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Sunday 4th January 2009

Meeting (Simon)

- Christmas period emphasised Christ as our hope
- Lot of political & economic upheaval, but our foundation, our security is in God & He will never abandon us.
- A person's life is not about their possessions – if we are rich we just need a bigger skip for our possessions when we die.
- Our life is about our story.

Talk (Ron)

- Phil 2:5-11
- This week dealing with what it says about Jesus
- Jesus is God
- Jesus knew He was God (see John 8:52-59)
- Jesus did not cling to position or privilege – Jesus came to give His life not just out of obedience to the Father, but out of His love for us.
- Jesus came as a servant to both His Father's will and to us (see Matt 20:28)
- Jesus is Human – He understands our weaknesses (Heb 4:15)
- Jesus did not just wear a 'cloak of humanity' He was fully human, feeling the pain we feel, learning as we learn.
- Jesus did not do the miracles He did as God – He did them as man in perfect relationship with God and dependant on the Holy Spirit – that is why He is our example.
- Jesus went on to humble Himself to suffer the death of a criminal on the cross to save you and me.
- Therefore the Father exalted Jesus & He was given a name above all names
- See Eph 1:19-23 – Jesus is exalted for the benefit of the Church. As we face our big things we need to know that Jesus is much bigger and He is for us.
- One day every knee will bow & every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord – but we have the great privilege of confessing Jesus as Lord now – and the great reward of eternal life.
- The Father is not diminished in exalting the Son – but is instead completed.

Sunday 11th January 2009

Meeting (Ron)

- Clearing of fog – clarity coming in. We can feel 'foggy'. Apathy is like fog, which comes on us and clings to us. This morning there was a beautiful sunrise – clarity in air. We need to choose to walk into and look towards clarity in Jesus. As the sunrise is so beautiful, God is beautiful. His glory is amazing. We need to re-discover a sense of awe at God's beauty, majesty and magnificence. His beauty is reflected in creation.
- Make a definite choice to look towards His beauty, His clarity. Choose to worship and look towards God and see that foggy clear.
- Scientists continue to discover the wonder of God's creation, from the tiniest particle to the vast expanse of the stars – and God knows each star by name! God created all of it. Let's give worship, praise and thanksgiving to such a wonderful God.

Matthew - Poster covered in thousands of tiny letters – DNA. We are unique. God doesn't make mistakes. We were meant to be born.

Ron - God has made us perfect but there is an enemy and a corruption caused by the enemy and sickness is part of that corruption. We need to keep our eyes fixed on God. There are millions of examples of God correcting corruption in the world. Look to God for healing. God alone is our healer. Lay before God our hopes, dreams, disappointments. Ask Him to renew in us faith, refresh us, confidence in God, peace which comes from knowing God is good.

Talk (Helen)

- Busy creativity out of our lives if we are not careful.
- known and the unknown path (Ron)
- Hands: Have your tools in one hand and your weapon in the other (Tony Uddin), even when you are working you need your weapons by your side ready to face any battles that arise.
- Exodus 17: 12-17: Joseph and Aaron held Moses hands up in support whenever he became tired.
- Walk hand in hand with God.
- Dare to Hope: It's not healthy to live without hope. Even through the tears we can have hope. We have hope in Jesus.
- Step in, look at the throne and see the rainbow of promise that God will bring good out of this.
- Overcome or overcomers? Are we going to be overcome by our circumstances or are we going to be overcomers?
- Looking through a doorway at something good – are we willing to take the risk that there might be disappointment if everything disappears. We need to take the risk.
- Step out in creativity with your husband and your children. A word given to Helen 10 years ago before she even met Jonathan.
- Micah 7:7 – “As for me I will keep watch. I will pray that God will keep His promise to me”.
- It's important that we align ourselves with God's plan for our lives – submit yourself to Gods will for your life, not map everything out and then present it to God and ask Him to fulfil our plans.
- Psalm 139: 13-16 – You made all the inward delicate parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb.
- V16 – You saw me before I was born, every day was recorded in your book, every moment was mapped out.

Sunday 18th January, 2009

Meeting (Jonathan)

God does lift us up when we worship Him, He is there for us. He never lets us go. He does provide strength. He does not grow weary, whereas we grow weary, God doesn't grow weary.

Exodus 17: 10 - So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. 11 As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. 12 When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. 13 So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.

Two people came alongside Moses and encouraged and strengthened him until the battle was through.

Ron - Aaron and Hur held up Moses hands. I know it didn't happen, but it could have been that others then came along and held up the hands of Aaron and Hur... Picture of what is happening here this morning. We all need people to hold up our hands from time to time. That is what the body

of Christ is all about – loving one another, supporting each other. Jesus is not distant from that. He comes alongside us to hold up our hands as well, and part of that is through one another.

Luke - Picture of an eagle with its wings closed. Aaron and Hur helped Moses lift his hands. I felt that God will raise us up on eagles' wings, but we need to have our wings open to receive. When our wings are broken or down, church helps us to lift them. I felt that God was saying that we need to rely on that on a day to day basis. Rely on our mentors, others in church who we can go to in those times of need and ask for help to open our wings and rise up. Also, I felt expectancy – when we raise our arms. Come Lord, use me, give me opportunities today to be used by You.

Talk (Ron)

- Philippians 2:5-11 from the perspective of its example to us. “The same attitude” – to think of oneself in a way that is modest and to be of a mind that is agreed together with Christ.
- Jesus did not cling to position or privilege. We need to be willing to give these things up.
- Today we often hanker after celebrity – being famous for being famous. Being in a position of authority in business. The desire is wrong when the only reason for it is to put the spotlight on ourselves and our own greatness. This often results in the exclusion of all else that does not sense this purpose.
- The pursuit of our God given gifts can be wrong if they become the single focus of our life. We can be on rocky and dangerous ground.
- How do we know when our focus is wrong? When we are unwilling to give these things up if we feel God is telling us to, then our focus is misdirected.
- Mark 10:17-31 – The story of a rich man who asked what he must do to enter the Kingdom of God. Jesus could see that although the man desired to follow Him and was seemingly doing everything he should to achieve this, Jesus saw that there was a hidden barrier preventing this which was the mans love of money and wealth.
- Are you willing to hear God challenge you to give up the thing that you hold dear? Would you let go?
- Humility and dependence on God is not about being false in our representation of ourselves.
- Jesus came to do the will of His Father. How much do we want to follow Gods plan for our lives. If we want to know Gods plan we must seek it out.
- Jesus recognised who He was from the revelation that came from studying the scriptures and seeking God.
- When we discover Gods plan for our life do we actually do anything about it?
- When you are on the peak of a mountain you can see everything before you. When you are in the valley you have to remember what you saw on the mountain top and believe it.
- Matthew 20:28 - Willingness to serve. ‘Doulos’ – one who gives himself up to another’s will.
- Are you a good servant? Do you see the need of others and then put yourself out to meet the need?
- John 15:9 – “I have loved you as the Father has loved me. Remain in Me. When you obey my commandments, you remain in me”.
- Would you be willing to lay down your life for one of your brothers or sisters?
- “The great therefore” – because He humbles himself, because He was willing to save, because He was willing to die for us, then God raised Jesus up to the place of highest honour.
- “The great therefore” applies to us also. There are rewards for becoming like Christ.
- 1 Peter 1:9 – our reward for believing in what Christ has done is eternal life.
- 1 Tim 4:8: Physical exercise has some reward. Spiritual exercise has great benefits.
- There are also rewards in heaven that are over and above our salvation.
- rewards for:-
- ;Being persecuted (Matt 5:12, Luke 6:23), Giving gifts in secret (Matt 6:4); Praying in secret (Matt 6:6); Fasting in secret (Matt 6:18); Being a faithful steward of all the Lord has entrusted to us (Matt 24:46, Luke 19:17); Blessing those that cannot give you anything in return (Luke 14:14); Using your material wealth to benefit others (Luke 16:9); Building that which survives

the fire of testing because it is built on the foundation of Christ (1 Cor 3:14); Doing good (Eph 6:8); Being kind and generous in financial support (Phil 4:17); Training in spiritual things (Col 3:24); Not throwing away our confident trust in Christ (Heb 10:35); Being willing to suffer (Heb 11:26, 1 Pet 3:14); What we do (1 Pet 1:17, Rev 22:12); Fearing God's name (Rev 11:18)

- Colossians 3:14 – remember God will give you your inheritance as a reward and the master is Christ.
- We will receive a share in Christ's inheritance. Our share is dependant on all of the other things.
- John 14:2 – be careful that you do not lose the prize that you have worked so diligently for.
- Will we scrape just over the line? Doing just enough to be saved but nothing else. Or are we willing to respond to the challenges that will allow us to achieve so much more?

Sunday 25th January, 2009

Meeting (Phil)

Thinking about 'Breakout'.

Luke

Presented Harlow Youth Vision (formerly Harlow Youth Voice). Christian people around Harlow working together to bring vision to young people in Harlow. Church in Harlow working together.

What can Freshwaters do as a church?

- Give time
- Age (doesn't matter!)
- Training provided
- Heart for young people
- Donations welcome
- Prayer representatives required – one from each prayer/small group to act as representative for group, to receive newsletters and prayer points to distribute within group
- Discipleship – ongoing discipleship is required

Talk (Michelle)

- Joshua 6: 1-27 - The walls of Jericho and Joshua.
- Godfrey Birtill spoke about 'Breaking Out' over the wall, at last night's meeting.
- God told Joshua that the city was his if he followed God's command – to march around the city 7 times. Day 1-6 in silence and on the 7th day to blow the trumpet and make a noise.
- What is God saying to us about Harlow?
- Has He given us the 'city' of Harlow?
- What is He telling us to do to bring the walls down?

Faith

- Joshua had faith. God told him what to do and he did it in faith.
- When we take a step of faith the enemy doesn't like it.
- There can be a battle – in the Old Testament at the heart of every battle there is worship.
- "Faith never knows where it is being led but it loves and knows the one who is leading" Oswald Chambers.

Sunday 1st February, 2009

Meeting (Ron)

We are encouraged to build up one another in our most holy faith and part of the way we do that is by our testimony; by sharing what God has done in our lives. Those things that give glory to Him. Even as we speak out what God has done, we give glory to God. He is great. Worthy of all Praise.

David Chippett - For 15 years had bad back. Jim prayed for me at last night's meeting, and now both sides of my back feel exactly the same.

Ron - Helen drew a picture on Saturday, which Jonathan drew on Sunday morning. Theme of 'Breakout' with Godfrey Birtill, Breakout at Cubs. God sometimes does things just to emphasise what He has to say. Take note of what He is saying. Continue to consider 'Breakout' and apply to our lives. 'Breaking out' of things that restrict us, and also 'Breaking into' the things that keep others from seeing Jesus glory. We can rescue people.

Luke - Expectancy in faith. Encouragement regarding outreach in town. Testimonies regarding opportunities had, all due to expectancy. God wants to use us. Want to see opportunities. Encourage expectancy.

Ron - If God is great in your life, tell others. If He isn't great, ask Him to be great!

Claire - Number of friends in multi-faith who have not explored Jesus. Able to have conversations with them and seen signs that they are open. Carry on going with what God has shown you. Don't give up.

Ron

If we have expectancy, we will see opportunities come. As we share heart and life with people, excitement about what God is doing in our life and not keeping quiet, we will see revelation coming to people. Begin to see people giving their lives to Christ. Starts by praying 'God, give me the opportunities' and being willing to respond when God answers your prayers.

We are not accidents – God created us with a purpose.

Talk (Jim Inkster)

- Prayer – the role of forgiveness. Luke 11: 4 – The Lord's Prayer. 'Forgive our sins as we forgive everyone who sins against us'.
- Sin means to fall short of the mark. When we sin we have fallen short of the high calling that God has for us.
- When others sin we often feel that they have fallen short of the expectation we have for them.
- We don't understand how significant the role of redemption is and how important it is in winning people to the Lord.
- When we talk about forgiveness it doesn't mean that when we forgive someone we are saying that what the person did was right. Instead it means we are releasing that hook that holds us in bitterness and can do harm to us.
- It is painful to forgive. We often want to gain wisdom without going through the pain.
- Embracing pain keeps our hearts tender. When we harden our hearts toward the pain people cause us, we also harden our hearts to God.
- 2 Cor 5: 15-21. 'We regard no one from a worldly point of view... All this is from God who reconciled us to Himself through Christ who gave us the ministry of reconciliation... we implore you on Christ's behalf to be reconciled to God'.
- Unbelief can stop God moving in a place. God responds to faith, not need. If He responded to need, everything would be made right already.
- We are not to regard people through the world's eyes, but through God's eyes. We must have a Godly view and not a worldly one.
- Our whole mission is about reconciliation of people to God.
- The world says 'I don't want you to have what I've got', but the Godly view says 'what God has given us is so expansive it is for everyone to share'.
- The love of Christ constrains us in such a way we want everyone to have it.

- We are motivated because God has given us a ministry of reconciliation.
- 1John 4: 19-21. 'We love because He first loved us'. Jesus found us, we didn't find Him. Often we are not even looking for Him when he comes to us.
- 'If anyone says I love God, yet hates his brother, he is a liar, for anyone who does not love his brother whom he has seen does not love God whom he has not seen'.
- God has called us to love people. That doesn't always mean we will get along with them!
- God's grace is amazing – because God has given us a vast spectrum of free will, he tolerates a lot of behaviour.
- John 17: 23. 'We must love as God loved us'. Forgive and release.
- Mark 8: 31. 'The son of man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that He must be killed and after three days rise again'.
- When we are baptised we acknowledge that we have died to our life but we are going to Calvary on 'the instalment plan', bit by bit we are getting there!
- Mark 10. The disciples had left everything to follow Jesus. Jesus told them they would receive all these things back again and persecutions.
- Mathew 23: 37. 'O Jerusalem, Jerusalem... I long to gather you but you are not willing...'
- In the world there is resistance.
- Philippians 1:29. 'For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in Him but also to suffer'.
- It's the 'good news, bad news' you have all these things but you will also share in Christ's suffering.
- Matthew 6: 14 and 15. 'If you forgive men when they sin against you, your father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men then surely your father will not forgive your sins'.
- We need to deal with our own heart attitude.
- Matthew 18: 34 and 35. We should forgive 'seventy times seven'. There is no limit to the amount we should forgive.
- 'This is how your heavenly master will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from the heart'.
- When we don't forgive we are tormented until we get release.
- Colossians 3: 13. *'Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances that you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you'. *Bear: carry, endure. We must carry others and endure.
- 1 Peter 3:7. 'Be considerate as you live with your wives and treat them with respect... and your prayers will be answered. Unforgiveness can hinder prayers.
- Matthew 5: 23 and 24. 'If you are offering your gift at the altar, you must deal with your unforgiveness first'.
- Unforgiveness makes you bitter. Forgiveness makes you better.
- Forgiveness is the key to unlocking the effectiveness of prayer.
- Forgiveness is the key that unlocks are effectiveness in our corporate and in our personal life.
- There is incumbent upon us to be a people of forgiveness.

Sunday 8th February, 2009

Meeting (Ron)

- Come with hearts prepared in worship.
- It's not about the song, words, etc, it's about our hearts.
- Our desire, do we love God, want to worship Him and praise Him?
- Keep hearts in right place – place of worship and thanksgiving.
- Focus is Jesus (Col 1: 15 onwards).
- Feed ourselves upon knowledge of who Christ is and what He has done for us.
- Devour His word.
- Give thanks and praise each day.

- Remember afresh His goodness, love, faithfulness and His sacrifice.
- We can not earn salvation; we can't pay the price for our own sin. It is a free gift from God, but an expensive gift from Jesus who lay down His life.
- Keep scripture available to us at home, when we wake up, to read and remind ourselves of who He is.
- In difficulty, give thanks for Jesus who is the one who gives us strength.
- Jesus is the one who can show us the way when we can't see forward.
- Jesus gives us hope when everything around seems hopeless.
- Jesus loves more than we could ever love.
- We can enter into His presence, into the throne room, because Jesus made a way.
- The throne is surrounded by angels worshipping God. We can enter in and worship too, along with the angels.
- BECAUSE OF JESUS.

The focal point of all of History is the Cross of Jesus.

Jesus is the ultimate sacrifice. What Satan intended to defeat God became the very thing that defeated him, and the powers of hell. Jesus gave His life for us and it all comes back to the CROSS. Remember that CROSS as we come to communion.

If we confess our sin He is faithful and just to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Faith Gap – There may be things you have been praying about, maybe for a long time, that you have not yet seen. This can be challenging, difficult, confusing... Just because it is not yet seen, does not mean it is not there! All we 'see' will pass away, what remains is faith, hope and love. Trust Jesus, He is faithful (Hebrews 13). He brings what isn't to become what is.

Talk (Luke)

Jesus returns to complete the saints

- God is our designer and creator. We are made in his image Genesis 1:27.
- If we are made in Gods image we must have been made perfect.
- We are not fully in Gods image anymore.
- We need to be fully in Gods image again.

How do we get back there?

- Process of clinging to Jesus.

When will we be fully in God/Jesus' image!

- When Jesus returns (1 John 3:2).

Groaning forward into His glory.

- And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, (To be fully in Gods image), including the new bodies he has promised us.' Romans 8:23 NLT.

What it means to groan forward into Gods glory.

- Being spiritually uncomfortable, unsatisfied, frustrated.
- Groaning through prayer, psalms, music, Godfrey groaning, groaning glory in our work.

We wait in eager hope.

- We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, (To be fully in Gods image when Jesus returns).
- Including the new bodies he has promised us.'

What are our full rights in Christ as his adopted children?

- Accepted, Ephesians 1: 6
- A temple, 1 Peter 2: 5
- Forgiven, Ephesians 1: 7
- A child of God, Romans 8: 16

- A friend of Jesus, John 15: 14 - Esther
- Saved by grace, Ephesians 2: 8
- Chosen, John 15: 16
- Complete, Colossians 2: 10
- Redeemed, Galatians 3: 13
- Rescued, Colossians 1: 13
- Cared for, 1 Peter 5: 7
- Blessed, Ephesians 1: 3
- Healed, 1 Peter 2: 24
- Eternal, 1 John 5: 11, 12
- A new person, 2 Corinthians 5: 17
- A masterpiece, Ephesians 2: 10
- An heir, Romans 8: 17 Part of the church, Ephesians 5: 29, 30
- An example, Ephesians 5: 1
- Declared not guilty, Romans 3: 24

What are our full rights in Christ as his adopted children?

- Not condemned, Romans 8: 1
- Made right with God, 2 Corinthians 5: 21
- Led by the Spirit, Romans 8: 14
- Living by faith, 2 Corinthians 5: 7
- Being transformed, Romans 12: 1, 2
- Not afraid, 2 Timothy 1: 7
- Strong in the Lord, Ephesians 6: 10
- Victorious, Romans 8: 37
- An overcomer, 1 John 4: 4
- A co-worker with God, 1 Corinthians 3: 9
- A workman, Philippians 2: 13
- One in Christ with other believers, Galatians 3: 28
- Loved, Ephesians 1: 4
- Adopted, Ephesians 1: 5, 6

Sunday 15th February, 2009

Meeting (Ron)

- Launch of Community Care Fund.
- Welcome to Pam and Tara.
- Thank God for His love for us, and for our community.
- Thank God for the opportunity to reach out and touch others, and show them how much we love them.
- We have an amazing, wonderful God.
- Share any experience you have had recently, of something God has done in you or in someone you know.
 - Sandra – mum is getting her strength back; almost glowing though support of people, prayers, and God's love surrounding her.
 - Debbie – Led in dance by Steve on Valentine evening dance.
 - Michelle – Amazing pictures of Nan, found when going through her things. Recalled book reading 'Manifest of Presence', and the subject of rainbows, which I love. Rainbows are from God, a reminder of His promises. They might disappear when we see them, but God's promises never disappear. What he has promised to do in your life, he will do. Memories we have of our loved ones will not go, and can bring time of laughter and sharing when recalled.

- Luke – Thank God for using me to love and express that love with no agenda. Had opportunity to help somebody, wanting nothing in return. As church we can show love with no agenda. Sow seeds and reap what we sow.

Ron – The truth is God is interested in every area of our lives, whether it is dancing, sickness, death. We have an opportunity to show love and help people. God is involved.

Bill – Had an opportunity to show love to a family in hospital who had lost a loved one. Saw God's perfect timing in this opportunity, and was able to pray for family.

Sandra – dance teachers daughter, Kirsty, had to go into hospital on evening of Valentine dance. Had opportunity to pray for Kirsty and for Ruth, her mum.

Ron – Thank You Jesus, You give us strength to stand because of all You have done. Empower and enable us to serve You, one another and our town.

Talk (Ron)

- Isaiah 58:1
- Feed the hungry and look out for those in darkness. Then your light will shine like the dawn.
- Don't substitute religion for relationship.
- Don't look good on outside – do the things that please God, looking after the poor and the hungry, then God will hear you.
- James 2:14 – “What good is it if you have faith but you don't have any actions... Faith by itself is not enough unless it produces good deeds it is useless”.
- Faith inevitably leads on to actions because it is about a living relationship with God.
- It doesn't please God to see us here every morning if the rest of the week we are ignoring those who need our help or bullying our employees.
- Jesus came to set the captives free, to proclaim the Good News, to heal the sick, to feed the hungry.
- When Jesus did these things he didn't have any ulterior motive, He responded out of compassion.
- Jesus gave freely without expecting anything in return.
- Jesus expresses love because He is love.
- 2 Corinthians 8:1 – The church in Macedonia was troubled and poor but they gave more than they could afford.

Sunday 22nd February, 2009

Meeting (Phil and Sandra)

Sandra

- Hebrews 12
- People in Hebrews overcame by faith. It wasn't easy but God never left them alone.

Jonathan East - Had a dream that I was on a train to London. I was about to get off at my stop, but the driver missed it! He then stopped half way between the two stations, and said, 'you can get off here and walk back along the track, or get off at the next station'. In real life, no one wants to walk along the track! I got off onto track and noticed other people on the track looking very lonely. In my dream, I was then transported back on to the train as if I had stayed on it, and I got off at the next station. There was a lot going on at that station that was horrible and I wished I had got off and walked along the track. Whilst we think we will do the simplest thing (e.g. stay on train until next stop), God is calling us to do something not conventional but that is the better thing.

Jonathan Gillman - Helen shared that during Worshippers last week Jonathan had drawn a picture of an underground train. He was saying that if you go underground you can still be part of the family of God. When you are underground God is still with you. When we were talking about what that meant,

I realised that being on an underground train signified going through a difficult time. When we are going through difficult times God is still with us. On the front of every train is an engine with a light. God is shining His light and helping you find the way through the dark times, and the difficult times. He also said that going underground develops the fruit of the spirit so we are there for a reason.

Phil - Reading a book called the 'Hidden Smile of God'. Three men who lived amazing lives. John Bunyan – put in prison for preaching the gospel and remained there by choice. William Cowper– suffered mental torment, struggled hard with himself. David Brainerd – took himself off to mission with Native America Indians in wilderness. Lonely existence, during which he wrote diaries which encouraged lots of missionaries to go out into missions field.

John Bunyan – “No one knows terrors of those days but myself. One day as I was passing into a field this sentence fell upon my soul. ‘Thy Righteousness is in heaven’, and me thought with all I saw with the eyes of my soul, Jesus Christ at God’s right hand. There, I said, was my righteousness, so that wherever I was, or whatever I was doing, God could not say of me, he wants or lacks my righteousness for that was just before Him. I also saw, moreover, that it was not my good frame of heart that made my righteousness better, nor yet my bad frame that made my righteousness worse, for my righteousness was Christ Himself, the same Yesterday, Today and Forever. Hebrews 13:8.

William Cowper – “Immediately I received the strength to believe it. The full beams of the Son of Righteousness shone upon me. I saw the sufficiency of the atonement He had made. My pardon sealed in His blood and all the fullness and completeness of His justification. In a moment I received and believed in the gospel. Unless your mighty arm had been under me I think I should have died of gratitude and joy. My eyes filled with tears and my voice choked with transport. I could only look up to heaven in silent fear overwhelmed with love and wonder.”

David Brainerd – “Near night I attempted to walk a little. My thoughts turned toward thus. How infinitely sweet it is to love God and be all for Him, upon which it was suggested to me, ‘You are not an angel, not lively and active’, to which my whole soul immediately replied, “I sincerely desire to love and glorify God as any angel in heaven”, upon which it was suggested again, ‘you are filthy, not fit for heaven’, here upon instantly appeared the blessed robes of Christ’s righteousness, which I could not but exalt and triumph in.”

We all have our struggles, trials and afflictions. God accepts us for who we are, and works with who we are. He bestows His righteousness upon us and declares us as sons and daughters of His, no matter how bad or good we are, when we come to Him and accept who we are, but ask him to come and change us and help us, help us bear our afflictions and change those areas in which we struggle, then He gives us His righteousness.

Sandra – sense of witnesses gone before us. Not just from the bible but our ancestors, people gone before us, a great cloud of witnesses.

Attitude determines altitude. It is your attitude that will determine whether you soar or plod along. We can have a positive attitude knowing that there are people behind us, supporting and encouraging us. We have God on our side! The opportunity to soar, to fly. In the difficult times, when we are in the tunnel, following the train, thank God that He is our light.

Ron – Discipline ourselves in order to see God’s will completed. Need to be ready and willing to receive discipline. In training for a marathon, we need discipline, preparation. Jonathan, in his dream, had to make a choice of whether to walk on the track or stay on the train. Going back along the track was more difficult – choose to go along the track. Jonathan’s picture, going through the tunnel but staying on the train knowing Jesus is leading you. You choose which train to get on, and when to get off. Do you have a peace and confidence in knowing where you are being led is where Jesus wants to take you, even if it is through the tunnel? Make a choice to trust in Jesus. Daniel 9 – Intercession for nation, and western world as a whole. As a generation we have seen a great period

of success, ease. We have become a selfish generation, flabby, lazy. Don't want to work for things, wanting returns on nothing. Rome, when they defeated their enemy, then came their fall. Why, because with no enemy, no longer disciplined. Became lazy. Recognise and identify with the sins of our nation. Discipline ourselves. God will help us. Get rid of laziness, abandonment to the spirit of this age (Hebrews 12).

Phil – Luke 17: 11-19. Attitude of gratitude. Saying thank you, as the leper said thank you to Jesus. Let us express our thanks to one another, and to God.

Sunday 1st March, 2009

Meeting (Jonathan)

Good last week to have reminder to thank one another, and I am reminded that we need to thank God, in all of our situations and circumstances, encourage you to come with thanks to God.

Jonathan - thank God for generously giving to those in need, through Harlow Foodbank.

Michelle – thank God for the offer of a lift, without having asked.

Debbie – thank God, on my walk to work along a cycle path I look for different wildlife but never get to see many birds. On this particular day, not feeling too great, walking along cycle path and saw a tiny bird, which I looked up to find was a Goldcrest. Something I had not seen there before. I was lifted by this. God blessed me.

Ron – wrestling with things this week, going on in me and what I felt God was saying. Through the last few weeks I have come into a couple of things that God has spoken to me about. Some were slight adjustments and God brought clarity into some things I was confused about. I was at the Ground Level Leaders Conference on Thursday, every time I go there it seems they are saying something about what's happening here. Gave me a whole new sense of how God guides us. We often think about Gods guidance being very restrictive, legalistic and tight but actually it's not. There's a sense of freedom in it, a trust in the goodness of God that when we do slightly go off track, He can correct us. If we are willing to hear, he will speak to us. Sense of, 'it's not a hard thing; it's about being open and willing to be corrected when necessary'.

Matthew – Chose to forgive granddad and experienced freedom.

Richard – Completed and exchanged flat sale on same day, give thanks to God.

Ron – Revelation 2. This was a church, individuals, families, doing a lot of really good things. Patient, faithful, enduring, weighing things up. But in the midst of this their hearts had grown cold towards God and one another. We need to be so careful that in our busyness, even in the midst of faith and endurance, that our hearts don't grow cold and calloused, but they remain soft and open to God. 'These three things remain, faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love'. Love is eternal. We can do many good things but if love is lost, we've lost everything. Prayer for God to stir afresh a passionate love in our hearts. If our hearts have grown cold, ask God to show us that we might seek Him afresh. Remind us of the very great love He has for us, that He sent His son to die for us.

Talk (Brian & Mary)

The central event in terms of the Fathers heart was his Baptism

- Matt 3:13-23.
- Jesus became one of us so that he could save all of us.
- Jesus knew how needy He was that he couldn't face the future on His own.
- Significant event in receiving the Holy Spirit & affirmation of His Father.

- This moment an earthquake in the human soul of Jesus (Brendan Manning).
- In temptations satan challenged Jesus sonship.
- Jesus knowledge of who He was cost Him His life.
- What does it mean to us.
- Jesus is our prototype.
- We are meant to look like Him in our character & life.
- We too need the power of the Holy Spirit & the affirmation of the Father.
- Can try to seek affirmation from others through performance, or to find comfort in sin.
- We need to receive affirmation & comfort from God.
- Holy Spirit to come upon us to live & minister like Jesus.
- Rom 8:25-16.
- Need to have the Holy Spirit to communicate God's love.
- Need powerful experience of God's love.
- God's love heals the wounds of bad experience.
- Easy to focus on power of the Holy Spirit but main role is to show the power of love.
- Agape – the Fathers love overall unconditional love for all.
- Fileo - specific love and affection for us, e.g. John 5:20.
- As we grow up we have a physical & psychological need to feel love - God has set everything up to need the touch of Fathers heart.
- Waves come in all sorts of sizes - our encounter with the Holy Spirit can be big & dynamic & can be much more gentle but no less real.
- Often in the little things God shows His love to us.
- The central point of the central event is to hear God say you are My beloved & I am well pleased with you.
- God will speak to us His love in different ways e.g. words, pictures, dreams etc.

Sunday 8th March, 2009

Meeting (Ron)

Song of Songs 2:8-13

Winter is gone. Spring is here. Frogs – spring is here! It's a Kairos moment – a moment of transition from one season to the next. Time of change. A moment for individuals, families, or throughout the world – transition from one season to another.

I really feel the Lord is saying to us this morning, “the winter is over and gone, it's a new season, a new day of light, not darkness. A day of hope.” Sometimes we are slow to catch up with the signs that show that the season is changing. We get so used to winter, huddling ourselves up under covers, too dark and gloomy to go out, that we don't realize its spring! See the signs. Temperature beginning to change, warmth coming, change in light. Listen for frogs, birds on trees.

Season is changing not just physically but also spiritually. Darkness turning to light. Confusion turning to clarity. God is working out His purposes. Spring doesn't die during winter, seasons are there and they continue and God continues to work His purposes no matter how dark it seems. No matter how bad the winter has been, spring comes and the seasons change. Season is changing now. We need to recognise it, embrace it and Rise Up and thank God for the new season.

Thank You God that winter is over and gone. Thank You God for spring. New Life. New Light. You remain faithful forever. Working out Your purposes in our lives as we walk towards You. Rejoice in You. Worship You.

Prayer for everyone to see in their lives where the new season is beginning. Where we felt like we were walking through a constant winter, where things have seemed dark and restricted, we pray that You will reveal to us Your beauty, light and hope of spring. We trust in You in this time of transition,

of moving from one season to another in our own lives, our families and in the world. Help us to raise up those who are prophetic. Help us to be those who speak of the new season. Not just of the past season. Help us to come with Your light and hope and expectation as to what spring and summer will bring.

There is a deeper level we can go to. We don't have to stay where we are. Are we content that we have got close enough to God? Are we content in what we have experienced of His love, faith, greatness. There is more. A deeper place to move to. All He asks us to do is to draw near to Him. He then draws closer to us. Part of a Kairos moment. Transition is saying, "I want to move to a deeper level so I am going to reach out afresh."

Debbie – Picture of a child learning to swim. Learn to float on backs. Nervous, panic – go under. Help them to trust, relax, rest and stay still and then they will float on their backs unaided. Had a sense that God wants us to trust, relax, rest in Him. Trust that He will hold us afloat. That we won't sink. Not to thrash around but to know that peace to relax.

Helen – Listen to what the Father's heart is saying to you. I feel He wants to say things personally to individuals, not necessarily to share with everyone. Listen. See what God has for each one of us.

Sandra – Felt God was saying, His love is written on our hearts. It is His song that He is singing over us. His song of love written on our hearts. Not just written on our hearts because we are here. It's been written on the hearts of all those who have been here over the years and have worshipped God. For those who may have drifted away from God. His love is still written on their hearts.

Luke – God reveals Himself as 'mother' in the bible as well. Sense of mother heart of God coming out. Soothing love, rocking in His arms. Like a lullaby. 'Oh, Jerusalem, how I long to gather you in my arms like a hen gathers her chicks under her wing'.

Ron – Kairos moment for Jesus at His baptism, moved into His ministry. Word of affirmation from God, Empowering and anointing of the Holy Spirit. We need both of these in our Kairos moment. Sometimes we move into our Kairos moment and we are looking forward and excited. Sometimes we are nervous, frightened because it's new. But we enter into it with the Father declaring His love over us and with the Holy Spirit who empowers and enable us to move into that season.

Talk (Simon)

Song of Songs 2:8-13

- Been a long hard winter - now signs of spring - excitement & sense of life.
- Don't see fruit in winter - spring brings anticipation of fruit to come.
- Song of Solomon both an allegory of God's love for His people & a story of an actual love relationship's
- Need spark of life in relationship's - we need romance & passion.
- God is more than we have yet known or experienced of Him. Love can grow cold if we do not reach out for more.
- God wants us to see Him from different views - otherwise we can miss things.
- Some people only see God from one angle - e.g. All Judgement or all love.
- Phil 4:19 Our God is a God of provision
- 1 Peter 2:24 - Our God is our healer
- As we read God's word we recognise the different aspects of God's character
- Need to work on our relationship with God. We need to give it time & effort.
- God is relevant to every circumstance that we face.
- We are having a love affair with God.

- God pursues us and just wants us to respond to Him.
- God wants to renew the wonder, the excitement, the life of our relationship with Him.

Sunday 15th March, 2009

Meeting (Phil & Sandra)

Sandra – Our God is the same. He doesn't change. He said last week that He loves us. He still loves us. Today is the same. It's us that change. Our circumstances change. There have been lots of changes this week.

Habakuk 3: ¹⁷ Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, ¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Saviour.

Our circumstances may change, it seems like our world is changing. This is a time of change. Sometimes change happens that we welcome. Sometimes change catches us out and is difficult. However, God is the same and His love for us is the same. His foundation is strong. Hold on to Him. He is faithful.

Phil – In difficult times God is with us. He knows our difficulties and our struggles. He is our centre. He cares for us. He wants to reveal His love for us. God is in control. We can trust Him. He reveals His presence in our difficult times.

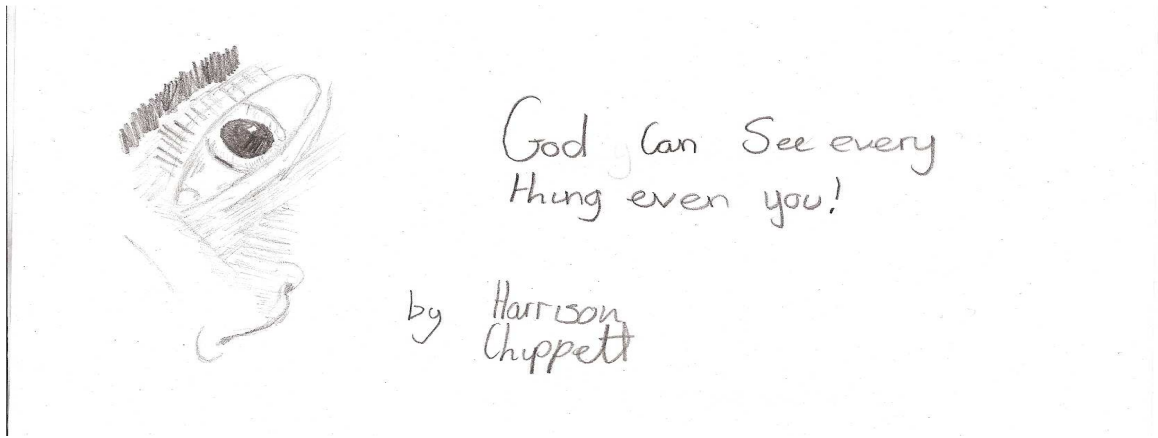
I was thinking about bringing in today some things that are important to me. Family photos, car keys, and money, and putting this on the communion table to symbolise that we are living for Jesus. Our money, our possessions, our families are insignificant in relation to our love for God. Want to be wholehearted about our love for Jesus. Symbol of something important to you, place onto communion table. Jesus lay down His life for us. He was the ultimate sacrifice.

Luke 22: ⁷ Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸ Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover." ⁹ "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked. ¹⁰ He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, ¹¹ and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹² He will show you a large upper room, all furnished. Make preparations there." ¹³ They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover. ¹⁴ When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. ¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfilment in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷ After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. ¹⁸ For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹ And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

²⁰ In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

Matthew – Picture of Jesus as bridge between us and God. Rather than walking on Jesus, I had a picture of Him like a giant standing in a cavern, with His arms outstretched, picking us up from one side to move us to the other side.

Picture below drawn by Harrison before Ron's talk.



Talk (Ron)

- Paul, the apostle who most clearly portrayed salvation through faith and not works tells the Philippians that the result of their salvation must be lives that are lived according to God's standards.
- Romans 12:2.
- Phil 2:12-18.
- Paul starts this passage by saying, make sure that you are as enthusiastic about following my instructions when I am not with you as when I am there with you.
- We have to be careful that we don't become hypocrites.
- **Jesus always sees you.**
- If we take **verse 12 and 13** together we see that there is a partnership going on. We are to '**work hard**' and God will work in us '**the desire and the power to do what pleases Him**'. It is not all God and it is not all us.
- Paul says we should obey God '**with deep reverence and fear**' – or other translations put '**with fear and trembling**'.
- **Heb 10:26-39**. Warning to us that salvation begins at the point of making a commitment to follow Jesus – it ends at Christ's return or at our physical death.
- We don't just make a statement of faith, we live by faith.
- God's word is not just another opinion – not just something to be weighed alongside all of the opinions of those around us and accepted or rejected according to our personal judgement – no, God's word is life and death itself – what He says is right and true – no discussion, no argument.
- Verse 14 begins with an instruction to 'Do everything without complaining and arguing' – why? – 'so that no one can criticise you'.
- Grumbling and complaining is a bit like an infectious disease, it spreads and corrupts. Firstly it spreads within us.
- Then there is infection between people.
- How was it that a vast community left Egypt with joy and thanksgiving through the mighty hand of God, became the people that God described in **Exodus 33:3** as '**a stubborn and rebellious people**' who He says He cannot remain with.
- It was because of the spread of moaning & complaining.
- Grumbling and complaining blinds us to what is good and right and true – it also, as Paul highlights, provides a terrible witness to others. Who wants to become a Christian when the Christians they do know are always complaining and moaning – as much or even worse than others.

- In verse 15 Paul goes on to say 'live clean innocent lives as children of God , shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people'.
- If we carry on sinning we will be stained by sin – we need to come in genuine repentance to be cleansed by Him and to work with the empowering of the Holy Spirit to change.
- This then becomes our distinctiveness to a World that is full of uncleanness and evil. When you stand out, not because of your condemning words and attitude, but because of the righteousness of your life – then others will notice.
- Hold on to & hold out to others the word of life.
- God's word brings life – that is His written word the bible that reveals truth and shows us who God is – His rema word, which is the word for now that the Holy Spirit reveals and emphasises – and the word made flesh in Jesus Christ – who of course of course is the way the truth and the life.
- As we are united together in our service and sacrifice in this life.

Sunday 22nd March, 2009

Meeting

Lionhearts Worshipers have been learning how to use your body as part of worship. One of the ways the children have learnt to worship/hear from God is to draw pictures. They use the pictures in two ways. One is where the children draw pictures for God. The second is where God gives the children pictures to draw. They ask God what they should draw, and what He is saying to them.

Claire Steven's – Drew a dove, with an olive branch in its beak. There were unpleasant things around, drawn in pencil, such as wars, famines, not directly affecting us. There are now nasty things that are affecting us, such as the credit crunch, children being killed causing us to feel sad and depressed. Felt God saying that it is OK. He has His hand on it. Just to be at peace. Buildings demolished, money poured away in background. The dove is drawn in pen. Compared to the peace of God, it's all in the background. God is in control. He will sort it out. It is OK.

Sarah – Drew picture of Jesus.

Hannah – Drew picture of castle. Lifted up and bent down. When it was lifted up it had burnt down. Fire on top of it. There was a war in it. Bomb had hit the castle and caused the fire.

Jonathan – All about God. Crown with yellow shows God. Reminds me of creation.

Debbie – There is some awful stuff going on but Jesus has the answer. Top of the mountain, in valley, in water, He has the way out, He has the answer. Only in God's direction and leading do you find the way forward.

Jacob – Has been praying about his lazy eye. Felt God say to him 'not to stop believing. I am healing you slowly and one day you will be healed completely'.

Caroline – Picture of me in my most comfy sleeping position. Looked like a murder scene! Sometimes some things in my life are not always great and can look like a murder scene. But actually I am asleep and being healed. Hope for tomorrow. New sunrise.

David – Bell. This is heaven, a bell ringing in heaven. God has shown me a way to make it simpler for me to understand. The bell is sounds going down to earth just like God and His power going to earth. Helping everyone in this church.

Helen – if God gives you a picture go to the drawing zone, draw it, and ask Him what it means. Also you can offer your picture as an act of worship.

Explorers – the main focus is what God is saying through the bible, using drama and puppets to bring stories to life. Finding imaginative way to tell the story.

Sunday 29th March, 2009

Meeting (Ron)

- Hosea 6:2 – In just a short time He will restore us so that we may live in His presence.
- Restoration – we have a God who loves to restore. Through Jesus God has made a way for that restoration.
- Let our hearts desire be to know God actively and passionately.

- Thank You Father that you had us in your heart when you sent Jesus. Thank You Jesus that you had us in your heart when you hung upon the cross. We can not attempt to describe how wonderful you are. We declare our love for you. You see our heart. You see our desire to know you more. We love you. We worship you.

- It is important for us to know that Jesus does all things well. Whatever it is that comes across our path, whatever difficulties we face.
- How do we reconcile God's perfect plans with our free will? We mess up and don't always do things according to His plans.
- 'And we know that in **all things God works** for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose'. [Romans 8:27-29](#)
- When people do things that are not in accordance with God's plans, He is able to work things after that back into His plans and He is constantly weaving His purposes throughout History. We make mistakes, we make wrong choices, we come across things that we think can not possibly be put right. God can weave all of those things back together according to His plans and purposes.
- History is on course for Jesus to return and take His throne.
- Jesus does all things well. We can trust Him. His is good. He loves us.

- We can't cope in our own strength. Need strength God provides. We receive that strength as we wait upon Him, and spend time in His presence. He gives us all we need for each day. His strength is manifest in our weakness.

Matthew – Picture of G20 summit like a tiny model village, with Jesus standing and walking around them.

Talk (Bill)

Facing the Giants

- 'God's wisdom means that God always chooses the best goals and the best means to those goals'.
- God's wisdom as related in the Proverbs.
- 1 Kings 3 – Solomon asks for wisdom and God gives him a wise and discerning heart.
- Proverbs 1-7. Chapter 1 verse 2: we have wisdom, discipline and understanding.
- Verse 7: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
- Wisdom calls aloud in the street, she raises her voice in prayer.
- Verse 6: The Lord gives wisdom and from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding.
- Chapter 3: Further benefits of wisdom.

- Verses 5-6: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding and He will make your paths straight.
- Joshua 14:6 – At the age of 85 Caleb entered the Promised Land.
- Caleb had a different spirit, therefore he was the only one allowed to enter the Promised Land.
- Wisdom is the expression of an attitude to life that is centred on God and His laws.
- Wisdom is the quality of being wise, the benefit of knowledge that is acquired by a society or an experience.

Saturday 18th April, 2009

Talk (Bonnie)

- Hope is being renewed.
- Some of us have gone around in circles praying for the same thing again and again without seeing any change. Hope deferred makes the heart sick. But God says, 'Hope on, this time things will be different'.
- God speaks today through His word.
 - Prophetic word (must line up with the word of God)
 - Direct word
 - Hearts desires
 - Dreams and visions
 - Signs and wonders
- Dreams. If we are made in the image of God, then God is a dreamer.
- Dreams can be an amazing tool but we don't tune in to the fact that God is speaking to us.
- End (5 times) the number of grace. This is the end of something, the beginning of a new season.
- Your spirit doesn't sleep at night. It is awake and God communicates with your spirit.
- Types of dreams – not all dreams are spiritually related.
 - Cleansing dreams – your mind is still active going over the painful events of the day. Psalm 16:7 'Even in the night God will counsel you'. God speaks to us in ways that we can't always understand. Darkness that we need to dig into to find the meaning.
 - Demonic dreams – night terrors that come to harass you. They are sent to seek, kill and destroy.
 - Spiritual dreams – God speaks to your spirit and sometimes your spirit speaks to God. God sometimes intercedes through your spirit in a dream. Job 33:14 'For God does speak first one way and then another though we may not perceive it'.
- Keep a notebook by your bedside to write down the dreams that God gives you.
- Pray before you go to sleep and ask God to speak to you and expect to hear from God.
- God speaks through symbols, types, colours, numbers and so on.
- Numbers 5:6 'When a prophet is among you I speak to you in dreams and visions and in dark speech.
- Agree with your adversary quickly and then say, 'but thanks be to God I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me'.

Sunday 19th April, 2009

Meeting (Ron)

Had a dream last night where a young person brought to me a child and asked me to pray against divorce. I feel really stirred by this and feel that we need to respond. As a church, we have an emphasis on families, strong healthy marriages and cross generations. Sometimes the enemy

comes with a weapon to try to attack a fellowship. I believe this is one of those times, but we don't have to get fearful. We need a sense of righteous indignation to rise up and say we will not have this. If you are married, be alert. This doesn't mean, be suspicious of your partner! Alertness is to protect your own heart. To be aware of danger. Are all your relationships appropriate? Ask God. Pray for your marriage. Work together to build your marriage.

If you are not married, pray for those who are. Young people, pray for your parents, for married couples in the fellowship. Single people, pray for couples. Specific threat to pray against. It may also be that there are couples in the fellowship who may want to ask for help. We will not have divorce enter this fellowship. Pray for all the married couples in the fellowship this morning, and Pray God's blessing into marriages.

Divorce, as well as about marriage, is about separation. We believe God is calling us to bring generations together. Pray against that separation as well as no separation against married couples.

Thank You Lord for Freshwaters calling to bring the hearts of fathers to their children. To bring reconciliation between generations and in Jesus Name, we will not have divorce, we will not have separation between generations. We reject that in Jesus Name. We say our children and young people will grow to adults who are serving and loving you. We say that adults will join with children and young people in loving and serving You. We say that we will have 3 generations in co-operation working together, loving together, serving together, seeking together to walk with Jesus and to be an influence in our town and beyond.

Isaiah 54:17.

Prayed against divorce. Prayed for release of unity between husband and wife, between generations. Stir our hearts, let us trust in your protection over us. Instead of divorce, wholeness will come out of freshwaters into our town at large. That through us there will be stronger marriages in Harlow, that through us there will be a joining together of generations in Harlow. Let us infect the town with wholeness and unity. As we continue to sing, I want us to encourage one another. Praise the Lord our God. Sometimes we need help and encouragement of one another to rise up, to sing praise, to worship God. Sing to someone else. Praise and worship God. Encourage someone else. God is faithful. Always. At all times. In all circumstances. In all places. He is faithful even if we don't 'feel' like praising Him. Sacrifice of praise – to praise God when we don't feel like it. When we do this, there is a change in us. Thank You God that you are eternally faithful and true. Your love continues to be poured on us day after day. You protect us, surround us, watch over us, meet with us. When we feel you close you are close. When we don't feel you close, you are close. Help us and stir us up to worship you with all that we are. Take your light and presence in every area of our lives. Help us to trust you with the areas in our lives we wrestle with. We open our ears and our hearts to receive from You.

Talk (Jim)

Faith (Hebrews 11)

- Faith can become dormant. You can have great faith for victories and declare what God has done for you. But faith can still lie dormant; you can't live in the past. What is faith doing now?
- Don't judge a book by its cover. The toughest people may be marshmallows in hiding!
- When you are given a measure of faith it has the potential to move and to grow and increase but you need to develop it and allow it to grow.
- Faith is like going up on a diving board with the pool empty. God says dive in but the pool is empty. He fills it as you dive. Then he challenges you to go higher.
- Don't allow your misses to challenge your faith.
- Things need to be birthed in the spirit and then in the natural – we walk by faith and not by sight.
- Genesis 31: 4 – Jacob = deceiver. Jacob spent 13 years working for his mother's brother who was the ultimate deceiver.

- Sometimes if God wants to purge something out of you he sends you to experience it from somebody else.
- Jacob had revelation – when you have revelation you can be certain of what you haven't seen.
- Revelation is key to seeing miracles happen – it releases them.
- Sometimes we put the cart before the horse. We try to apprehend something we have not had revelation of. Then we lose faith because we have not had the revelation for that should come first. We are hoping that we get an answer to our prayers.
- Faith causes God to respond – He does not answer all our needs because they are endless.
- If you are trying to get something then ask for revelation first.
- Don't limit your faith to your level of need.
- God wants to impart the gift of faith to people and to release your hope again.

Sunday 26th April, 2009

Meeting (Bravehearts/Destiny Calls)

Sandra – Thank God for the things He has been doing for us.

Michelle – Picture of an eagle soaring. Felt God was saying that we need to Rise Up.

Phil – Rising Up. Luke talked about having two more people (at least) saved and added to the fellowship by end of the month. We are believing for that. Rise Up and trust God for the things in our lives that we want to Rise Up and to trust Him in, and to respond to this word, in faith.

Ron – Rise Up and have faith that the Lord has a land for us and that He will release that to us this year.

Phil and Sandra – Rise Up and have faith that house will be sold.

Claire – Rise Up and have faith for the salvation and healing for brother.

Debbie – Rise U and Have faith that husband be one of the people saved this month.

David – Rise U and have faith to pray in spirit and in tongues.

Luke – Rise Up and have faith for salvation of friend by end of June.

Talk (Bravehearts/Destiny Calls)

God has made us as individuals with our own gifts & interests to use for Him.

God gives us gifts for specific reasons

God can help us to positive influence others.

We probably do not yet know all of the gifts God has given us, but He will reveal them to us at just the right time.

Sunday 3rd May, 2009

Meeting (Jonathan)

Psalm 145.

Thinking about the greatness of God, the goodness of God.

Luke – Thank God that 13/14 applications have come through from Harlow Youth Vision. Going weekly by end of June. By end of June 2010 believing for 100 lives to have been influenced by Harlow Youth Vision and for 10 people to be saved.

Debbie – Went on holiday with husband and daughter. Laura commented that driving along the coastline seeing God's beauty and spending time with her family were things she had really enjoyed whilst they were away.

Helen – Thank God for His presence at her Nan's funeral and for the time off work so that she and Jonathan did not have to rush back home. They took her mum to a church and she is planning to go there again.

Phil – Thank God that his dad is improving, walking with his frame and eating and drinking on his own.

Helen – Noticed Sarah showing off her caterpillar. Are we proud of knowing Jesus? Do we share Him with people during the day? Do we display Him for people to see? Catch their eye? Want people to know Jesus and to see Him? Or do we hide Him away in a box, or leave Him at home?

Ron – Reading this morning about us enthroning Jesus in our hearts as He is enthroned in heaven. As we do that there is a connection which takes place between heaven and earth as Jesus is exalted in our hearts, He is exalted in heaven. Beautiful picture but also a challenge. Is Jesus exalted in our heart as He is in heaven? Is He Lord every part of our lives or only what we choose to allow Him access to? We want Jesus to be Lord of all, every part of our life and that means seeking to go His way, not our own way. It means preferring Him in each area of our lives, not saying 'I don't want you to speak to me about this'. It means giving Him attention and saying You are my priority. It's more important Lord that I spend time with You, hear Your voice, recognise Your presence than anything else. Spend a moment thinking about our hearts and our lives and allow the Holy Spirit to highlight anything not submitted to the Lord Jesus, not allowing Him to reign and let's make a commitment to yield that to Him.

Claire – When you're your busiest, it is difficult to think about God's kingdom when everything else is going on. Worldly things become really shallow, eternal things are not shallow. Hold on to more of God's will. Not trying to serve worldly things but to serve God's kingdom over and above everything else.

Talk (Luke)

Why Jesus Returns (Part 2)

Jesus returns to conquer the devil.

- Matt 28: 18-20 - All authority is in Christ. Authority means power and to have power you need more weapons than your enemy. Satan had the weapons of sin and death but when Jesus came to earth He disarmed Satan of those weapons by His death and resurrection.
- Matt 28:19-20 – Therefore... Jesus has all power and authority so go and make disciples of all men, baptising them in the name of the father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Therefore... advance the Kingdom of God.

How do we advance and make disciples of all nations?

- Isaiah 54: 1-3 – We may feel as if we are barren, we have no children (new disciples), but we need to be expectant for the children that will come to us.

How do we remain expectant?

- Just as a mother expects her baby, we need to be expectant that disciples will come at the right time. Pray and be expectant that they will come. Praise and be joyful that your prayers will be answered.

- Isaiah 54: 3 – We are called to disposes – to take what the enemy has stolen from us. We need to be ready to proclaim the gospel, to pray for opportunities.
- Use the weapons of personal testimony. Share yourself, be yourself but be Christ like.

When is the battle over?

- When Jesus returns! Rev 19:15-18 – Out of Jesus mouth comes a sharp sword which will bring down nations and all authorities under satan including satan himself! Creation came from Gods mouth and so will the finish – the beginning and the end.

Sunday 10th May, 2009

Meeting (Simon)

David was anointed in his teens but only ascended to the throne at 30. Pattern. God calls a man despite him being unappreciated by his family, overlooked by Prophet Samuel. God picked David. God also picked Deborah to lead a nation in a male dominated society. Stop trying to figure out God. Stop comparing yourself to others. Does not the potter have a right to make out of the same piece of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use? We have rejected many of the people God used which shows how much we don't know. God decided on the plan. Be confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will complete it. Who decides, who performs it? Who should your confidence be in? God. God's plan for David involved years of ducking spears, living in caves, and working with 600 misfits. Dysfunctional. God trains you in a small sphere so you can handle a bigger one. God knows the time span required. Who through faithful patience and endurance inherits the promises. Endurance means standing firm under pressure. The prize belongs to the man or woman committed for the long haul. Joseph refused to let go of his dream and this is what enabled him to say no to the advances of Potiphar's wife, and endure unjust imprisonment, but the day came when Potiphar and his wife knelt before Joseph. Keep your eyes on the prize and don't give up.

Pattern. God has a plan and purpose for each one of us here. Not just for great leaders, people we see at conferences, headliners. God has a purpose for each of us. There are times when we are in the valleys and we find it hard to see, but God's hand is upon us. He has a purpose for us. If we trust God and hold on, he is going to bring about wonderful transformations in our lives. We need people who have been through the valleys, who have waited for Gods purposes to be achieved in their lives, to encourage us. We need faith, to believe we are special. No one can replace us in God's plan. We are going to see the full picture one day, and see the part we have played. Even if it seems small, seen from the perspective of Glory it will be a wonderful tapestry, a wonderful picture. I believe God wants to encourage us to seek Him, and to know our day will come. Not one person will be missed out.

David's story is relevant. He had to wait many years but he would not lay a finger on Saul, he waited for Gods timing. When the time was right David ascended to the throne. He became a great man of God. Not because he was perfect, he made mistakes, and he fouled up. But he had a heart, passion for God, desire to serve Him. I believe that is the pattern for each one of us.

Acknowledge God as Lord and saviour. He loves every one of us. Beyond all measure. He would say to us, 'You are significant'. The world would say that we are insignificant, but God says, 'You are significant'.

Communion (Bill)

Jesus spoke in parables many times, and the disciples didn't always understand. But at the last supper, Jesus gave a command. He made it very clear. He took the bread and broke it and said,

'This is My body, broken for you.' No misunderstanding. After supper, he took the wine, saying 'this is My blood spilt for you'. I remember watching a film a long time ago, and the scene of Jesus on the cross, the soldier pierced his side and Jesus saw the whole earth at the foot of the cross, tainted with His blood shed for the whole earth.

Talk (Jonathan and Helen)

The Secret Garden (Song of Songs 4: 9-12, 15)

- We choose who we let into our special garden and who we are going to keep out.
- God could climb the wall or get in some other way, because He is God, but he won't unless we invite Him in to have access – do we allow the gate to remain locked?
- There are seasons in the garden, sometimes pretty, sometimes not.
- Do we listen to the things God tells us need changing?
- Are we willing to let God see our garden, in whatever state it is in?
- What we sow in the garden is what will grow, even if it takes time
- We must all take responsibility for what we have been given, what has already been planted there.
- As a church and personally we go through times of change.
 - Autumn – obvious change, vibrant colour, a time of harvest, animals store food in preparation for winter.
 - Winter – things seem desolate, cold and dark. Things seem to be dead, flat, cold but underground bulbs are getting ready to come through. Animals and plants rest in readiness for Spring. There is still colour in the garden in winter; God is still working His purposes. Will you let God resurrect your desolate garden?
 - Spring – Promise and hope. New seeds are sown. But what we planted in winter also comes to life. Will you let God walk in the hope and promise of your spring garden?
 - Summer – warm, hot days. Blooming flowers, growth – but it is a dry season and we need to keep it watered. Will you let God water your dry summer garden?
- Whatever season you are in, are you guarding what is in your garden tending and taking care of things?
- Is the gate to your garden closed, half open or flung wide?

Sunday 17th May, 2009

Meeting (Ron)

Focus on Jesus. We need Him. We can't live the lives we want to live, or that God wants us to live, without Jesus. Focus on Jesus because we love Him, and the one we love is the one we give our attention to. Worship – fix our eyes on Jesus, the object of our love, the one in whom we trust and the one who helps us, who saves us, who delivers us.

Have you got something that you need to stand for, something you can't achieve or stand for on your own? You need Jesus to stand with you. Be specific about what you are standing for this morning. 'Here the Lord saying, stand and I will stand with you'. There are many things where God calls us to make a stand. It isn't all about everything falling into our laps. It is not always about just asking and receiving. He also wants us to persist, to stand. When everything seems to say, this is impossible, He wants us to stand. When the enemy comes to undermine our faith, to tempt us, to say we will never achieve anything, we need to stand. In times of difficulty and problems, we need to stand. As we stand, Jesus says, 'I will stand with you, and with the two of us together, we will overcome, we will break through'.

Jesus says He will stand with us as we stand. Part of the way Jesus stands with us is that we stand with one another. We represent Jesus on earth. Those things the enemy would like to rob us of,

things we get disillusioned about, confused, fearful of, when we stand together and Jesus stands with us, 'together we are an impenetrable wall, we can advance, the gates of hell can not prevail against us'.

We can choose to be silent or we can choose to sing with all of our hearts, all of our lives. Our song is unique. We are unique. God has created us unique. If we don't sing our song, no one else will sing it. There will be something missing. The song we have that God has given us is unique to us and we need to make the choice to sing it with our lives.

Talk (Ron)

- Words have less and less meaning in our world today.
- God is speaking to us every day – what are we doing about it?
- James 1: 19-27
- Ground what you believe in what you do – act on the word.
- As we bring our lives into agreement with God's word, things will happen to others around us.
- We need to be those who listen carefully and diligently so that God's word permeates us completely.
- We need to be good listeners putting aside the things that separate us and cause us to respond to God's word in a wrong way.
- We are called to listen well but we are also called to act on what we have heard.
- God's word reveals things about us – it exposes both the good things that need to be developed and the bad things that need to be dealt with.
- When you come to the word of God, it's like looking in a mirror – it shows you who you really are – don't forget what you saw, do something about it.
- How can we allow Gods word to take root in our lives?
- Pray over what you have heard, what you think God is speaking to you about.
- Talk about the things you have heard with someone you trust, some one you are accountable to.
- Act on what you have heard otherwise all these things are pointless.

Sunday 31st May, 2009

Meeting (Ron)

- Pentecost – Holy Spirit fell on first disciples, the birthday of church!
- Prayer and testimony are ways in which we exalt Gods name. Speak out prayer of thanksgiving for who God is, what He has done. Give testimony – join in rejoicing for what God has done for you and in you.
- **Mathew** – *the children were away so we booked a room away. We got a four poster room for the price of a double! Walked 'Pilgrims Way', on North Downs. Went through a tunnel of trees, and took a hidden path when we came out into open and could see for miles. Col 1:13 - For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves...*
- It is so easy to take for granted that that God blesses us with. God is interested in every aspect of our lives.
- **Claire** – *God helped me when visiting my brother for first time in prison. Not seen him for 15 years. Didn't recognise him when I saw him. I just didn't stop loving him. God has given me the faith to believe for his healing. Grateful that God has started this journey.*
- God can enable us to do things that we find difficult in our own strength. God has given Claire faith for her brother's life to be changed and turned around. Faith is a gift from God.
- **Liz** – *Had lovely week away with mum. The scenery in North Devon was beautiful. In the bible it says 'God stretched out the earth with His hands and the skies...' marvelled at the scenery which was beautiful. As I took mum around, I helped her along. The way I hung onto her reminded me*

of the way God holds onto us. Picture from God – ‘don’t worry, I am hanging on to you too’. We have an amazing God. We trust our loved ones into Gods care. He is the same God who is still there now.

- All of creation, the wonder. God holds onto us. He will not let us go. He won’t let us stumble.
- Speak out a prayer regarding why God is amazing to you.
- **Helen** – *Whether we are going through good or bad times, You are there. You never leave us or forsake us. Your love is unconditional.*
- **Julia** – *Feel as if I am in a big pot of change! Sometimes it is still, sometimes it feels as if someone has stuck a spoon into the pot and is stirring it around! When I was thinking of this I had a picture of a chrysalis, obviously they change into a butterfly but in the chrysalis time, time of change, transition time, it can feel really uncomfortable and different. In that time God smooths the rough edges; the chrysalis is ugly, but God smooths the edges and in that time there is treasure that we don’t even see that we are picking up along the way. Then we turn into a beautiful butterfly. Don’t be despondent or give up hope, as it is the transition time into something beautiful and in that time we are collecting treasure – even if it ‘feels’ horrible.*
- Felt like it’s a picture of what was happening in the early church, before the Holy Spirit came, many of them had spent time with Jesus, and then He was taken away. Transition period for them. They didn’t know quite what to expect next, they knew things had to change but didn’t know what was coming along. Sense of uneasiness about change. But they had Jesus word which was to wait until the Holy Spirit comes on you. So they waiting together and they prayed, then at Pentecost the Holy Spirit came, and brought transformation. The chrysalis turned into a butterfly as the church emerged and grew.
- We need a love for Jesus – to give him our lives. We also need the Holy Spirit to help us in our transformation, to press through those things that are very difficult, the hardness of the shell that can surround us. God is the God of the caterpillar, the chrysalis and the butterfly.

Talk (Simon)

- Prayer – conversation with God in praise, thanksgiving or intercession.
- Jeremiah 3:33.
- Romans 8: 16 - The spirit testifies with our spirit that we are His children and co heirs with Him of the promise...
- Communication breakdown results in dysfunctional family and this is the same for our relationship with our heavenly father. We become a dysfunctional family of God.
- Because the veil was torn in two we can enter the holy of holies and come into the presence of God.
- Too often we find excuses not to enter into the presence of God.
- Hebrews 4 - Because we have a great high priest who has gone before us we are able to enter into the presence of God.
- Hebrews 6: 11 and 12 – We are involved in a spiritual battle that can’t be won by sitting tight or wishful thinking.
- John Wesley – “God does nothing on earth save through answer to believing prayer.”
- God also responds to faith – even a mustard seed of faith – God responds to.
- Psalm 28.
- The bible describes David as a man after God’s heart.
- He wasn’t perfect but everything he did was wholehearted – he was passionate for God.
- Luke 11: 5 – 13 – Be persistent in prayer. How much sweeter does it taste when we persist over a long period of time and then see a result.
- We need to pray Gods word.
- Psalm 91 – He who dwells in the shelter of the most high will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
- Phil 4:19 – God will provide for us in His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.
- There are so many scriptures we can stand on for every situation.

- God's word can never return to Him empty until it has accomplished the purpose for which it was sent.
- Pray in the Spirit. It's God's spirit that will give us the anointing when we pray
- When the Holy Spirit came to the disciples at Pentecost they were transformed. God's spirit can transform us too.
- Intercessory prayer – to intercede – to go or pass between.

Sunday 7th June, 2009

Meeting (Jonathan)

- Wait on God. Ask Him for His strength. He knows what we need.
- Jesus knows exactly what we need. The Everlasting God. While we may grow faint and weary, He will not grow faint and weary. He is there all of the time.
- We sang about the Lord being our strength this morning. The Lord being our Rock. And that we can stand upon that Rock. We declared we wouldn't be moved from that Rock. There are a few things I know that have happened this week that people have found difficult and we have needed to cling on to that Rock. I had a sense that when we come together we are family and not only do we stand upon the Rock alone, we stand with one another.

Talk (Martin Harris)

- Harlow – a wonderful new home but something not quite right.
- Where is God in Harlow? Harlow was like a 'new Jerusalem' for the first people to come.
- The experience of the town (disillusionment/exile) has impacted on the Christians of the town.
- Christians have been shaped and moulded, taken on feeling of exile and disillusionment that is evident in the town.
- As Christians we feel that we don't fit in.
- Ezekiel 37 – The Valley of Dry Bones.
- Dreams had been shattered because of the political situation of the time. The old Assyrian power was being overtaken by the Babylonians.
- The citizens of Jerusalem had been taken captive. Ezekiel was one of the captives.
- The people of Jerusalem felt that they had lost everything, their homes, families, the temple was destroyed. Where was God in all of this?
- This is the circumstance in which Ezekiel has his vision of the dry valley.
- God speaks to Ezekiel – He starts from reality. Hope was gone; the valley was full of dry bones.
- God speaks of creation – breathing life into the dry bones.
- Prophecy – speaking the word of God.
- As Ezekiel began to prophesy the bones began to come to life.
- As Ezekiel continues to prophesy then God breathes life into the bones.
- The words of Ezekiel 37 speak to a people in exile. They are words that can speak to us.
- As Ezekiel had this vision the people must have had a sense that God was going to release them from exile.
- We can be assured that God did this for Ezekiel and he will do it for us as well.
- God's work and God's word will win people and change hearts.
- We must not underestimate the power of God to change people's hearts.
- 'Seek the peace and prosperity of the land for which I have called you into exile. Pray for it because if it prospers you too will prosper' Jeremiah 29:7.
- As we respond to what is going on around us we need to seek wise ways of responding to change in people's hearts.
- Let's be a people who hear the word of Ezekiel and are full of hope.

Sunday 14th June, 2009

Meeting (Phil and Sandra)

- **Psalm 27**

Song during worship -

I will bless the Lord forever
I will trust Him at all times
He has delivered me from all fear
He has set my feet upon a rock
And I will not be moved, and I'll say of the Lord

You are my Shield, my Strength
My Portion, Deliverer
My Shelter, Strong Tower
My very present help in time of need

Whom have I in heaven but You
There's none I desire besides You
And You have made me glad
And I'll say of the Lord

You are my Shield, my Strength
My Portion, Deliverer
My Shelter, Strong Tower
My very present help

You are my Shield, my Strength
My Portion, Deliverer
My Shelter, Strong Tower
My very present help in time of need

My very present help in time of need

Julie – Graham in hospital. Had serious operation on Wednesday. Been going on for 17 years. Had various treatments. This was major op number 7! Last January Graham was ready to give up. He saw a different consultant who said, 'trust me, let me try again'. We have been receiving words like 'restoration', 'I can make you whole'. The op lasted a long time. Had various difficulties – tube strike on morning of op, God has really looked after us. God is great.

Sandra – God says that 'He is my shelter'. At the moment we have sold our house but not found anywhere else. But I can trust God. I have a real peace about the future and I know I can trust God about where we are going to be. He has it all in hand. I don't need to strive or worry about where we are going to live.

Phil – If we look at the words in the song (above), 'He is my shield'... Whatever we have come here with this morning, we can each take the words of the song that apply to our situation and we can trust God.

Julia – During worship time, this is what I felt God was saying. 'I am in this place, says the Lord, I am in this place. The north wind may blow, the east wind may blow, but I am in this place.' He will not be moved. He is here and He says, 'Do you not see it, do you not perceive it', that He is doing a new thing here, a fresh thing, and He is in this place.

Phil – Isn't it good when God talks to us and tells us that He is here with us. There was a confirmation in what God was saying because the final song on Helen's list, which she thought was a red herring, was confirmation of the word. It is really good to see God confirming something between two people. We need to take on board that God is with us. This is a season of change and we have talked about the new season; we believe that we are in this season. I have a real sense of excitement this morning. We are in a new thing. New possibilities. New doors opening up to us. I do believe this is a new time for us as a fellowship. I do believe that we are going to grow. I can see signs of new life, in many different areas. The opportunities we are getting. The doors are opening, getting wider. More opportunity to walk into what God is doing. Next Saturday there are about 15 people who don't come to FCF, coming to Thetford Forest. How encouraging, as we walk into a new time, a new season. What opportunities. How exciting. Join in with what God is doing. Get excited in what is happening. Listen to these words. Hear what they are. He is affirming to us that He is with us and He is in it. His is in this new season. We want to take on board what God is saying to us and join in, run with it, hear it. I am really encouraged this morning, I can feel myself being stirred to go out and tell people about Jesus all the more.

Talk (Ron)

- Philippians 2:19.
- Paul wanted to recommend Timothy and Epaphroditus to the Philippians.
- Follow the example of those who are showing how to follow God.
- We should all have those we admire and who we want to emulate their example of following Christ.
- We should ask ourselves, 'Are we setting a good example for others to follow?'
- Paul recognised that whatever his plans and intentions were, the will of God was pre-eminent.
- We need humility to say that God's will is best.
- We need submission. Paul said that although he wanted to send Timothy to Phillipi, he was willing to submit to God's will.
- God doesn't give His opinion. He speaks His word and we have a choice of whether to obey His word or not.
- Paul tells us that Timothy cares for the welfare of the Philippians. He had a deep concern for them.
- When we hear about others and think about others do we have a deep concern for their welfare?
- We can tell how much we care about others by how much our prayer focuses on others instead of ourselves.
- We need to ask God to give us a heart of genuine care and concern for others around us.
- We need to care about those things that Jesus cared about.
- We need to be concerned about what concerns the Father.
- Luke 4: 18-19 – Jesus manifesto. Jesus said, 'This is what I am here for. This is what I came for.'
- Jesus came to proclaim good news to people. We need to do the same.
- In a family business the skills of one generation are passed on to the next.
- God asks us if we will take on the family business of proclaiming the good news.
- Epaphroditus was a 'true brother' and a 'co-worker'.
- This was a family who were committed to the work they had to do.
- Church isn't a group of colleagues who happen to be together, we are a family who share lives together.
- We have bonds created together that are stronger than family bonds.
- For many in the world, it is literally a matter of giving up their family in order to follow Christ.
- What Paul encourages in Epaphroditus is someone who is willing to roll his sleeves up as a co-worker – not someone who turns up waiting to be entertained.
- Epaphroditus was disciplined, obedient and effective like a soldier.

- 2 Timothy 3:2-7 – Being a soldier for Christ, don't get soft and run away when you face opposition.
- Are we going to be good soldiers for Christ?
- Epaphroditus was also a messenger.
- Apostle is a messenger – a sent one.
- Can God trust you with a message?
- Wherever we are sent we need to be faithful messengers, bringing God's word to those around us.
- Are you a follower of Jesus who is willing to lay down your life because you recognise that a life with Jesus is more important than life on earth?

Sunday 21st June, 2009

Meeting (Ron)

- Psalm 29
- Pray out, declaring His greatness, His glory, His splendour, from where you are. Speak out prayers declaring the greatness of God.
- The voice of the Lord twists the mighty oaks and strips the forest bare and in His temple everyone shouts glory. Let's join in with those in the heavens, and those on earth, in declaring God's glory. Let's declare the glory of God as we shout together, 'Glory, Glory, Glory to the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come.'
- Jonathan G has drawn a picture and I want to pull a few things out from it. We have been talking about the greatness of God and His creation and all that He has done. The picture shows trees, a river running through centre, ants close to the river and a caterpillar far away from the river.
- Jonathan – If you are as long as the river you can reach from the sun down to earth. God is the river and human beings are the ants. In this picture some people are in the river and some aren't. If you are the caterpillar far away from the river, you can still walk to the river. If you have God in the centre of you, all the ants are praying to Him.
- Ron – God is represented by the river. Ants represent people close to God and close to the river and able to praise Him. Then there's the caterpillar which is a long way away but can still come to the river. Still come to God. Think about that, how we want to draw people to the river to find new life in God. Just because we are close, we want everyone to come and enjoy the river as we do.
- David G – I have drawn an eagle. The eagle is gold. It represents God. The eagle won't land on the ground, but on a branch in the air, and will ride on thermals high up. The devil is black, and he will fall to the ground and stay on the ground.
- Ron – We have been declaring that God has the victory. So often we see the enemy as greater as we face difficulties and problems, they fill everything that is dominant, rising up. But it isn't true, God is greater. He is far above, enthroned far above all principalities on heaven and earth and under the earth. Jesus is exalted. He is much greater than the enemy. In David's picture the enemy will fall to earth but God rises up far above and He calls us to rise with Him. We are enthroned in heavenly places with Jesus. That's the authority God has given us and we need to get our perspective right.

Talk (Bill)

- Genesis 1:1
- Genesis 9:16
- Enoch was God's friend.
- Throughout Genesis there are incidents of God speaking with people.
- God demonstrated the miraculous to Abraham.
- God speaks directly to people and performs miracles.

- In 313AD the Emperor Constantine made Christianity the official religion on the Roman Empire.
- In 410AD the Romans abandoned Britain and the early church was left to fend for itself.
- Ireland became a powerhouse for the evangelism of Scotland.
- Many miracles accompanied the lives of the Celtic saints.
- Augustine was given permission to convert the British in 597AD.
- We hear very little of startling miracles until relatively modern times.
- Hebrews 13:8. – Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever... Jesus and the Father are one.
- Ephesians 11:14 – He who believes in me will do even greater miracles in my name. You may ask for anything in my name and I will do it.
- God helped people with miracles in days gone by. He doesn't change. He will help people with miracles today. Pray with conviction.

Sunday 28th June, 2009

Meeting (Ron)

- Friendship with God: Do you appreciate friendship with God? Do you feel you are a friend of God? How much do you love Him? How much does He love you?
- John 15:15 - I no longer call you servants, I call you friends.
- Speak out a prayer of blessing to God, thanking Him.
- Lift our voices together to worship God, to Praise Him.

Julia – During worship time this is what I felt I sensed God saying to me, that He is God of breakthrough, and that this is a time of breakthrough for each one of us in our own circumstances and in this place He is saying that this is a time of breakthrough. And where is it, He says, where is it that you can ever say that I am a God who brings disappointment. Where is that? For I am not a God who brings disappointment and this is a real time of breakthrough and we should be excited! After I shared that with Ron, I had a picture of marathon runners, where they hit that inner barrier and they have to push through to finish the race, and we will push through because this is the time of breakthrough.

Ron

- Sense lethargy. We need to rise up in order to break through.
- It's not because of us, not because we feel really strong and able. It's because of God. What He wants is a willing heart and a willing spirit. Then we will, with Him, breakthrough.
- Breakthrough in worship, not because He needs it but because we need it. We need to know about the greatness of God and we come to know that when we worship Him.
- Situations which don't seem to have advanced. Where we seem to be hitting a brick wall over and over again. God will give us a breakthrough but we need to go again. Rise up and press in again.
- Reminded of a brick wall with wall paper over the top of a brick wall! You can hit against the wall again and again, and behind the wallpaper the wall is coming down. But to us it looks exactly the same, because all we can see is the wallpaper. As the wall begins to crumble, all it takes is just one more push, where you can go up to the wall and push with your finger and it goes right through the wallpaper. Breakthrough! It wasn't that moment that created the breakthrough. It was all of the build-up. Every time you went against it and smashed it, every time you cried out to God and said God, cause the wall to come down. All of those things are the substance behind it, and then finally you see the breakthrough.

- Keep rising up, keep asking God. Keep bringing to him the seemingly impossible. Say, I am willing, use me. Keep worshipping Him. Because as we do we will see, one after another, those walls coming down.
- Encourage one another, when we share our breakthroughs.
- We are looking at people coming to salvation, and it seems as if there is little progress. Go again, pray again, share from our hearts.
- We will see people come to the Lord.
- In our Small Group we had a picture of a domino effect, as one person comes to salvation, then others come after them, and after them, and after them because there is a knock on effect. Not because there is a connection between the people, but because of the encouragement of that breakthrough and because of the timing and majesty of God.
- Sometimes David didn't feel like worshipping and he had to say, 'Praise the Lord O My Soul, and all that is within me, praise Your Holy name'. (Psalm 103). He didn't always feel like it but he knew that he needed to worship the Lord God because he is wonderful.

Matthew – Received pamphlet through post. 'Overcoming discouragement, learn to stand up in the power of God's might and conquer the issue you are facing'. Seems timely.

Ron

- We are over comers, we are not those who need to be discouraged or afraid, but we will rise up and overcome because of God's mighty power at work within us.

Claire – Had a picture of waste ground. A plant has 7 stages of growth. In first few stages we don't see anything happening – still looks the same as before. After the 7 stages, the entire field is blooming. Completely transformed. Doesn't look anything like it did before. Broken through all of the layers.

Ron

- God says I will bring streams into the desert. Transform wasteland into fertile fields. Is anything too difficult for God?
- John 15:9
- Friendship – (looked at friendship with others and friendship with God).

Sunday 5th July, 2009

Meeting (Ron)

- In worship, declare our desire and need of the Lord Jesus.
- Ezekiel 47
- A river whose source is the throne room of God. The very presence of God. From time to time we need to remind ourselves that we need to go back to the Source. The amazing thing is that through Jesus death and resurrection we can go into the presence of the Almighty God. We can come before His throne. He will fill us with His Holy Spirit. He will reveal to us His word. He will empower us for life, day by day.
- There are days when I wander, that somehow I separate from the Source. We don't really separate because God is always with us, but our mind, our attention, gets distracted by all of the day to day things, and we need to turn back – to return to the Source.
- Spend time waiting on Him. Even through the busyness of the day, we can lift our thoughts to God.
- Go back to the Source. We want to be rivers of life to our community. We want the world to be different because we live. But we can only do that if we receive from the Source of all life – God Himself. As we receive from Him we are able to flow out and touch our community. As we receive, we are able to give. Receive more, an overflow, abundance that will flow out of us

and touch our community and those around. Where there is death, to bring life, where there is deception, to bring truth. Where there is hopelessness, to bring hope. Where there is death, to bring salvation.

Julia – During worship time I felt that God wants to stir us up; that He wants to do a real stirring in this place today, and it is not about the numbers, I really feel that it is about our hearts. I had a picture of a tornado. You can stand at a distance and see it moving around, or you can get into it and be a part of it. But that is our choice. It isn't about the numbers, it's about our hearts. I really have a sense that God wants to stir us up, and not just today!

Ron

- Tornado – immense power. Not a power we can create even with all of our technology. God is the source of that power. We can feel so little, so insignificant.
- There are some that chase tornados, there are many who prefer to watch them on TV. Do you want to see from a distance, to be observers of something amazing that's happening, or do you want to be part of it? Are you willing to give yourself to that tornado knowing that it will take you where God wants you to be? You will not have control over it. You are not going to be able to dictate where it goes, where you will end up. Are you willing to step into it, to say, 'God, your power is so great, I am willing to submit my life to You, go where you want to take me, do what you want me to do. I know I am weak, I don't have power in myself or in my own strength, but with You, if I will only yield to You, have the boldness to step into that Tornado and let You carry me where you want me to be. Then I can be part of something amazing'. God is doing an amazing thing! We are on the cusp of something so wonderful and we can step into it or we can observe from a distance. What are you willing to do? Will you step into that tornado? Or step back in fear?

Graham – Membrane. You see the membrane, but slightly diffused. Touch it but not physically touch it. Don't know if the membrane is on the eyes, the heart or the whole body. But it seems as if we need to break through. I am fed up with being an observer.

Ron

Some of you may be feeling that there is something obscuring your view of Jesus. That you would like to step in and to take part in what God is doing but somehow there is a barrier, something in the way. In the Jewish temple there was a curtain that divided the holy of holies. When Jesus died that curtain was ripped in two. There was access into His presence. But sometimes there are things that obscure, get in the way, in a sense bring a curtain and cause separation. We need to ask God, 'What is it that stands in the way?' and to respond to what He highlights to us.

Mathew – Membrane is something stretched so thin so that if you punch a little hole in it, then it will split. I just want to encourage you, don't be deceived by the enemy and think it is too big.

Ron

The enemy is a deceiver. He makes things appear big – impossible to deal with, but often it is something small that we need to do. Sometimes it's just a matter of saying, 'Lord, I need you', sometimes a matter of saying, 'this thing in my thoughts/mind, I give it to You'. Sometimes it is something God has spoken to you about and you need to respond but are wrestling with it. Yield it to the Lord.

Debbie – I feel that this is an encouragement. That we have moved on from where we were last week, when Ron was talking about the brick wall and it appeared to be solid, but it has wallpaper on it. You may have been bashing at it and it still looked the same, however it only takes a final blow for the whole thing to come down. Now we are looking at a membrane, thin, not a brick wall.

It is only a case of piercing a small hole in the membrane and it will go, like a balloon. I feel it is an encouragement to keep on going – we are getting there.

Ron – Looks the same but takes action from us to believe that we can break through, then unlock whatever it is that is behind that.

Talk (Simon)

Rest

- Exodus 20: 8-12.
- God commands us to have a Sabbath day – a day of rest.
- God set an example for us to follow.
- God wants to be intimate with us – He knows us well and he knows we need rest.
- Psalm 139.
- God knows us intimately. He knows our needs; He knows what is best for us. This is why He commands us to rest.
- Sabbath day – when we set ourselves apart from the world and spend time with God.
- Restore – Isaiah 40: 30-31.
- God restores us – when we have grown weary doing things in our own strength He renews us.
- Enter into His presence – Psalm 21: 4-5.
- David's passion was to be with God – to remain in God's presence.
- Sonship – Romans 8: 15-17.
- We have an inheritance from the Father.
- Trust – Mathew 8:23-27.
- God is in our boat – He is on the journey with us.
- We have the choice to be fearful or we can have trust and have faith in Jesus.
- Matthew 7:1-8.
- Jesus and the disciples took time out away from the furore to get a new perspective on God.

Sunday 12th July, 2009

Meeting (Phil)

I see the king of glory
Coming on the clouds with fire
The whole earth shakes
The whole earth shakes

I see his love and mercy
Washing over all our sin
The people sing
The people sing

Hosanna
Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest

I see a generation
Rising up to take their place
With selfless faith
With selfless faith

I see a near revival
Stirring as we pray and seek
We're on our knees
We're on our knees

Heal my heart and make it clean
Open up my eyes to the things unseen
Show me how to love like you have loved me

Break my heart from what breaks yours
Everything I am for your kingdoms cause
As I go from nothing to
Eternity

Hosanna in the highest

There is a challenge in the song above. Are we wholeheartedly yielding to God and what He is doing? The song talks about a new generation rising up. That is not about age, it is about an attitude of heart, mind, body and spirit. Are we willing to be yielded in every part of our lives to be that generation that stirs ourselves and gives ourselves to God's cause? As we sing the song again, bear in mind the challenge, read the words and let them sink in. Think about how much we are willing to be yielded to God's plans and purposes in our lives.

Ron – Revelation 19:11

Jesus is a mighty, victorious King. He is awesome in splendour, in might, in majesty. He is powerful and victorious. He has won, He is winning, and He will win the battle. The challenge is to us. Will we join him? Do we see our faith as just a set of beliefs or do we see the might and majesty of God and His call to us to say, 'will you join Me, will you join Me in the battle for the earth?' We want to respond to Him, to say, 'Lord, even in our weaknesses, even with our sense of inadequacy, we will give You our lives'. We say, 'Lord, we will serve You because we know it is You who makes us perfect through Your blood that has been shed for us. It is You who strengthens and enables us. It is You who gives us the vision we need. Our trust and confidence is in You, mighty God, heavenly King.' If you feel you want to make that statement, that you want to join with the heavenly armies, that you want to yield your life to Him and say, 'Lord, even in my weakness and my inadequacy, I will serve You', then stand, as we pray and commit ourselves to Him for this time.

Sunday 19th July, 2009

Meeting (Ron)

- Psalm 145

Debbie - testimony regarding mother-in-law. Pain in knee. Asked me to pray for her. She has never talked about me being a Christian or asked me to pray for her before. When I saw her yesterday she said that she had not felt so much pain when the nurse had moved her from her bed (when before it was very painful). Even the nurse commented. I want to thank God.

Ron - God is a God of healing.

Julie – did race for a life. Had prayed regarding the weather. It looked as if it was going to pour down when we arrived to run the race. However, the rain held off – it was perfect.

Ron - God is in control. He is a good God. He is interested in things that are important to us.

Claire – everything fell into place over last few weeks. Had conversation with someone regarding employment. Want to thank God for everyone's prayers for myself and Jordan.

Ron - God cares about our jobs, our future, our hospital appointments, all the things that trouble us. He has everything in control.

Andy – want to praise God with Psalm 123.

Ron

- You are part of something much greater.
- Do you think about the time when you will be with the Lord, in a praiseworthy sense? What it's going to be like to be with Jesus? To see Him in the fullness of His glory, to worship Him with millions and millions of other people and angels and all of creation?
- When you worship now it is not just those you can see and hear around you that are worshipping but angels come and join us to worship the living God. Before His throne room angels are worshipping constantly. When they hear our meeting they come and gather around us.
- From time to time God gives glimpses and people see angels. It is not wrong to use your sanctified imagination as well, to think it's wonderful that there are angels here with us.
- There is a whole unseen realm – which is more real because it is eternal. We live our lives, a tiny period in our history, let alone in eternity. We are here for a blink of an eye and then in eternity with the Lord. What is more real, that which is eternal. These three things remain, faith, hope and love. Eternal things! And the greatest of these is love.
- Because of that love Jesus came, He couldn't bear to be separated from us for eternity, for us to be so distant from Him. Jesus gave His life for us – those He loves.
- Jesus came, he taught, He showed the power of God in miracles, He helped and encouraged the first disciples, but the very purpose of Him coming was to die for us. But that wasn't the end! By the power of God, He was raised from the dead and He defeated, He overcame, He triumphed over the enemy.
- The enemy thought he had killed Jesus, but God laughed and Jesus rose from the dead. We live in the power of that victory.
- Jesus knew and recognised what the cross meant for us and for Him in terms of pain and suffering, but he went there never the less.

Talk (Ron)

This morning we are going to watch a short DVD clip. Think about what the different characters and conversations represent.

This clip is seeking to represent the reality of our world at the moment – that all around us people are perishing – dying without saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and being lost forever. Meanwhile those who have the ability to help them – to throw the lifeline of the gospel are more concerned with their own comfort and security than with reaching others. A very small proportion of the church are active in helping to save others. We talk about it and plan for it – but are we doing it?

Our Motivation

The first thing we need is a right motivation. **John 3:16** says **"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."** God's motivation for sending Jesus was love – His desire was and still is that people would not perish but have eternal life.

Remember the attitude of the officer in the banqueting hall – in effect what he was saying is that all the good people are already safe on board – and that only the bad people are at risk of perishing – so why should we risk our lives for them.

He was completely wrong – he was wrong in fact - **Rom 3:23** says that **'all have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God'** – in other words we have all done bad things, the only difference between those inside and those outside the kingdom of God is that those inside have been thrown a lifeline which they have taken hold of and have been pulled to safety – those outside have either rejected the lifeline – or far more likely never been thrown one!

The officer was also wrong in attitude – his attitude was one of superiority and arrogance – our attitude needs to be one of humility and love – let's remind ourselves from **Phil 2:3-11**.

If we love God we will be motivated to love others – if we love others will we let them perish?

Will we go?

Would you call yourself a disciple or follower of Jesus? – Ok, then listen to Jesus words to you from **Matt 28:18-20**.

Jesus said Go – **go where?** – to the people of all nations, who does that include, your husband or wife, your brother or sister mum or dad, your neighbour or friend, your work colleague, your car mechanic or shop assistant, your enemy, a complete stranger to you – where you are here or in any nation on earth – we are called to go.

Whether we are called to go to those around us here in Harlow or to go to China or Africa or any other nation on earth is to do with our personal calling – but being called to go is a general calling – its for all of us, we don't need a specific revelation – God's word is the ultimate revelation & He says go.

Remembering the conversation of the two men on the boat – they knew the theory, they were proud of their knowledge, but they preferred the comfort and safety of talking about saving others rather than the risk and discomfort of doing it.

It is no use talking about others being saved, discussing the best techniques, understanding the power of the gospel – learning to communicate it with proficiency – unless we are willing to go and tell someone.

What are we to do when we go – to make disciples of all nations, baptising them – in other words we need to go to people and help them to become followers of Jesus themselves. We do that by sharing with them the good news of who Jesus is, of what He has done for them and how they can receive the gift of eternal life for themselves.

Rom 10:5-15

Like the Steward on the boat we are in the valley of decision – the church is not and never has been a pleasure boat – it was designed and commissioned by Jesus to be a lifeboat for saving souls. People are perishing all around us – will we man the lifeboats and throw out to people the lifeline of the gospel – will we even risk our own life to help reach others – or will we stay in the safety and security of the ship closing the blinds of our hearts to the need of others?

The DVD we have seen is one of a series from a resources called 'Full Flame' from Reinhard Bonnke's organisation 'Christ for all nations'. During the autumn we will be following this course in Small Groups to help encourage and equip us all to respond to Jesus command to go.

We have decided to run this in Small Groups because we wanted as many as many people as possible to go through the course – this is for everyone not just the eager few. We know it is a large investment in time within the small groups – but we believe this is so important it is worth the investment. It will be running in all small groups – so if for some reason you miss your groups meeting you can go to one of the other's. You will also have a workbook which you can use to

reinforce the things being taught. The winning way's team will be leading the discussions after each DVD.

This is a tremendous opportunity for us all to be equipped – but remember to be trained to go is no good unless we actually do GO!

Sunday 26th July, 2009

Talk (Luke)

- When Jesus returns to command the world.

I wanna run
I want to hide
I wanna tear down the walls
That hold me inside
I wanna reach out
And touch the flame
Where the streets have no name

I wanna feel sunlight on my face
I see the dust cloud disappear without a trace
I wanna take shelter from the poison rain
Where the streets have no name

- Is it only possible to dream or imagine this world being like heaven or can it be a reality? Where the streets have no name!
- Is it possible for Gods kingdom to come and his will to be done on this earth as well as In heaven?
- **Revelation 20:1-5** - A time where there is no satan and just Jesus and his righteous subjects ruling. This passage comes in a time after Jesus returns but before Jesus judging the people and the creation of a new heaven and a new earth.
- **Revelation 20:11-15 and Chap 21** - Jesus must then be talking about ruling the earth as we know it for a thousand years where Satan has no control over the earth!!
- Surely this is what the prophets spoke of when they looked said “the earth will be filled will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the lord, as the waters cover the sea’ (Isaiah 11:9)
- When the lord will be king over all the whole earth (Zech)
- What do other Christians think about this passage in Rev 20:11-15
- A-Milleniests- may think that this passage is symbolic for Christs reign but not on this earth. They believe that the world is to far gone to be reclaimed under Christs reign. They believe that the world (other than followers of Christ) are under satans control. Followers of Christ can lead others to Christ. However the world we live in will get progressively worse until Jesus returns and this earth will pass away bringing a new heaven and a new earth. This world as we know it will never be under the lordship of Jesus Christ.
- I tend to struggle with this view as Christians can use it to treat this world badly (for example the environment doesn't matter because we get taken to a new heaven when Jesus returns.) Or that justice in this world is not important as it will always be corrupt, whats the point in the foodbank people if this world will always be hungry.

- Post milleniists- They think that this passage is talking about Jesus as the church not as Jesus himself binding up Satan and ruling over this earth. Jesus will return after the thousand years (hence post (after millienists). They believe the world will be 'christianised' before Christ returns. That the church will grow powerful and strong enough to take over the worlds government. That while everyone will not give their lives to Christ, Christs rule will be established by the church. Since the kingdom would have already been established, when Jesus returns this earth will end. They then believe that this world will end when Jesus returns.
- I tend to struggle with this view as it seems to ignore Matt 13:30 which says the kingdom of God and Satan will grow together
- Pre millieniists- Pre means before so these guys expect God to return before the thousand years and come to reign on this earth. They take this passage literally. They accept the fact that the kingdom of God and Satan will grow together (Matt 13:30), thus they believe that there will be increasing conflict between both until the return of Jesus Christ where he defeats the forces of evil and this will result in his rightful reign as the king of all kings over the world..
- This view would say that Jesus is not only coming to this world to complete the saints, to conquer the devil, but to rule over the world that we live in today.
- I agree with the pre millieniest view. I am not asking you to agree with this view aswell as it may not be right. However I would like you to imagine what this world would be like if it was ruled by Jesus Christ for a period of time as the pre millieniists believe. When the earth will be filled will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the lord, as the waters cover the sea' (Isaiah 11:9).
- Is this not motivation enough for us Christians who through Jesus power can restore Jesus' justice and peace to the world until Jesus comes to ultimately restore the world.
- Every time you give food to the foodbank, every time you feed an elderly person, every time you use a bag for life instead of using plastic bags and recycle, every time you pray with all your heart for someone to be healed, every time you listen to someone intently, every time you tell people about Jesus when the opportunitys present themselves, every time you prophecy over someones life, every time you unify a son to his father a daughter to her mother at the contact centre you are bringing the Gods kingdom come and his will being done not just in heaven but on earth as it is in heaven!! Where the streets have no name!!
- Don't try to do these things as chores!! Just love Jesus more and you will naturally bring more of Gods kingdom on earth

Sunday 13th September, 2009

Meeting (Phil and Sandra)

Phil - Good to know God's love, forgiveness and grace that He gives to us each day, and He shows His love to us in so many ways.

God has good plans for us.

Come as thankful people. Jesus paid the ultimate price that we can have a one to one relationship with His Father God. No barriers to that because of Jesus, and what He has done for us.

Ron – Just struck me as we have been going through worship songs, the first song said, 'Come, have Your way among us, do what You want Lord'. When we sing a song like that I am not sure we realise exactly what we are saying. We say, 'do what You want Lord', and quite often that can mean things that we hadn't anticipated. In our second song we had the context for it. Talked about blessings God has given to us. Talked about changing us through His grace and His love. Then, in the final song we have us living for God and serving Him daily. Sometimes it is good to stop and

think about what we are singing. God wants us to change because He loves us and wants so much more for us. We can trust Him in that process of change. Live for Him day by day.

Phil – God specialises in restoring broken vessels. He takes things that aren't productive and teaches them how to be victorious and fruitful in His service, knowing He gives us the strength and tenacity to face whatever comes, because we know that when God places treasure within us He prizes, protects and prospers it.

Sandra and I moved into our new home recently. Various things happened since we moved in. We discovered things! Some obvious, some hidden! Garden is overgrown and dark. It needs brightening up and lifting. Our first priority is to clear overgrowth and make the garden brighter. Sometimes our lives are like that. God highlights areas in our lives, sometimes obvious and sometimes hidden under surface – not so easy to spot. God touches areas. I have a sense that one of the things God might be doing over this next period of time, maybe some of the obvious stuff isn't what He is going to deal with, but it might be some of the other stuff, that's not so obvious.

Julia – During worship time I wrote this down and I felt as if God was saying to me, talking about this place, that 'the tide is turning, the tide is turning now, today, in this place the tide is turning and the season has changed and there are new opportunities and we will see new things, have a new vision and that we will be looking at things from a different perspective. As I was writing this down I could see the tide going back and as the tide moves back you can see more of the sand, the stones, see things that you couldn't see before as the tide is moving the further back it goes the more you see. I felt that 'what was hidden will be uncovered'. If you have eyes to see you will see, ears to hear you will hear and a heart to understand. So it's asking God for the eyes to see what He is saying, the ears to hear what he is saying and the heart to understand it. I feel it's almost like He is saying, 'those that have eyes to see will see, those that have the ears to hear will hear and those that have the heart will understand', so that kind of to me is saying, this is what we are asking for...

Julia – Kenya update.

Debbie – Bobbie Concert update.

Talk (Ron)

- **Vision** – Revelation from God about who we are and the plans and purposes He has for us. Vision is rarely revealed all at once. It usually unfolds.
- **Mission** – What we are called to do together.
- **Aims** – What we are trying to achieve.
- **Objectives** – Specific and measurable things we do to bring us closer to our vision.
- **Actions** – The steps we take to achieve the vision.
- Ephesians 1: 9-11 – God has a plan that He has been working since the beginning of history and He continues to work that plan out. 2 Cor 10:13 – God has a plan for us as individuals and as a fellowship. We need to do what God has called us to do and encourage other churches to do what God has called them to do, then Harlow will be reached.
- Habakkuk 2:3 – The fulfilment of vision takes time. In all things we need to have humility to recognise that things are achieved in God's time and not ours.
- Malachi 4 : 5-6
- Luke 1: 17

- Our foundation verses:
 - To prepare a people for the Lord.
 - To grow in relationship with God.
 - To be prepared when Jesus returns to the earth.
- We have a mission to prepare people within Freshwaters and outside in the world as well.
- Mission – to prepare a people for the Lord.
- Aims
 - To be a worshipping people
 - To be a prophetic people
 - To be a proclaiming people
 - To be a family people

Sunday 20th September, 2009

Meeting (Jonathan)

As I was thinking about this morning, the word that came to me was 'intentional'. We can often do things out of routine but our intention this morning is to worship God.

Let us say to God, 'my intention this morning is to worship You, to give You all that You deserve'.

Psalm 103

Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion...

Ron – Reminded of something Graham mentioned to me a little while back. When the offering is brought in the Old Testament they had to bring a perfect lamb for sacrifice for sins, and when we come to the Lord for forgiveness, when we say, 'Father will You forgive me of my sins', God doesn't examine you to make sure you are perfect, he examines Jesus and sees that He is perfect. He forgives us because of Jesus, who was the perfect sacrifice for us. So we can come to the Father and we can receive forgiveness and cleansing. Jesus was not only worthy to receive all honour and all glory but he was worthy as our sacrifice. Let's be open to the Holy Spirit and if the Holy Spirit brings up anything we need to repent of, let's do it knowing the He is ready to forgive because Jesus was that perfect sacrifice on our behalf.

Talk (Ron)

- Prayer breaks down the wall and praise accelerates the process.
- In order to see our mission fulfilled we need prayer and praise.
- Philippians 3: 1-20
 - God should be our pleasure and delight.
 - Take delight in the Lord and He will give you the desire of your heart.
 - Our hearts desire will be God if we take delight in the Lord, therefore we will get the desire of our heart.
- Paul was against the people who said that circumcision was required to be a Christian because it is not the outward show but what is unseen, what is in the heart, that is the mark of salvation.
 - What are you relying on for your salvation?
- As long as we hold on to any notion that our works can bring us salvation then we are on dangerous ground.

- We receive salvation by recognising our need to be saved, by recognising that we have done things wrong and repenting, and by believing that Jesus died for us.
- Paul's language shows that he is bursting with enthusiasm for Jesus. He is determined to know Him more day by day.
- These things are crucial in determining our relationship with Jesus:
 1. Do we desire it?
 2. Do we believe it is necessary?
 3. Do we pursue it?
- Is your determined purpose to know Christ, or is it just an optional extra?
- God loves and delights in His relationship with us.
- Is God calling you to a new level of intimacy?
- Now is the time to seek the Lord, now is the time for intimacy, now is the time to know God.
- Paul wanted to know the mighty power of the resurrection that raised God from the dead, not just to have an experience of God.
- Suffering does not earn us our salvation but suffering can come as a result of our decision to follow Jesus.
- Each time we make a decision to follow Christ in spite of the cost a little bit more of us dies and more of Christ lives in us.

Sunday 27th September, 2009

Meeting (Helen)

Pursuing God is a choice. He gives us our own will. Seek to pursue Him this morning.

Ron – We need to express our love to Jesus verbally, out loud. For some of us, when we have that opportunity we grab a hold of it. Others may be a little quieter, do it in our hearts and minds but maybe don't speak it out. There is something really powerful about you speaking things out because it makes a declaration to God, to the enemy and to those people around us. This is the truth. I love You Lord Jesus. It does something to us as we speak this out. Sometimes we don't feel like it, however, our feelings can very often be deceptive, very up and down. Actually love is not just about feeling. We love the Lord because of what he has done for us. It is a choice. As we speak it out it changes our hearts. I LOVE YOU LORD JESUS.

Sunday 4th October, 2009

Meeting (Phil and Sandra)

Sandra – God is our provider. Every day. He knows us so well. He is our provider whether it is financial, food, warmth, friends... whatever it is.

God's love for us is so amazing. No matter our age, where we are, He loves us so fully.

Talk (Phil and Sandra)

Luke – No more eagles in the chicken coup!

Phil and Sandra

- The grace message of God – sovereign joy!
- 2 Corinthians 4:7
- God uses people who don't depend on their own resources and gifts but on His.

- Biblical characters who had difficulties to overcome. Moses stuttered. David's armour didn't fit; he was an adulterer and a liar. Martha was a worrier. Solomon was too rich. Abraham was too old. Peter was afraid of death and had a short fuse.
- The list goes on and on and we don't have it all together either!

The Prodigal Son

- The younger son demands his share of his father's estate and then runs away.
- His father carried around a great sadness with him all the time.
- Things went from bad to worse for the son until eventually he was caring for pigs – for a Jew anyone who touched a pig was four times more unclean than someone who slept with a prostitute!
- But when the son came to his senses, he returned home and his father ran to meet him while he was still far off.
- The son determined to go back, to go to Christ is a choice.
- Sometimes we become deaf to the voice that calls us beloved
 - There are many vices that call to us, telling us we are inadequate.
- Sometimes we contribute to our separation but God does not contribute in any way, shape or form to our separation from Him.
- We need to renew our longing for God, to desire God like a thirsty man in the desert desires water.
- We need to deal passionately and violently with our sin.

Sunday 11th October, 2009

Meeting (Ron)

- Freshwaters are a worshipping people.
- Freshwaters are a prophetic people.
- Freshwaters are a proclaiming people.
- Freshwaters are a family people.

As we were praying before the meeting, I was thinking about Israel. Israel sent worshippers out into battle first, because they weren't relying on their swords, spears or arrows. They were relying on God. There is a connection that happens between heaven and earth when we worship. In heaven there is worship constantly, and as we worship I believe we connect with the worship in heaven. As the worshippers were sent out first they were saying, 'we want the armies of God to fight for us, the heavenly troops to join us in this battle'. As we worship there is a release in the heavenly realms – we can't see it but it is happening. We need the help of heaven to see what we want released on earth. We want heaven to come to earth. We want to see peoples lives changed. To see just one person saved doesn't just take the courage to share the gospel with them, it takes the wrestling of that person from the dominion of darkness to bring them into the kingdom of light. Satan blinded their minds. It's not just an understanding in the natural, there is something in the spirit realm that we need to release. Recognise as we worship this morning that we are joined by angels. That in itself will make a difference.

Claire – I think I have just had a picture of God giving the waves of praise like tidal waves of praise going over and over. And His joy at that, of feeling connection between us and Him and those waves going over.

Sandra – In the last song as Rebecca and I were waving flags, Rebecca said, 'It's like the Holy Spirit coming on you'.

Luke – Had a picture of a telescope with the extension of the telescope going for miles. I feel like the telescope takes us from our reality into space, to see up close. Taken into a new reality, into space reality. Feel as if God is saying through this, ‘you may feel like the reality of revival, for your friends or someone being healed, that the kingdom of God is far away, but actually My kingdom has come, My kingdom is in this place. You are already in that reality. Don’t think you’re not because you are. You are nearer to it than you think. My kingdom is here today, today is the day of revival, today is the day My kingdom has come – live it and know you are in that reality of heaven on earth already. The reason why it may not seem that the kingdom and reality is here is that people may not know about the kingdom so it’s our job to proclaim that kingdom.

Julie – I felt led this term with prayers to go through the Lords Prayer, which we are starting today. ‘Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven’...

Jacob – During the week I felt God say, that we are like the PSP or Nintendo DS, we need re-charging, but God is like the PS2 or Nintendo Wii, he is always plugged in.

Ron – As we continue in worship, we want to take on board the things the Lord’s been saying to you. The waves of praise, saw a wave from us to heaven, and heaven back to us. As Rebecca said, the Holy Spirit just blows over us, we can feel His presence with us this morning. As Luke was sharing with us, God wants to show us a new reality so that we can focus where He wants us to focus, not rely on our earthly sight. As Jacob was sharing, God’s always there. We can receive from Him strength and power constantly as long as we stay plugged in – He is always there for us.

One of the ways we lift up Jesus in our testimony.

Michelle – At Grapevine it was extremely cold, moved to warmer side of tent. As we continued to worship, the trumpet player was asked to play. I was shivering, freezing cold but as he was playing, Howard said for people to receive their healing and as soon as he said that, my knee became red hot. I felt as if God were massaging it. Whenever the trumpet was asked to play, I felt heat in my knee. Since returning from Grapevine my knee has been fine and I know God has completely healed it. Also, I was looking for a mid-day assistant job and applied at Cook Spinney, but found out there was a vacancy at Churchgate, went in to ask, started the next day!

Talk (Bonnie)

“The Power of All”

- Psalm 103 – ‘Praise the Lord O My Soul and forget not all of his benefits’.
- Benefits = whatever promotes happiness and wellbeing.
- Mark 4: 24 – Consider carefully what you hear.
- Listen carefully to what God is saying – consider all His benefits.
- To please God we must walk by faith and not by sight.

Benefits

- God is not surprised by anything we do – His grace is enough to forgive all our sins.
- God is able to heal all our diseases.
- God’s kingdom rules over all.
- With God all things are possible.
- I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
- Through Christ we have been given all power.

Sunday 18th October, 2009

Meeting (Simon)

- Psalm 103

Jesus said, "Fear not, only believe". Human reaction when we are in trouble or difficulty is to fear. But Jesus said, "Fear not, only believe". We have a choice as Christians. We can believe God for our deliverance, provision, healing, and salvation because God is the same God yesterday, today and forever. The Alpha and Omega. He never changes. God is able to far more than we can ever imagine. Who do we believe, the world or Jesus? Choose to believe Jesus.

Woman who suffered bleeding was desperate. She fought her way through a crowd just to touch Jesus cloak. She believed in Him. She was weak, vulnerable, desperate. She received what she deserved because of the grace of Jesus, because of His power, His ability to heal her and transform her circumstances and situation. All Jesus requires is that we are desperate for Him, that we acknowledge our weaknesses, that we acknowledge that we are not perfect but that we are desperate for Him. Willing to push our way through the crowd to touch His cloak. Reach out now and touch Jesus cloak for your healing, deliverance... do not fear, only believe.

Julia – I wrote this down during worship time, this is what I feel God was saying, "One day every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and there will be a day when all of creation will bow down before Him and on that day I will reveal my glory and some will enter into that glory and be welcomed home but there are some that will be crushed by that glory and it is for those people that you should cry out for it is not My will that any should perish but that all should know me, so cry out My children, cry out for those people".

Simon – Cry out now to the Lord for those people He lays on your heart.

Jesus said "Fear not, only believe".

Talk (Bill)

- Luke 9:57-62

The Cost of Following Jesus.

One man wants to follow Jesus wherever he goes, Jesus calls another and a third says he will follow Jesus when he has done something first. There is a cost to following Jesus. We are told to proclaim the gospel wherever we go but it is not our responsibility what they do with it.

- We should look forward and not look back at where we have come from.
- Romans 12:18
If it's possible, live at peace with everyone.
- If we are going to follow Jesus we can't say we will do it later – now might be that moment.
- If we say yes, but keep looking back then we will go of course – we start to chase the latest fashion ideas.
- The best is yet to come.

- If Jesus calls us to do something we must do it.
- John 6:68, 69
Many disciples desert Jesus.
- Matthew 10
Jesus sends out the disciples.
- In Jesus time it was usual for young people to choose the Rabi that they would follow but in this case Jesus chooses the disciples He wants to follow Him.
- Whatever way Peter came to follow Jesus, he was there from the beginning and must have witnessed all the miracles of Jesus.
- Fro peter it was an easy choice – he knew what Jesus could do.
- Greater will be the faith of those who haven't seen but still believe.
- Will we allow Jesus to be Lord in everything? The easy is easy but what about the difficult?
- Look forward, the best is yet to come.

Sunday 25th October, 2009

Meeting (Jonathan)

Ron - 1Peter 1: ³His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

⁵For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. ⁸For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

¹⁰Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, ¹¹and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Sunday 1st November, 2009

Meeting (Ron)

1 John 1: ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning.

³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood ^[a] it.

⁶There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. ^[b]

¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, ^[c] nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, ^[d] who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Graham – Picture, talking about light. Prism was white light going into various colours. Felt like that was Gods love, pure white light going out in various degrees wherever Gods love is shown.

Ron – great picture. When we are talking about light, we are not the light. Jesus is the light that can shine into us and through us and affect others. Jesus isn't walking on the earth today but He is here present and present through His people so I think that's a good starting point for us this morning. We come to worship Jesus who is the true light but we are meant to receive His light and coming out from us to those around us is the light shining out from us, to reach and touch those who around us.

Take a moment just to see ourselves falling down before Jesus feet. Laying down anything we know has been a burden or distraction to us, anything that's got in the way between us and God over the last week. Let's spend a moment bowing before Jesus and laying down those things before Jesus throne.

Talk (Lydia Todd and Rebecca Lewis – Global Ministries)

- Evangelism
 - Usually provokes a feeling of guilt/pressure to perform better.
- Jonah 1:1 - 2
- God gave Jonah a message – evangelism is all about communicating a message of salvation, hope and good news.
- God uses ordinary people to communicate an extraordinary message.
- Philemon 6
- Be active in sharing your faith. We can be confident in the message that we are bringing, that it has the power to change people's lives.
- The antidote to fear is faith. Feel the fear and do it anyway.
- To evangelise we need the power of the Holy Spirit in us to help us overcome fear.
- Acts 1: 8 – be my witnesses in all Jerusalem and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.
- Don't be intense, be intentional. Pray for opportunities and grasp them when they come.
- Jerusalem represents people you know, your family.
- Samaria represents the people you have no connection with.
- The ends of the earth – everywhere.
- We don't go anywhere alone. God is always with us.
- God gives us second chances – He gave Jonah a second chance and He wants to do the same for us.
- Jonah 3: 3-10
- Jonah declared the message, the people repented and God responded.
- We must be full of compassion.
- Compassion = love that compels action.

- God was full of compassion for Nineveh. We should have the same compassion for people that God has.
- Everything Jesus did was motivated by compassion.
- In everything we do to communicate the message we need to have a heart of compassion.

Rebecca

- Evangelism can be like stepping off a cliff without knowing what you are stepping into.
- The world is more hungry than you realise.
- Mark 4: 3-9 – The parable of the sower.
- When we speak to people about Jesus we need to have faith that God will continue to work in their lives.
- God sent His disciples out in pairs - we need to have other people around us.
- God loves it when we step out and he blesses us.
- All of us are looking to be secure, accepted and significant – the only way to truly find these things is in God.

Sunday 8th November, 2009

Meeting (Sandra)

Ephesians 3: ¹For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles. ²Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. ⁷I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. ¹³I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory. ¹⁴For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom his whole family ^[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Phil

John 15 : ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other.

As we come to this time of remembrance, it's important to remember Jesus sacrifice for us. We are well aware of the sacrifices people are making in the war, also the tremendous suffering involved in all of that in terms of the families of the soldiers and the local people who through no fault of their own are caught up in this trouble, maybe losing loved ones or suffering injuries. As we remember the suffering of many people throughout the ages, through the wars, it is a good time to spend a moment thinking about the lives of the soldiers and their loved ones, and also the people who are caught up in the trouble.

Sunday 15th November, 2009

Meeting (Ron)

Psalm 103

- ¹ Praise the LORD, O my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
- ² Praise the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits-
- ³ who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
- ⁴ who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
- ⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- ⁶ The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all the oppressed.
- ⁷ He made known his ways to Moses,
his deeds to the people of Israel:
- ⁸ The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
- ⁹ He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;
- ¹⁰ he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.
- ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;
- ¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
- ¹³ As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;
- ¹⁴ for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.
- ¹⁵ As for man, his days are like grass,
he flourishes like a flower of the field;
- ¹⁶ the wind blows over it and it is gone,
and its place remembers it no more.
- ¹⁷ But from everlasting to everlasting
the LORD's love is with those who fear him,
and his righteousness with their children's children-
- ¹⁸ with those who keep his covenant
and remember to obey his precepts.
- ¹⁹ The LORD has established his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom rules over all.

- ²⁰ Praise the LORD, you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
who obey his word.
- ²¹ Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts,
you his servants who do his will.
- ²² Praise the LORD, all his works
everywhere in his dominion.
Praise the LORD, O my soul.

Liz shared testimony of her friend, Sue Bree, for Shoebox service.

Sunday 22nd November, 2009

Simon (Meeting)

Psalm 29

- ¹ Ascribe to the LORD, O mighty ones, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ² Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.
- ³ The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD thunders over the mighty waters.
- ⁴ The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is majestic.
- ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.
- ⁶ He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, Sirion ^[b] like a young wild ox.
- ⁷ The voice of the LORD strikes with flashes of lightning.
- ⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the desert; the LORD shakes the Desert of Kadesh.
- ⁹ The voice of the LORD twists the oaks and strips the forests bare. And in his temple all cry, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰ The LORD sits ^[d] enthroned over the flood; the LORD is enthroned as King forever.
- ¹¹ The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace.

Ron

'This is my prayer in the battle when triumph is still on its way, I am a conqueror and co-heir with Christ so firm on His promise I stand'. This autumn in particular we have been focusing on a battle to see people come to faith, every now and then I get very frustrated, find it really difficult because we are not yet seeing people coming to faith and coming into Kingdom of God. But we are in a battle for this and for these people and its not going to be an easy thing because if it was easy then everybody would come to faith just like that. The enemy doesn't want people to come to faith. He has blinded their eyes. So even when you are talking with people about gospel, they can't see or perceive it - we need to win a battle in spiritual realm to set people free. Need to declare when triumph is still on its way, when we haven't yet got to the point of seeing people giving their hearts and lives to Christ, that we are conquerors, co-heirs with Christ. We will see that day of victory. Need to keep pressing in, keep crying out. 'Strength will rise as I wait upon the Lord..' part of that is waiting on God, giving time to Him, time in His presence, but also part if it is waiting for God's timing. Not getting frustrated with God, not losing hope or faith in God when things don't happen as quickly as we would like them to. Trust and confidence in God, saying we will continue to fight, continue to share with our friends, continue to invite people along, continue to pray and to cry out to God, to press into heavenly realms. 'I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it'. People who do not know Christ yet are in dominion of darkness and we have to press through the gates of hell to rescue them. Need

to have faith that Christ will build His church, will build us up so that we can continue to advance and to breakthrough and to rescue people.

Simon

John 11 - ¹⁷On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

²¹"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷"Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

God is not emotionless, He is a loving God. He demonstrates His love to us through Jesus. Jesus is with us through good times, through bad times, giving hope in hopeless, desperate situations. He meets with us. He can bring life out of death. He can bring light out of darkness. He can bring victory out of defeat. Just that one name, Jesus. If anyone doubts how passionate Jesus is about us, look at the verse, 'Jesus wept.' That shows the compassion and love Christ has for us in every situation and circumstance we face. The people we meet in our lives, in difficult situations or difficult circumstances, the people we have been praying for a long time to come to Christ, sometimes it's hard to continue to believe but we know a God that CAN. It's not about us. When Jesus meets with people He can turn their situation around. He can bring life, deliverance, salvation

John 11 - ⁴⁰Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

Jesus is not a man of empty promises; He is a God of awesome power. Anything Jesus said He can do, He can do! We have that hope and expectation. Hold on to Jesus, hold on to His promises, we'll see people healed, we'll see people set free, we'll see people saved. Jesus will get us through our times of weakness, depression, heartache; He is not a God of empty promises. He is real. He is the light of the World. He came into the darkness. We have so much to celebrate and to give thanks to God for. Jesus, the hope of the world, saviour of all mankind. His love in raising Lazarus, His compassion, translates to every one of us. That's what Christmas is about.

Talk (Ron)

Philippians 3: 12-16

- Don't just start well, finish well! When Paul describes the Christian life as a race he is referring to a marathon, not a sprint.
- Forgetting what is past, and looking only at what is ahead I press on toward the goal for which Christ called me heavenwards.
- Paul's world had been turned upside down when he went from persecuting the church to becoming one of its greatest representatives.
- None of us are perfect – Jesus is the only one who is and ever will be perfect.
- There is a day when we will achieve perfection, either in death or when Christ comes again.
- It is difficult to move forward while we are looking back.
- The things that keep us looking back when we are trying to move forward:

- Past sin. Jesus blood is sufficient to cleanse us from all sin. We need to make a clean break from sin.
- Sense of failure. God knows about our past failures but He is more interested in who we are and what we can be and will become.
- Disappointment. We need to believe that God works all things together for good for those who trust Him.
- Success. If we camp around our successes we will not move forward into the things that God has prepared for us.
- Paul was not running away from something, he was running toward a goal. He had a vision of what it would be like to achieve perfection.
- Hebrews 11: 35. These people gave their lives for Christ and did not see the reward in this life. We are being prepared for our life in eternity.

Sunday 29th November, 2009

Meeting (Ron)

Across different churches in Harlow God has been speaking about is Light, Salt, Fishers of Men. It is a wonderful thing that light has come into the darkness. Jesus came into the world.

John 1 - ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. ⁶There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Acknowledge our need of the Lord Jesus.

Julia – During worship time I felt the word ‘Open’, it’s like I saw a picture, and I believe God was saying, ‘Open up, open the windows, open the doors’. There was an excitement about it, picture of people excitedly throwing open their windows, throwing open their doors, a real excitement, as if ‘the King is coming...’ And ‘breakout’, that this is a time of breakthrough, God is a God of breakthrough. God’s promises are real, they are true and they are solid, from generation, to generation to generation.

Ron

When you are restricted, when you are closed in, you want to breakout. You don’t want that restriction on you. The reason why people don’t is that they don’t realise they can. They don’t realise that the power of God is greater than the power of the enemy. We know, and we need to rise up and break out! Rather than accept the restrictions the enemy paces around us, like ‘you can’t speak to other people about Jesus because you haven’t got the words’, ‘because it will frighten people away’, he puts onto us restrictions so that we are fearful, thinking we are too weak, or too foolish. They are all lies. Need to breakout. Need to rise up. Sometimes we say, ‘God, come and rescue us’, and he says, ‘I have already given you everything you need to rise up, take hold of the authority I have given you, take hold of the word of God which is powerful and declare it, live it out day by day’. Let’s not be those who live our lives under the restrictions the enemy places on us, but let us rise up and break out.

Jonathan

Ephesians 6: ¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Julia – I feel in my stomach, it is like a pool of water that has stagnated. It's saying to God, I don't want to stagnate; I don't want to stay where I am. Asking him now to pour upon us that fresh water, to fill us with fresh water.

Ron

When Jesus met the woman at the well, the woman from the Samaritan village, you could say that her life had stagnated; maybe the whole of the village had stagnated. What it took for that village to be transformed was one woman to receive the water that Jesus had to offer, not just the water from the well but the living waters. She went back into her village and told people about Jesus, she was excited because it meant so much to her. Others came rushing out to meet with Jesus. Sense of that bubbling up, such an excitement and joy at having met Jesus. Has our joy been stagnated, have other things distracted us, have our waters become stagnant? Ask God, fill me with your living water, make me excited again about being your follower... may I go out and tell others about this wonderful Jesus who knows me completely, told me everything I ever did, who doesn't live by the barriers and restrictions that others place around us but who loves and is interested in everybody. Let's ask him for those living waters...

Claire – During worship I heard God saying, 'Look at me, I am eternally the one who loves you. As you do that I will open your eyes, I will make the light go into those places where it needs to go,' He is saying, He will open my eyes.

Ron

We become what we behold, and as we look upon Jesus, His glory, beauty and majesty, it brings about a change in us. Our eyes are open, our perspective is changed. Let us keep our gaze upon the Lord, upon His beauty and His glory.

Jesus says, 'come to Me, all those who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Come to Me all who are dry and thirsty and I will give you the waters of life. Come to Me, Come to Me, the Lord says. In confusion and fear, Come to Me, and I will give you wisdom, insight and understanding. In fear, Come to Me and I will pour out My love that overcomes fear, you can trust Me.

Sunday 6th December, 2009

Meeting (Destiny Calls/Bravehearts)

Luke – theme of service is God's love and our response to that. We've talked about God's love and responded to that before, but today we want to go to the heart of that and challenge people to go deeper.

Look at the words of the song - "I know a love greater than life itself".

Song of Songs reflects a song between two lovers/expresses love between God and us.

Song of Solomon 4:

⁹ You have stolen my heart, my sister, my bride;
you have stolen my heart
with one glance of your eyes,
with one jewel of your necklace.

Song of Solomon 6:

⁵ Turn your eyes from me;
they overwhelm me.
Your hair is like a flock of goats
descending from Gilead.

Reflected on few verses that show how much God loves us.

What is life without Gods Love?

We wouldn't even exist without Gods love. Want to emphasise that. God created the world in the first place because He loves us so much. When God created us He said we were 'very good', 'fearfully and wonderfully made'. We come into the gospel and our need to respond to that love. We have disobeyed God, chosen not to follow him, his plans and purposes, been disobedient. If we have chosen not to follow God who is Life, then we have chosen to follow death. However Jesus in His mercy came down to earth, came to die for us and take that death upon the cross and save us.

'Love came down and rescued me from the miry pit' – Our response needs to be massive to Gods love, as His love has literally saved us from death.

Life without Gods love is literally death. People are dying on the inside without God; they need to know that life, that gospel, that truth. We need God badly, if we do not constantly want Gods love, we can also die on the inside.

My thoughts on my life without God -

Hopeless – no hope in anything. Lay in bed, getting high on drugs, no release. Turn back on world. Or a false reality on hope, good grades, work hard, self-made. Look good, talented, branded labels, get nothing in world if you don't work for it... To me the above is meaningless, nothing without Gods love.

Jacob – My life without God –

Bully, not nice person to be with, troublemaker. Trapped, no way out.

I have chosen four stories for us to look at-

- Prodigal Son
- Good Samaritan
- Lost Sheep
- Mustard seed and Yeast

Important we know these stories, they reflect Gods love.

Sunday 13th December, 2009

Meeting (Ron)

It is good for us to have an attitude of thanksgiving, particularly at this time of year because we are celebrating that Jesus came to live amongst us. God did not remain far off but drew close to live with us, to reveal His glory and to release to us His salvation. It is a time of thanksgiving, thanking God for who He is and for what He has done for us. Spend time expressing thanksgiving, share testimony of good things God has done for us.

Luke shared testimony regarding detached youth work in Harlow, opportunity to witness to elderly lady in Stow who had just been mugged. Helped her home, and went back to visit her.

Claire K – shared testimony regarding her family situation.

Ron – There are no limits to God's faithfulness and His love. God is reaching out to Claire's family. God is so wonderful and full of love and kindness. He can reach every member of our family, our neighbours, our friends, our town. It is not God's desire that any should perish. Have faith in Him. There are no limits to God's love and faithfulness.

Talk (Luke)

Jesus Returns

1. Jesus will return to fully complete the Saints.
2. To ultimately conquer the devil.
3. To command the world.
4. To judge the world.

Jesus Returns to Judge the World

- We make dates in our calendar but these are subject to change. However, there are two dates that are not subject to change – our death and the day of judgement.
- We raise people up on pedestals but they are not perfect. As with all of us, they act imperfectly/unjustly.
- There is injustice and righteousness in the world. God will return to judge accordingly.
- Galatians 6:7
- God cannot be mocked; a man reaps what he sows.
- God will not allow people to go un-judged for the things they have done, whether they will be judged for righteousness or injustice.
- Revelation 20: 11-15
- For everyone in history there will be a judgement day.
- Our names are written in the Book of Life- the grace of God has delivered us from sin.
- The justice we deserved has been paid for by Jesus – it cost Him everything to justify us.
- Anyone who doesn't accept this offer will have to pay the price for their own sin – God will not be mocked.
- How do we apply this in our life?
- Be repentant.
- Praise God – it cost God everything to put our name in the Book of Life.
- Celebrate the fact that we can have a relationship with God because His son was willing to die for us.
- Share the good news – let others know that their name can be written in the Book of Life so that they can also be set free.