

21/2/2018

Word from Julie Tyzzer following a Leaders, Staff and Trustees Gathering

Dear Leadership Team,

It was an honour to meet with you all last night, as a volunteer I felt very privileged to be included.

First of all, I would like to say a very big thank you to Emily and Mike for leading worship....the presence of God was tangible.

I don't find it easy to share in larger groups but I feel what I saw/felt needs to be shared so please forgive my cowardice in doing it this way.

Last night as we were praying, I had a picture of a big boat, like an ocean liner. It had been on a long journey and it has obviously not been smooth sailing....the boat was a bit bumped, bashed and battered, listing and travelling a bit erratically (wounded). The Leadership Team were the crew who steered the boat and kept it moving and I think we (the church) were below decks, being transported somewhere.

This boat is not an easy one to steer, it is heavy and unwieldy and we (the church) as passengers have been miserable and complaining that the ride is too choppy and difficult and we want to be sailed through calm, smooth waters or go back to shore.

As I thought about the boat I saw into the engine room of this boat. (I have visited the engine room of a steam ship which sailed across Loch Catrine once). It was hot and noisy. There were cogs (Jan's picture?) and wheels, pulleys and belts, pistons pumping and there was oil everywhere...dirty, smelly used oil. It was not pleasant. The folk who manned the engine room were hot, dirty and tired. They threw coal into the fire to keep the boat moving. I noticed that they were cut and bruised as they went about their job, unseen in the bowels of the boat.

I wondered what this image had to do with us.

We (Resound) have had a difficult few years. All though this time our Leadership Team have worked hard to keep us moving, keep us pressing toward God's plan for us as a fellowship.

I think we (the church) have been difficult and unwilling at times and we have not appreciated fully the sweat, toil and tears of the leadership team during this time.

I feel things changed when James joined the team, he was able to keep his hand on the rudder full time and this helps to stop our boat from drifting around and keeps us on course.

I think we (the church) have a choice to make now -
Do we stay below decks, licking our wounds and continue to complain about the journey?

Do we stand on deck at the back of the boat with our binoculars looking back at where we have come from, wishing we could go back there?

Or

Do we come into the steering room, link arms with those that are steering the boat and scan the horizon with them to see where God is at work and take our boat there?

Maybe our boat needs a bit of an overhaul.... and the engine room needs a bit of a service...

Not sure what that means but I think the gears need to be realigned and the engine cleaned up and given lots of new, fresh oil...

Perhaps that is what started last night.

For me I just want to say 'Thank You' to Trudy, Mike, Pete, Paul and Claire for all your hard work over the last few years. I know it has not been easy and I am sorry for those times you have felt under valued and unappreciated. I am sorry that we have been difficult passengers on this journey. I am praying for God's blessing on you and I really hope we (the church) will pull together and support you as you lead us onward.

And James, thank you for joining with us on this journey. I had the phrase 'like a knife through butter' last night while praying for you.

Hebrews 4:12 says: "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart".

I love that you don't mince your words or water down the message. We need that clarity and honesty and we look forward to hearing what else God gives you to say.

With love Julie