

Kairos

'Our Calling from God at this time'



*This folder contains a summary of some of the various words
and scriptures received by the 'Kairos' group over nine
months from September 2007 to May 2008.
They have been edited into groupings under specific titles.
'Kairos' is a small listening group of believers meeting
each week to pray and listen to what God is saying
to the Maranatha Community, to the Church and to themselves.*

maranatha

Kairos

*"Blessed is the man who **listens** to me, **watching** daily at my doors,
waiting at my doorway for whoever finds me finds life" (Pr. 8. 34 & 35)*

We listen and wait

*"Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from Him comes to me" (Jn. 6.45)
"Come, my children, listen to me I will teach you the fear of the Lord" (Ps. 34.11)
"Listen, listen to me give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live" (Is. 55. 2 & 3)
"He who has ears let him hear" (Matt. 11.15)
"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches" (Rev. 2.7)
"Listen to my instructions and be wise, do not ignore it" (Pr. 8.33)
"I will listen to what God the Lord will say; he promises peace to his people" (Ps 85.8)*

*"I waited patiently for the Lord ..." (Ps. 40.1)
"Be still and know that I am God" (Ps. 46.10)
"I wait for the Lord, my soul waits and in His word I put my hope" (Ps. 130.5)
"By faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope" (Gal. 5.5)
"We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield" (Ps. 33.20)*

We watch and pray

*"But as for me I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Saviour,
My God will hear me" (Micah 7.7)
"I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel" (Ez. 3.16)
"O my strength I watch for you, you, O God are my fortress, my loving God" (Ps. 59.9)*

*"Listen to my cry for help, my King and my God for to you I pray" (Ps. 5.2)
"O you who hear prayer, to you all men will come" (Ps 85)
"Hear my prayer, O Lord; let my cry for help come to you" (Ps. 102)
"The prayer of the upright pleases him (Pr. 15.8)*

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Additional Words: A, B, C, D, E, F, G

I. God is calling us to humility and obedience

God demands humility from His servants. *“Be compassionate and humble”* (1 Peter 3.8). *“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love”* (Ephesians 4.2)

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.” - 1 Peter 5:6-11

God lovingly inspires us with the model of Jesus who *“made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant”* (Phil. 2.7) and *“he humbled himself and became obedient to death”* (Phil. 2.8). We are repeatedly drawn to His words *“Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted”* (Luke 14.11)

We are to understand that God will raise up all who humble themselves before Him - *“humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up”* (James 4.10). *“If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.”* (2 Cor. 11.30)

“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” (Proverbs 1.34) We are to be totally obedient to God and to approach him in submission – *“submit yourselves...to God”* (James 4.7).

The insistent will of God is that we should not seek power or success. We are to be little brothers and sisters of Jesus. *“We are to live Magnificat - “He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble”* (Lk.1.52).

We are called to humble ourselves and to be little, in a proud self-seeking world. In Christ we put aside all ambition and self-seeking. God will make His will known to us. God will use us. God will bless us. Our need is to absorb the words of Jesus in the Beatitudes – *“blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven”* (Matt. 5.3) & *“blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth”* (Matt 5.5).

We must embrace the discipline of passivity – to be clay and to allow God’s hands to mould us. *“This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord : “Go down to the potter’s house, and there I will give you my message.” So I went down to the potter’s house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me: “O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does?” declares the Lord. “Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it. “Now therefore say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, “This is what the Lord says: Look! I am preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. So turn from your evil ways, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions.”* (Jeremiah 18:1-11)

God’s message to us is ‘Be still and know that I am God’. ‘Be my people, in my presence’ and ‘Where the presence of the Lord is, there is freedom and fullness of joy.’ (See 2 Cor. 3.17-18).

God is calling us to put aside our own clever plans and schemes and receive His generous love.

God assured us that He would bring together the people of His choosing - ‘Be assured I will bring my people to you – be ready to receive them.’ He will build up His church. Some of them may come as “sheep in wolves’ clothing” – not looking as we would expect.

Those who are humble and obedient will inevitably be spiritually attacked but God gives His people power and protection. We were told to be ‘be cautious drivers!’ *“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”* (James 1:2-5)

2. God is calling us to stand before Him in awe

We were given these words: “Awe, faith, trust, boldness, courage.” The awe of God inspires faith & trust in him, which in turn give us boldness to obey Him and courage when we face opposition.

We stand before Him and tremble. In our familiarity with our loving heavenly Father we may become over familiar and underestimate the Biblical call to fear God. Our fear is that of the created standing before the Creator – sinful humankind standing before the Lord of Lords who is perfect in every way and whose Spirit is absolute truth and limitless love.

We bow before His overwhelming majesty and might and His all embracing love. *“The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him.”* (Hab. 2:20)

"Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy." (Hab. 3:2)

"The Lord will be awesome to them when he destroys all the gods of the land." (Zeph 2:11).

When we stand in His presence He touches us and heals us. *"A woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped. "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you." But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me."* (Luke 8:43-45)

The touch of the Lord is a healing touch. All healing comes from God. The blood from the wounds of Jesus is healing and has power to cleanse the earth.

As we stand before the Lord we ask the question 'Are we prepared to *respond* to what we hear him say to us?'

We sensed that God would have us stand before Him in deep silence.

We were reminded of the many times in the book of Kings when it is written: "When a man... then hear from heaven..." or "When your people... then I..." etc. There is a "then" to the "whens" of N. Ireland!

There are consequences of us coming close to God. In His presence we are lost in wonder, love and praise. We are silenced by the immensity of God who is the great 'I am' – the Rock of Ages. We were pointed to the real dangers of Christians rushing to God with words but failing to see and listen in reverence. Rabbi Moshe taught us – "You must stand before God or kneel before the evil one. There is no other way".

3. God is calling us to receive His wisdom

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Psalm 111:10). "How much better to get wisdom than gold, o choose understanding rather than silver!" (Proverbs 16.16) "Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand; beside the gates leading into the city, at the entrances, she cries aloud: 'To you, O men, I call out; I raise my voice to all mankind.'" (Proverbs 8.1-4)

We can learn from Stephen as he spoke to those trained in debate *"...they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke."* (Acts 6:10) Paul, writing in 1 and 2 Corinthians, speaks of wisdom and confronting worldly wisdom, and of being 'wise fools for Christ' as opposed to foolish wisemen.

We received the words 'I will give you wisdom which will confound those who claim to be wise.' We were told 'It is my desire that you may receive the gift of wisdom. This wisdom is not hidden, it is made available to all. I call you to be wise, for my wisdom is of the Spirit.'

"The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness." (James 3:17-18). We often hear God speak through our own experiential and theological filters, and we can be arrogant in the position we take. God warns us - *"...lean not on your own understanding."* (Proverbs 3:5).

We were also reminded that the prophet spoke of the coming of the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge - *"A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord - and he will delight in the fear of the Lord."* (Is. 11.1-3)

These words were given:

'I have much to say to you my children.

I ask you to provide me with the opportunity to speak to you.

I have much to say to you my children.'

'When a man is hungry, he will come to the table at the sound of the dinner bell, whether he is certain that he will find food there or not.'

(At that precise moment, the bell was rung outside the door of the room!)

We believe that the gift of wisdom comes with the Spirit. Following this we can then receive the urgently-needed ability to discern.

4. God is calling us to have confidence

In an age of uncertainty we read *"I proclaim what is certain"* (Hosea 5.9). *"Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see"* (Heb. 11.1). We are being called to proclaim the central truths of our faith with confidence. We are the custodians of certainty. Today there is much uncertainty in leadership and we are warned *"If the trumpet does not sound a clear call who will get ready for battle?"* (1 Cor. 14.8)

We were told – ‘I am giving you my word and it will not be distorted. I am giving you my voice and it will not be silenced’.

In our culture uncertainty is seen as a merit. It is more acceptable to be an agnostic than a believer. The devil has brought us to the point where we say to our children nothing is true or false, right or wrong, good or evil. Neutrality is presented as a virtue, belief as bigotry. But the persistent call of God to us is to speak and live the central truths of the Gospel with confidence– *“Anyone who is not with me, is against me....”* (Matt. 12.30)

We were drawn to embrace the integrity of God and proclaimed verse 17 of Psalm 139 *“How precious to me are your thoughts O God! How vast is the sum of them!”*

Luke, the physician, was anxious to establish the truth and reliability of the Gospel. He confidently says in his introduction *“I have carefully investigated so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught”* (Lk. 1.4)

Jesus expects a firm response from His own followers. In his prayer he said *“I gave them the word you gave me...they know with certainty that I came from you”* (Jn. 17.8).

The challenge of Jesus is overwhelming to us today – *“I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you shall not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain ‘be taken up and be cast into the sea’ it shall happen”* (Matt. 21.21). Jesus made the staggering promise *“In all truth I tell you whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself and will perform even greater works because I am going to the Father”* (Jn 14.12)

Jesus questions doubters. After His resurrection appearance Jesus said *“Why do doubts rise in your minds?”* (Lk 24.38). He said to those who saw him walk on water *“Why do you doubt?”* (Matt. 14.31) We sense ferocity in the words of God, when we read in Psalm 119.113 - *“I hate double minded men”*.

Confidence does not mean that there will be no tension. Some times tension is healthy. We were given these words – ‘I bring peace, but I disturb peace. I am now disturbing the peace of this nation. You will go through a time of turbulence, but you are walking paths of righteousness and obedience. Always remember My sovereignty. I know the beginning from the end. Unrighteousness will not prevail’.

5. God is calling us to listen

God says *“Hear me that your soul may live”* (Is. 55.3). Before we speak we must first listen to God. Listening comes before proclamation. His words are words of truth and love.

The prophet has to consume the words of God before he speaks out.

“Then he said to me, Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it.” So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth. He then said to me: “Son of man, go now to the house of Israel and speak my words to them. You are not being sent to a people of obscure speech and difficult language, but to the house of Israel- not to many peoples of obscure speech and difficult language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely if I had sent you to them, they would have listened to you. But the house of Israel is not willing to listen to you because they are not willing to listen to me, for the whole house of Israel is hardened and obstinate. But I will make you as unyielding and hardened as they are. I will make your forehead like the hardest stone, harder than flint. Do not be afraid of them or terrified by them, though they are a rebellious house.” And he said to me, “Son of man, listen carefully and take to heart all the words I speak to you. Go now to your countrymen in exile and speak to them. Say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says,’ whether they listen or fail to listen.” (Ez. 3.3-11)

We were led to pray: ‘May we wait upon you, receive your words and speak them whether the world listens or not’. We also received the words ‘In the measure you speak in the power of the Spirit to the powers of the nation, the leaders of the churches will also hear’. We were given a picture of sharp arrows striking those in power and authority, but also some of these arrows being deflected on to some church leaders.

Church leaders are under immense pressure. We remembered Jonathan eating the honey (1 Samuel 14) and being refreshed by it. If every leader eats the word that tastes like honey, there could be an amazing response to their teaching and preaching.

God has called us to recognise the consequence of our nation turning its back on Him. However, as we consider the de-Christianising of our nation we must also bring a message of hope,

“My heart is not proud, O Lord, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me. But I have stilled and quieted my soul; like a weaned child with its mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me. O Israel, put your hope in the Lord both now and forevermore.” . Psalm 131:1-3

We are called to put pride behind us and to be content, like a child, in God, and have our hope firmly fixed on the Lord.

“What more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection”. (Hebrews 11.32-

35). Our response to this reading is to declare that ‘His grace is more than sufficient for us and that ‘His power is made perfect in our weakness’. So, whenever we say we are little we should also add these two affirmations.

We sense that ‘God is going to work in a way that will surprise us’ and ‘the word is more powerful than the sword’ It is currently the Jewish year of the sword, and we remembered the vision that had been received regarding the sword being ready to be taken up. Biblical Truth is a double-edged sword (Hebrews 4v12).

Our current situation is that the nation has turned away from God and we are facing a dual attack from secular humanism and Islam in the United Kingdom.

6. God is calling us to walk with Him

Jesus says he is the Way. We are people of the Way. Jesus is our companion on the way. He is the Way itself – He is its beginning and its end. *“In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”* (Proverbs 3:6)

“Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you. Make level paths for your feet and take only ways that are firm. Do not swerve to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil” (Proverbs 4:25-27). *“Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”* (Isaiah 30:21)

We are called to walk in perfect freedom and also in complete obedience. God is ready to make His will known to us every step of the way. We remember John Henry Newman’s words: “I do not wish to see the distant scene, one step enough for me.” We are called to a closer walk with God.

The Apostle Paul learned from the Holy Spirit where he should take the good news next and how he should go about preaching in each region he entered. The Early Church was deeply aware of God’s hand upon the details of their journeying - *“Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you.”* (1 Thessalonians 3:11).

Our first response in considering our future journey is simply to ‘put our hands in the hand of the one who stilled the waters...’. We trust God for every future situation and attack!

We sense that liberal theology and atheistic libertarianism have led to mankind walking a lonely road without the companionship of God. Our society’s moral compass has been thrown away. We have lost our way. We are left only with confusion and relativism. The atheists and humanists have put themselves on the throne where God used to be, and we are being led by those who themselves have been led astray.

We feel a strong commitment to be proactive rather than reactive. Whereas in the past we have been as a boat floating along a river directed by the currents, we now sense God ‘handing us oars’ to travel with a great precision and direction. We also have the image of people in a boat on stormy seas rowing together. Christ is in the boat.

We believe God is wanting us to trim our sails so that we can be swept along by the wind of His Spirit.

Just as God’s people were led in their pilgrimage across the desert, with God in their midst, so today He is with us in our pilgrimage across a barren land. On our journey together we are reminded of the promise of Jesus *“You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”* (John 14:14). We are reminded that Jesus has freely given us his name and his authority to use against the works of the enemy.

When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, *“Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!”* *“Yes,” he told them, “I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning! Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you. But don’t rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven.”* (Luke 10:17-20 NLT)

Ultimately we trust that the God who calls us and directs us will also use even what the enemy intends for evil to glorify His name and fulfil His purposes. Through the storms of our journeying good will come. God delights to bring light out of darkness. He turns curses into blessings. Kingdom fruit that perhaps could not have been borne as abundantly often comes through troubles.

In our walk with God we are being instructed to walk carefully and not to trip up in the potholes in the road, or over the brambles. We were given these words: ‘There is a new dawn coming. Prepare yourself for a new day. My mercies are new each day. I have made a way for you. I have made a way for you. Walk in holiness. Walk in holiness.’

We sense that God is saying ‘I will go ahead of you’ and that at the right time obstacles will be removed. We were reminded of the image of Abraham – *“Leave your country....go to the land I will show you”* (Gen. 12.1)

Christ is our friend on the journey: with Him we walk in love and safety.

7. God is calling us to go through the doors He is opening

God appears to be opening many doors to us with the command to go through them. We are repeatedly being drawn to the message to the Church in Philadelphia which also applies to us – *“These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name”* (Rev. 3.7-8)

In going through the open doors we must expect fierce opposition. *“...because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me”* (1 Cor. 16.9)

Jesus said, *“I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”* (John 10:7-10)

“Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Raise a banner for the nations”. (Is. 62.10)

“I will go before you and will level the mountains; I will breakdown gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name.” (NIV) (Isaiah 45:2-3) These things cannot be done in human terms but there is no obstacle that God cannot overcome.

We are aware of the final door: *“After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven”.* (Rev. 4.1)

8. God is calling us to embrace the truth

If we hold to the teaching of Jesus we will know the truth. Jesus assures us *“If you make my word your home, you will indeed be my disciples; you will come to know the truth and the truth will set you free”.* (Jn. 8.31-32)

The world and Pilate ask *“What is truth?”* (John 18.38). God calls us to share the despair of the prophet when he proclaims *“No one speaks the truth”* (Jer. 9.5). The warning of Paul applies today – *“They exchanged the truth of God for a lie...”*.

Our culture is riddled with lies. We even tell lies to our children. In the face of this God is calling us to be decisive – *“Simply let your ‘yes’ be ‘yes’ and your ‘no’, ‘no’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one”* (Matt. 5.37). Do we recognise the devil as being the ‘father of lies’? Do we hear the warning of Jesus – *“He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth for there is no truth in Him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. Yet, because I tell you the truth, you do not believe me!”* (Jn. 8.44)

Today, as ever, the devil undermines truth and is the accuser of the brethren. We need to recall – *“The Lord Almighty is the one you ought to regard as holy, he is the one you ought to fear, he is the one you ought to dread and he will be a sanctuary; but for both houses of Israel he will be a stone who causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall and for the people of Jerusalem he will be a trap and a snare”* (Is. 8.13-15).

God is unmasking the spirit of this age. He is revealing hidden lies but He is also revealing hidden truths. We had a picture of a stone beneath which there were multitudes of crawling creatures. The Light of Christ appeared to split this stone apart and reveal what was hidden.

These words were given – *‘My words of truth go forth into the world. My words of truth set captives free. My words of truth break down strongholds. My words of truth are for you’.* Is our task to throw the enemies of God into confusion? Can we learn from Gideon? Do we have the wisdom of serpents as well as the gentleness of doves?

9. God is calling us to proclaim and affirm our faith

The Gospel is for all people everywhere. It is not private. It is public truth. It is good news. We cannot be silent about it. God is pointing us to people who are spiritually starving and we are being commanded to distribute the food of the Gospel. Jesus is the Bread of Life.

God commands us to strongly affirm that which is good and decisively reject that which is evil. In a corrupt world God calls us to think about those things which are good – *“Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things”* (Phil. 4.8-9)

The command of God is clear and insistent – *“Hate what is evil; cling to what is good”* (Rom. 12.9). We are given a clear admonition: *“Let us not become weary in doing good for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up”*

(Gal. 6.9). *“Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever”* (Ps. 23.6). Our need is to be able to differentiate between the good and the evil – *“Test everything. Hold on to the good”* (1 Thess. 5.21)

Is God leading us into a deeper understanding of the issues of good and evil in private and public life?

Our nation is rejecting the absolutes of the Christian faith. God informs us in scripture of the moral absolutes – good and evil, true and false, right and wrong. The people of God are called to stand publicly for truth and righteousness. We cannot withdraw from the battlefield. Jesus was and is immersed in the affairs of the world.

The Lord appears to be saying to us “I want My people to reveal Me”. There should be no embarrassment as we speak out about Jesus.

Our task is proclamation: We are to speak the truth in love. You are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers” (Acts 3:25). *“Do not treat prophecies with contempt”* (1 Thess 5.20). *“...the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy”* (Rev. 19.10).

10. God is calling us to bold action

“God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline” (2 Tim. 1.7). We are called to be simple and humble but at the same time to be filled with the mighty power of the Holy Spirit. We are weak but God is mighty. We received these words – ‘in the measure that you acknowledge your weakness you will exercise mighty strength’.

If we are the Body of Christ we are a living, moving being. We are to be a living organism and not a rigid organisation.

If we are to be spirit-filled we must embrace order under the direction of God, but we must also be overwhelmed by the water, wind and breath of the Holy Spirit. Water is fluid. Breath is invisible. Fire leaps up and down unpredictably. In our Christian life God does not gently request, He commands. The prophet Elijah stepped forward at the time of sacrifice and prayed *“O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command”*. (1 Kings 18.36)

Elijah boldly asked God to answer him *“Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.”* (1 Kings 18.37)

Elijah’s bold contest on Mount Carmel – opposing false gods and their followers was a witness to the people of God’s supernatural power. It was a call back to worship the true and living God.

We are given the word ‘revelation’. We believe that God wants to open blind eyes – including our own. We sense God ready to make a fresh revelation. We sense God is making us ready for a new move forward - *“Prepare your minds for action”* (1 Peter 13). Our discipline must be to respond to the revelation of God’s will - *“Do not merely listen to the word....do what it says”* (James 1.22).

We received a word – ‘I am calling you to change – Are you for me or against me?’

11. God is calling us to hear His urgent cry

In our day it is frequently assumed that God is detached, neutral and silent about the things happening in society.

We are told that it is humanity which is searching for God, but in fact it is God who is searching for us. He takes the initiative. He has come in Christ. *“Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them”* (Rev. 21.3)

God reminds us of the way in which Jesus cried in prayer to His Father - *“During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.”* (Hebrews 5:7-9)

We observe the direct relationship between Jesus crying out and his submission to God. God calls us, too, to learn obedience through our own suffering and to recognise that He hears our cries when we do submit ourselves to Him. Jesus cried out on other occasions too: About the ninth hour Jesus *cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?”— which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”* (Matthew 27:46) In doing this is he also calling out on our behalf

Jesus quoted directly from Psalm 22 – *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent.”* Jesus would be familiar with this Psalm and may well have spoken it in full on the Cross. We hear His cry not as a cry of failure but of triumph as we see the later verses in this Psalm. *“All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, or dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations. All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him— those who*

cannot keep themselves alive. Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn - for he has done it." These words clearly anticipate the events around the crucifixion of the Messiah and we note that Jesus would have joined in singing Psalms with His disciples - *"When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives."* (Mark 14:26.)

During Passover Jesus could well have sung the processional Psalm 118 with the great declarations *"I shall not die, I shall live, the stone which the builders reject has become the cornerstone"*. *"In my distress I called the Lord, he heard me and brought me relief. With the Lord on my side I fear nothing. What can human beings do to me?"* *"I was pushed hard to make me fall, but the Lord came to my help"*. *"God's right hand is victorious"*.

Some times we may run the risk of hiding the cry of God with our human songs. Amos recognised this. He said *"Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!"* (Amos 5:23-24)

God is not absent – He is present here and now. God is not silent – He is speaking here and now. He is intimately involved in our lives. But His voice is often unheard because our voice is unheard or because we are drowning His voice. Our voice may be unheard, because it is in a clamour of many voices, frequently in conflict with one another. Believers do not speak with one voice and respond to God's call as one because we are wedded to individualism.

God's people have a voice to use and we, like Jesus, must cry out in a loud voice. If we don't, God can cause even the stones to cry out instead of us! The very creation which we deny justice (by allowing deforestation, pollution and much else) cries out and is heard by God! The voice of creation can be in our stead, such as in Luke 19:40 - *"I tell you,"* he replied, *"If they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."* Or, indeed, to condemn us, as in Habakkuk 2:11 – *"The very stones in the walls cry out against you, and the beams in the ceilings echo the complaint."*

We have a great sense of immediate urgency. God is allowing us to smell the foul sulphurous fumes of hell. He is warning us of the deadly serious consequences of idolatry and also of compromise. *"I will destroy your witchcraft and you will no longer cast spells. I will destroy your card images and your sacred stones from among you. You will no longer bow down to the work of your hands"* (Micah 5.12,13).

"I will uproot from you your Asherah poles and demolish your cities. I will take vengeance in anger and wrath upon the nations that have not obeyed me". In spite of the words *"woe to the city of oppressors rebellious and defiled"* (Zephaniah 3.1), the promise is made *"I will leave within you the meek and humble who trust in the name of the Lord. The remnant of Israel will do no wrong; they will speak no lies, nor will deceit be found in their mouths. They will eat and lie down and no will make them afraid."* (Zephaniah 3.13) In spite of all the horrendous consequences of our sin and our corrupt culture, the promise is secure *"do not fear, oh Zion. Do not let your hands hang limp. The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will quiet you with His love. He will rejoice over you with singing"* (Zephaniah 3.16-17).

God tells us that His light is brightest in our darkest night and that His comfort is greatest in our deepest despair. *"When you are broken-hearted, I am close to you"*. (Ps.34.18)

Our fortified cities of mammon, selfishness, greed and corruption are not as secure as we imagine. Sooner or later they will be laid bare – *"Their wealth will be plundered, their houses demolished. They will build houses but not live in them; they will plant vineyards but not drink the wine"* (Zephaniah 1.13)

"Listen! The cry on the day of the Lord will be bitter....that day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness, a day of trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities.." (Zephaniah 1.14-16). God seems to be saying 'I am a jealous God. There is no room for another'. There is no safety in man-made walls. You are not secure. Your defences are weak. You are not aware of the attack which is coming upon you"

The next scripture given was *"I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed: O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with all who love him and obey his commands, we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame – the men of Judah and people of Jerusalem and all Israel, both near and far, in all the countries where you have scattered us because of our unfaithfulness to you. O Lord, we and our kings, our princes and our fathers are covered with shame because we have sinned against you. The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him; we have not obeyed the Lord our God or kept the laws he gave us through his servants the prophets. All Israel has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing to obey you"*. (Daniel 9.4-11).

God wants us to have new life. He wants to soften our hard hearts.

"Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities." (Isaiah 54:2-3). We sense that God would have us gather together people who share the vision of the Kingdom. He would have us move forward together as one people, growing in faith and in numbers.

"Lift up your eyes to the heavens.." (Isaiah 51:6)

We sensed that God is asking us to look at Him and looking at him we will reflect God's radiance. We recalled one great saint who prayed with her eyes open, looking up - arms stretched up to the heavens - radiance reflected. When we look to

God we see the bigger picture.

"I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint. Then the Lord replied - write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald (whoever reads it) may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay" (Habakkuk 2:1-3).

Our role is to open our eyes and also to open the eyes of others to see, including our rulers.

12. God's is calling us to receive His healing

We affirm that God, who is love, is the source of all healing – of body, mind and spirit. We affirm that Jesus is the healer of broken hearts, broken minds, broken bodies, broken families and a broken world. He is the healer of broken and divided churches.

We were given these words: 'Take the bandages off your eyes. Take the bandages off your mind. Take the bandages off your heart. Unwrap them; let me come in.' When we remove our bandages we reveal and identify our wounds. Opening the wounds is part of the process of healing. When we reveal our wounds to God (who is in any case all seeing) we are healed. When we reveal our wounds to one another – including those who have inflicted them upon us – Christ can begin to heal.

Jesus is the wounded healer. It is by His blood that we are healed. After His resurrection he revealed his wounds to His followers. He revealed His wounds to Thomas who in reaching out and touching His Lord was healed of all doubt. We see hope for a dying world when the world sees God in Christ suffering with them and for them.

We seek a painless world, but this is impossible. Pain is an inherent part of our life experience. It is a fundamental ingredient of creation.

The western church has bought into the consumerist ethic of the rest of society. She has covered herself in these "material" bandages and is unaware of her wretched state! Rather than facilitating healing, the bandages are in fact inhibiting it; preventing Jesus from touching her (hence "Unwrap them; let me come in") and causing blindness to the fact that there is a problem beneath the layers (hence the need to take them from our eyes first, and then our minds and hearts).

In our materialistic society, we must also remember the urgent call to the church to serve the poor and to discover Christ in them. We recalled the work of the Saint' Egidio Community and their work amongst the poor, particularly their belief that nothing but the best is good enough for the poor.

"Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent." (Revelation 3:19).

We cannot be healed unless we admit our sickness. The sickness of the church cannot be healed until it admits its low blood count and poor immune system. The disorder and disease of the world is overwhelming but *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."* (2 Corinthians 12:9)

In Christ we are led to deny that time heals. Indeed we see disease getting worse. Similarly we see no healing content in much dialogue and debate. We see an urgent need for the hurts in our world to be revealed and exposed to the healing love, which only comes through Christ.

Our sensitivity to the pain of a hurting world is rooted in the love of Christ. Our calling is to display that love to a wounded world. Love is the core of the Gospel. Jesus said *"This is my command love one another"* (Jn. 15.17). *"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another"* (Jn. 13.35). *"As I have loved you so you must love one another"* (Jn.13.34). *"Remain in my love"* (Jn. 15.9).

13. God is calling us to embrace justice

"Listen to me, my people; hear me, my nation: The law will go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations." (Isaiah 51:4)

Our God is a god of Justice – *"The Lord loves the just"* (Ps. 37.28). *"The King is mighty, he loves justice"* (Ps. 99.4). *"The Lord loves righteousness and justice"* (Ps. 33.5). *"Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you"* (Ps. 89.14). *"The Lord is a god of justice, blessed are all who wait for Him!"* (Is. 30.18). Speaking of the Messiah the prophet said *"I will put my spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations"* (Is. 42.1). In the face of corruption and injustice, the prophet proclaimed *"Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream"* (Amos 6.24).

God pointed us to the many grave injustices in the world today and we sensed His immense anger in the face of these injustices, but also His incredible love and mercy.

Following a tongue with an uncertain interpretation, we were led to these scriptures:

You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, because they could not bear what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned." The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, *"I am trembling with fear."* (Hebrews 12:18-21)

God is angry – about broken families, aborted babies, persecuted Christians – angry enough to destroy us. Let us pray, *"In your wrath, remember mercy."* (Habakkuk 3:2).

We cannot cry out for mercy unless we see the impending destruction for what it is!

We must not merely present evidence, but also feel the ground tremble – and repent. We ought to not only to sound a warning but speak of God's gift of hope.

We are called *"...to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God."* (Isaiah 61:2). Mercifully God's vengeance is for a day; his favour for a year.

We are under grace: *"But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law."* (Galatians 5:18)

God moves mountains and transforms even curses into blessings! We were mindful of the cross that Jesus "to cruel nails surrendered."

We received these words:

"I will beat the anvil with my hammer until the metal is fashioned. I will speak my words repeatedly until you hear me."

There was a sense that the 10 Christian women attending the conference on abortion would be like nails; their words would penetrate people as they hammered home their message: *"Is not my word like fire," declares the Lord, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?"* (Jeremiah 23:29)

We considered the gross injustices in our nation and abroad – the broken families, the murdered babies, the persecuted church...

"Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, but woe to the man through whom they come!" (Matthew 18:7)

"He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

In the face of the darkness of the world we must expect miracles – we must expect the mountain to be removed!

We received these words:

"In the measure that you will draw closely together, I will reveal my ways to you."

We were given a picture of a team of rowers, each working hard and in perfect time with each other. We were called to recognise the countless injustices inflicted upon children and young people, to recognise the ways in which we have let them down and to repent. We sense that in our society we are 'carrying out maintenance work on our houses while Vesuvius is readying to erupt'.

14. God is calling us through water and fire

We had a sense that God's people in this country will go through raging flood waters, be tossed about and pulled under. But we also sensed God's hand is firmly around us and that all will be well.

We were given a picture of a snorkeller, then a scuba diver, then a submersible. We sensed God saying, 'The deeper I take you, the better I will equip you with what you need for the journey.'

"When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple." (2 Chronicles 7:1)

We were drawn to Ezekiel 47.1-12) -the river that flows from the Temple into the desert, bringing life. We noted in particular that the river gets deeper the further along it Ezekiel is led, until it is too deep to walk; he must swim.

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze" (Is.43.2)

15. God is calling us as we stand at the crossroads

We believe this is a decisive time for the Church and the nation. We sensed that these words are significant today:

"Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said 'We will not walk in it.' I appointed watchmen over you and said 'Listen to the sound of the trumpet!' But you said 'We will not listen.' Therefore, hear, O nations; observe, O witnesses, what will happen to

them. Hear, O earth; I am bringing disaster on this people, the fruit of their schemes, because they have not listened to my words". (Jer. 6.16-19)

Because He is love, it is the desire of the God that we should change our ways. "This is what the Lord almighty, the God of Israel, says: Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place" (Jer. 7.3)

God has constantly warned us but we have not listened. "While you were doing all these things, declares the Lord, I spoke to you again and again, but you did not listen: I called you, but you did not answer". (Jer. 7.13) Our nation has disobeyed God and embraced lies. "Therefore say to them, 'This is the nation that has not obeyed the Lord its God or responded to correction. Truth has perished; it has vanished from their lips'" (Jer. 7.28). Our nation does not acknowledge God. "...They go from one sin to another; they do not acknowledge me, declares the Lord" (Jer. 9.3)

We are besieged with false and dangerous teachers. "They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them, declares the Lord" (Jer. 29.9)

Our prayer in response to the challenges facing us is "Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you!" (Is. 64.1-2) We cannot remain silent – all too often God's people are deafeningly silent - "For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her righteousness shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch!" (Is. 62.1)

"Your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt. Your lips have spoken lies, and your tongue mutters wicked things. No-one calls for justice; no-one pleads his case with integrity. They rely on empty arguments and speak lies; they conceive trouble and give birth to evil" (Is. 59.2-4). A decisive collective act of repentance by God's people is needed.

We cannot avoid the conclusion that spiritual warfare will become extremely fierce and public. There is a sense that we are now moving towards a major confrontation with evil forces in our nation and across the western world. These are intent upon the destruction of families and the destruction of children. Demonic forces are being manifest in a range of political initiatives being taken at the United Nations, the European Union and the British Parliament. They are all aimed at the destruction of our Christian inheritance and identity.

We are in no doubt that God's truth and love will triumph – "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." (Rev. 7.10)

God is calling us "To prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" (Eph. 4.11-13).



End Thoughts

We were given these words:
"Human effort produces human results;
human visions will ultimately be blurred;
human skills cannot create or fulfil my purposes.
Your hands themselves can achieve nothing,
but if your hands will become my hands,
your human effort will be divinely blessed."
(our efforts can be naturally supernatural)

We were reminded of the advice given to the Moravians
Unity in essentials
Tolerance in the non-essentials
And love in all things.

A: Additional Words: **A Call for us to rise up**

Today I write to you in great gentleness of heart and in all meekness. I would ask that you read this letter prayerfully with the same spirit in which it is written.

Great Britain, once a missionary powerhouse of the world, now stands at a crossroads. As a nation she has drifted far from the boundaries of her Father's anchorage. A ship at the mercy of strong sea currents, adrift from her moorings.

I write to you because I have a strong conviction that God is saying that together we *can* do something about the desperately sad state of affairs. As God's representative in your church, community or city – you can turn the tide.

The single most urgent message this letter brings is a *Call to Prayer*. I believe that God is calling His leaders irrespective of denomination, age or gender to lead His people back into His presence.

If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

My conviction is that, He wants you to intensify your prayer life and then to inspire and teach His people to do the same. Many private altars are dusty, dry and desolate.

He wants you to challenge the Church of His chosen people to come back to their private altars; repair them and offer again the sacrifices of thanksgiving, supplication and intercession. He wants daily sacrifice from all His people.

Also I perceive that God is saying; there is no lack or want of busy *Martha's* but that the spirit of *Mary* who sat at the feet of Jesus simply to hear is becoming scarce. An endangered species. He wants us to repent and recover our Sabbath.

It is evident to me that He wants us to repent of our busyness and repair the prayer altars of our lives and of our people and congregations. He wants you and I to stay in His presence more to *listen* than to talk. Waiting for His instructions before acting; Faith must precede Intelligence and Stillness before Strategy. The Church of Britain needs to kneel before the Lord in submission so that she does not bow before the enemy in defeat.

This letter is a *Call to Action*. Passionate pursuits birthed in deep contemplation and meditation. Apparently, God wants you to organise regular Prayer meetings that *you* will facilitate yourself despite your schedule. He wants you to join other leaders and Christians in local, regional and city-wide prayer gatherings. He wants prayer included in our priority list.

He is calling all men and women, boys and girls to pray. For whole families; husbands and wives, sons and daughters, aunts and uncles, fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, *to join hands in prayer everywhere*. For people to gather in offices, warehouses, pubs, schools, colleges, court rooms, banks, street corners, restaurants, shops, parks, hotels, homes, houses, apartments and community centres – everywhere.

I believe God has asked me to invite you on his behalf to – "*Come into His presence everyday so that He can make your way prosperous with real eternal success, divine favour and grace*".

May God visit The United Kingdom once again in mercy not judgement. May the United Church rise up in the fullness of the Spirit – infused with the breath of Heaven, the inspired Scriptures and the fellowship of the saints. May the legacy of its Christian forebears not be forsaken or forgotten.

May God bless the United Kingdom.

Footnote:

I have written this letter in great reverence and meekness of soul. It is not a criticism of any ministry, person or stream. It is simply an instruction given to me to deliver to all Christian leaders in the UK. I write this without bias or prejudice. I have struggled with some of its contents, not wanting to offend anyone or attack God-fearing servants of God. If applicable, take it to heart. If not, please discard and simply pray for me. This is not an attack on your gallant and tremendous efforts to establish God's kingdom in your community, sphere and in the hearts of people. It is simply a strong conviction of a message from the heart of God.

'Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself' Philippians 2:3; Ephesians 4:1-6

(Jonathan Oloyede : A letter to Christian Leaders shared with Maranatha – August 2007)

B: Additional Words – **A call to walk together**

We can walk hand in hand as pilgrims
Or scatter and go our separate ways.
We can be an encouragement to one another
Or stumbling blocks bringing sadness and despair.
We can bring strength to each other
Or doubt and confusion.
We can help one another
Or be a hindrance.
We can listen to God
Or we can listen to ourselves.
We can open the doors of our hearts and minds
Or keep them firmly closed.
We can look outwards at the glory of the Lord
Or inward at our selves.
We can look up into the Father's love
Or down at our frail humanity.
We can look forward with hope at what God will do
Or back with pain at a lost past.
When we come together as the Body of Christ
He give us His eyes to see
Not as the world sees
He gives us His ears to hear
Not as the world hears
He places His words upon our hearts
He breathes upon us
He allows his life blood to flow with us
- His sacred Heart to beat within us.
If we truly listen, we will surely hear.
If we wait in patience and faith he will surely come.
If we watch attentively he will surely reveal Himself.
If we pray together as one,
Together we will encounter the one God.
The condition of this encounter
Is his love within us, expressed to Him
To one another and to the whole world.

(Dennis Wrigley : A note to Prayer Groups September 2007)

C: Additional Words – **A Call to change**

I am calling you to change. I am calling you to step out in confidence.
If you act now in the full freedom of my Spirit you will turn aside
from all drifting and doubting and you will move forward boldly and swiftly.
Your commitment to the vision which I have given you is vital.
Do not be afraid. Respond to Me now.
Trust Me now. Love Me now. Serve Me now.
Do not say yes, if you mean no.
At your 'yes', you will be swept along by the love and truth of My Spirit.
I will equip you for the battle.
I will give you the sight to discern those who should walk with you.
I will give you signs and confirmation.
Place your problems before me. Do not wrestle with them.
Encourage one another. Build one another up.
Walk together in love and unity.
Do not separate – be one.
I will show you what you are to be. I will show the way you are to go.
I will bring to you the people and resources you need for the journey ahead.
My anointing will be sufficient.
I call upon you to accept my discipline.
I call upon you to accept the responsibility of all who would seek My Kingdom.
If you truly listen to me and respond to what I am saying, I will re-form you.
I will re-invigorate you.
I will pour out My Spirit upon you and you will receive power
which the enemy will be unable to resist.
My question to you is simple – are you for me or against me?
'Behold I am making all things new'.

(Dennis Wrigley : Words given for Maranatha – December 2007)

D: Additional Words – **A call to Oneness**

If you listen together AS ONE you will hear My words.
If you pray together AS ONE you will see signs, miracles and wonders.
If you praise together AS ONE great spiritual power will be released
If you act together AS ONE in My name walls of obstruction will be demolished.
If you speak together AS ONE My voice will be heard in the land.
Your calling is to listen, pray, praise, act and speak AS ONE.

(Dennis Wrigley : Words given for Christians in the United Kingdom - January 2008)

E: Additional Words – **A call for the young**

My call is for the young,
My precious ones.
Evil forces have been let loose
which are bringing them into corruption,
degradation and death.
These forces would destroy the
loving bonds of motherhood and fatherhood.
They would destroy the families in which
I have ordained
These young ones to live.
Open your eyes to see the destruction
Which is being wrought
The cruelty which is being inflicted
Even upon the unborn young.
My people
Stand against the invading poison
Sound the trumpet of warning
Shout out as one
So that my voice may be heard
Defend the dignity of all human life,
which I have created, against the aggressors.
Do not be tainted with the blood of the innocents.
The stones will cry out if you remain silent.
Do not be despondent or down hearted.
Though the enemy may appear to prosper
The battle and the victory is mine.
He will be laid low.

(Words given to Kairos – March 2008)

F: Additional Words – **Command Me!**

'Oh Holy Spirit, soul of my soul
I adore you.
Enlighten, guide, strengthen and
console me.
Tell me what I ought to do and
command me to do it.
I promise to be submissive in
everything that you permit to
happen to me, only show me
what is your will.'

Cardinal Mercier

(Words passed on by Sister Katherine O'Reilly at a Maranatha Gathering, London – May 2008)

G: Additional Words – **A call to have a servant heart**

1. Assurance
When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior." - Judges 6:12
The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." – Luke 1:28
Do I feel that God affirms me? How has he done this?
2. Task
The LORD turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?" – Judges 6:14
You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. – Luke 1:3
What is my task and what am I to give birth to? Have I been given a specific name for it?
3. Expectancy
"But Lord, "Gideon asked, "how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." – Judges 6:15
"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" – Luke 1:34
How do we see ourselves? Untried and uncertain? So..?
4. Faith
The LORD answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together." – Judges 6:16
The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God." – Luke 1:35
Do I believe this can happen to me?
5. Obedience
When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped God. He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, "Get up! The LORD has given the Midianite camp into your hands." – Judges 7:15
"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." – Luke 1:38
Where does all that leave me?

We were led to this verse: Gideon replied, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me." - Judges 6:17

(Ron Bissett in Scotland – A meditation for Maranatha – January 2008)

Kairos

Scripture distinguishes between two notions of time '*Chronos*' and '*Kairos*'
in Greek – the language of the New Testament.
'*Chronos*' denotes a space of time, a measured duration – clock time.
'*Kairos*' denotes a time ordered by God's significant actions,
an opportune moment, an intervention or a fulfilment.

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