

24-7 PRAYER WEEK 19-26 July 2020

Tuesday to Wednesday

- ❖ Praying for our church family: A glass of water satisfies us when we are thirsty but only when we lift it up and drink from it, it does not satisfy our thirst if we just look at it. God is waiting to satisfy our thirst for Him, but we must each pick up our glass and drink.

A promise from Isaiah 32v18 - My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest. - **Sue**

- ❖ TUESDAY EVENING SESSION:

Remembered the history of UV and the many people that had made sacrifices to spread the good news of God's love.

Want UV to be known as a church where people will know that they will be loved and shown compassion. We represent God's love.

Remember those who are punished and killed for their faith.

We must stand together to show the love of Jesus both outside in the community and in the church as we show mercy to each other.

Break us and remake us.

Thanks for the many people who volunteer their time and gifts in caring organisations.

Protection from complacency, help us to be salt and light in whatever we do, help us to treat everyone justly and remind us of the changes we need to make in our lives to live justly.

Love must be sincere, hate evil and cling to what is good

Give us fearlessness towards acting in the name of God and stand in the gap. Make us passionate as we stand against injustice.

Fantastic words from the song *King of Kings*.

- ❖ WEDNESDAY MORNING SESSION:

Alex Kittow led 15 people through a series of headings:

1. **Thanks and praise to God for who He is**
2. **Thanks and praise for the place we live in** - Torbay. Highlights were the beauty and diversity of Torbay - the sea, the sky, the coast and coast path, the Bay and its harbours, hills and rivers, the moor, the towns and villages, the people and their history (from Kents Cavern right up to the present day). Perhaps of significance were prayers touching on the shelter of the Bay and its harbours, and the physical workouts and glorious views afforded from the hilltops. God is our refuge, our shelter, our hiding place. God's mountain tops are well worth attaining.
3. **Alex read *1 Corinthians 13 1-7***. We offered prayers of thanks to our God who is love and the source of all love.
4. **The list of bullet points currently arising out of UV's Good News to Torquay initiative was screen shared**. The bullets below are a summary of some key prayers:

- **For good partnerships** - working across the churches and with other key partners (such as Torbay Council, Torbay CDT, the TDA, the NHS, the Police, S Devon College and the 700 charities operating locally).
- **For funding and community wealth building** - the great need for funding in Torbay, both public funding for regeneration and community projects and private funding for businesses, families and individuals. For creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship.
- **For those trapped in poverty** - particularly child poverty and holiday hunger among children. Children living in Torbay who have never been taken to the beach. Like a lid pressing down on them. *Isaiah 44.3-4. I will pour out water for thirsty people.* The cycle of poverty and a desire to raise people's heads to look up rather than down.
- **For good mental health** - the many who feel despair and hopelessness in our community, and the stigma associated with depression.
- **For children in care** - and for the several foster families in UV, naming each one.
- **For local leaders** - naming Alison Hernandez (Police and Crime Commissioner), Kevin Foster MP and Steve Darling (Torbay Council Leader), giving thanks for each one, for their vision and initiative, and praying a blessing on them.
- **For the current C-19 context** - thanking God for the way the whole community has responded, coming together to forge alliances which had seemed unthinkable before the crisis, with 10,000s of food parcels supplied by the Torbay Food Alliance and 1,000s of calls fielded by the Coronavirus Helpline.
- **For opportunities** - that we might see how God is working all of the time, and to recognise the opportunities he creates. God knew Anode would close and had already prompted the opening of the Community Larders in Torquay and Paignton. He knew the CAP Debt Centre would close and prompted preparation for the new Salvation Army Debt Advice Service in Torbay. May we simply see what God is already doing and willingly join in.

Andy Hickford picked up on this theme and shared *Isaiah 59.13 - 60.1* ***When we turn our backs on God justice is driven back. The Lord saw no-one there to intervene and so his own right arm worked salvation. "This is my covenant" says the Lord. Arise, shine, for your light has come.*** It's time for us to shine the light of Jesus into our community, joining in with something God has already begun.

- ❖ The 24/7 prayer week is moving on at a pace! I just wanted to update you on some things I think God has been saying.
From the Tuesday lunch time prayer meeting: Proverbs 19:21 was a verse given to us, and the picture of God's amazing light in the darkness came up in somebody's prayer. I then thought about Steve Cayley's wonderful video which we sometimes see as a backdrop to a song on a Sunday morning, where the sky is all black and then the sun rises with beautiful oranges and reds.
Without having been there yesterday, in the staff meeting this morning, Andy spoke on Isaiah 59:9 – 60:3, which has a very powerful image of people stumbling in the

darkness (Isaiah 59:10) and darkness covering the earth and the peoples (Isaiah 60:2), but God rising in his glory. - **Ele**

❖ LUNCHTIME SESSION:

- Job 8:8-9, learning from the fathers
- Esther 4:14, for such a time as this
- Mental health
- Different needs in light of Covid
- Joblessness, 480 people applied for bar work
- Community led, community fed
- Community, hospitality, part of, doing together, being part of something together
- Need to not have people ashamed to ask for help, need to avoid stigma
- Do it for anyone, do it for me!
- Life skills, parenting, money course, trying to show people not being judged. Maybe not a course, but part of a morning session. Ladies lounge eg. People feel safe. Incorporate it into a group. Not you're the teacher, all participating
- Footprint on the street, not imposing like the UV church building, Cottage Café, might be also too far out. Community hub, in Union Street
- Jeremiah 8:20 'harvest is past, summer has ended, we are not saved.'" Jeremiah 9:23-24 Prophecy moves from horrors to hope in knowing God's kindness
- Opportunities of such a difficult situation
- Matthew 25:31-40
- *Oceans* – "you call me out upon the waters.... In oceans deep, my faith will stand. Your grace abounds in deepest waters, your sovereign hand will be my guide. I will call upon your name. Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander, and my faith will be made stronger in the presence of my saviour, spirit lead me where my trust is without borders, let me walk upon the waters, wherever you may call me."

- ❖ **Christine** had a fabulously clear word from God during her 24/7 hour, which she found left her very emotional, when she said herself, she's not an emotional person! She felt moved that we should be doing more for the elderly, especially those who are alone at home, potentially lonely and neglected. She wondered if we could work with Age Concern or some such other organisation and said that she would be prepared to do some visiting herself. She said she was very interested in our church being a place to welcome young people but didn't want the elderly to be forgotten. She felt God had laid it on her heart and that he has been telling her all day to pass it on to someone.