder with messages from God.

Sandra

Images of fire & water on the floor which are the things that we have been praying about.
Psm 65.

Summary of years meetings can be found under the resources section of the Freshwaters website

Phil

Some going through difficult time, Pastor Paul's words really relevant, don't let your hearts be troubled. In the storm on the lake Jesus was asleep untroubled, when we go through the storm Jesus is the same, we can trust Him. We need to remember the things God has done in our lives.

Spending time with Casey, Dianne's dog, came and offered me her head & I tickle her head, when you stop she nudges you to tickle her again. Then she lay down & so tickled again, then rolled over & offered a paw & tickled her again. Reminds me of the intimacy of time with the Lord, great to come before the Lord and have a tickle, enjoy time with God, allow Him to strengthen us, to stroke us & say it's OK.

Talk (Luke)

John 14:1-3

- Jesus not far from His crucifixion when He is saying this.
- Jesus is saying He is preparing a place for us; this is to do with justifying our salvation, our freedom, as sons & daughters of God.
- Jesus is about to leave His disciples and He is not only justifying but also sanctifying us.
- Definition of sanctify is to make holy – an ongoing process.
- Jesus just before He leaves says I am preparing a place so we will be together. But we need to go on to continually grow and mature and work out our salvation.
- Been saved and still being saved.
- V 3 Hope of the Christian faith is that Jesus will return and take you to be with Him – this is the glorification – definition – being lifted up to the Glory of heaven with Him (Jesus)
- Jesus has saved us, on the cross, He has left us to work out our salvation on the earth, but He will one day come back & exalt us to heaven.
- Focus on Jesus return:-
- Who returns, where will He return,
- Acts 1:1-11
- Part of our sanctification, we are living in the time empowered by the Holy Spirit to work with God, to show others God's love & to work out our salvation.
- Mentions this **same** Jesus. When we have been separated from a friend for a long time and then we arrange to meet them we wonder what they will be like, how have they changes? – But when Jesus returns He will be the same, He will not have changed.
- We may change for good or bad, we need to change as human beings.
- Jesus – 'the man' will return. Jesus is still both human and God – I Tim 2:5 – 'the man Jesus'
- If Jesus was just God and not man then He couldn't have relationship with us.
- Can feel uncomfortable communicating someone with an exalted title and who speaks in language that we cannot understand or relate to. We would relate much more easily to someone who is down to earth.
- We can relate to Jesus because He is like us, human.
- Jesus promised to be with us until the end of the age but also we are scattered throughout the earth. He can be with us through the Holy Spirit who represents Jesus.
- When Jesus returns we will still have the Holy Spirit, but we will also have the human Jesus & we will be able to see Him face to face.
- Where will people gather to welcome Him if we are all scattered over heaven & earth.
- According to the Bible we will meet with Jesus in Jerusalem.
- Jerusalem is in the centre of the world's main mass.
- Jesus will come back to the Mount of Olives where He left.
- We will meet Him in the air (above the mountain) (I the 4:17) – there is a lot of room in the air, room for everyone.
- When Jesus returns then we will become like Him, like Jesus resurrection body we will have new bodies.
- Next session will look at how & when Jesus will return. Finally the most important thing we will need to look at is why He will return and what that means for our lives.

Summary of years meetings can be found under the resources section of the Freshwaters website