



Family Weekend 2009

**at the
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**Subject:
'Encouragement'
With guest speaker
Ian Lithgow**

Hebrews 13:5, 6. The Church of God in Jerusalem was going through troublesome times. Why would these words be encouraging to these believers?

ENCOURAGEMENT FROM EACH OTHER:

Share your experiences of times when encouragement was given to you through whatever means.

We can all be encouragers but how do we understand Romans 12:8?

1 Thes. 2:11 Paul reminds these disciples of the way in which he conducted himself when present with them. 'we exhorted and comforted (encouraged) and charged.' (implored)

Why did Paul say that he imparted himself as a father, why not as their overseer?

His encouragement was to achieve a specific outcome what was it?

'Encourage the fainthearted' (1Thes. 5:14) carries the thought of 'smallness of spirit' and feeling despondent. How would you encourage a fellow disciple who exhibited faintheartedness?

Moses is commanded by God to encourage Joshua in the aspect of leadership Deut.1:38.

How do we encourage disciples to take up responsibilities in youth work, public speaking, running social groups and organising a host of other activities relating to the work of the assembly?

OUTCOMES:

What impact has a word of encouragement made on your life?

Was it life changing?

The person who encouraged you, did they ever know what it meant to you?

Solomon in one of his proverbs noted that 'A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.' (Prov. 25:11). If encouragement is God directed then the outcome will be to His glory and the blessing of both giver and recipient.

Friday

- 7.30 Hot buffet (cold buffet available for latecomers after 8.30 pm if ordered)
- 8.45 Welcome
- 9.00 Singing
- 9.20 How good a listener are you? - Ian Lithgow
- 9.50 Refreshments

Saturday

- 8.15 Prayer
- 8.45 Breakfast
- 9.45 Introduction to the study – Ian Lithgow
- 10.00 PHSS singing
- 10.20 Study /discussion. Encouragement from the Lord, each other and outcomes. Discussion based on study sheet.
It is planned to have a group for 20s, one for teens, one for children 5 - 12 and several senior groups. These depend on the number attending in each age group. We also hope to organise a crèche, if it is needed.
- 11.20 Refreshment break
- 11.50 Study continued to 12.45. Walk for young children
- 1.15 Lunch
- 2.30 Football led by Dave Udoh. Walk led by Colin Edis.

Other things for the afternoon:

- Stanwick Lakes Country Park: beautiful walks around the lake and adventure assault course— 20 mins. walk
- Visit Oundle - interesting little town with nice tea room on the Market Place
- Cycle tracks. You can bring your own mountain bike if you would like to
- See info in Reception area on activities in the surrounding area
Or just sit around and talk!

- 5.30 Dinner
- 6.30 New churches in the Philippines
- 7.00 Sports for some, video for others
- 7.30 Singing

- 8.00 Care Part 1 Care through personal relationships (Luke 10:34-37; 1 Cor. 12:25). - Ian Lithgow
- 8.30 Refreshments, followed by camp fire, weather permitting

Sunday

- 8.00 Breakfast. Afterwards, vacate rooms
- 9.00 Leave for Remembrance in Leicester
- 1.15 Lunch
- 2.15 Quiz
- 2.45 Singing
- 3.15 Care Part 2. Care through shepherding (1 Pet. 5:1-7) - Ian Lithgow
- 4.00 Tea
- 5.00 Depart

ENCOURAGEMENT

“Correction does much, but encouragement does more”

“One word or a pleasing smile is often enough to raise up a saddened and wounded soul”

“There is nothing better than the encouragement of a good friend”

Recently I read the following comment. ‘Words fitly spoken are of such great value to struggling saints. With a few well chosen words, we are able to bring comfort to those who are disheartened or disillusioned. This gift of encouragement seems to be sorely lacking today’.

The great thing about encouragement is that it can spring from a desire to help an individual in a given situation which makes the individual aware of the interest of others. Often this interest brings comfort to the person who may be struggling to cope with their own feelings and perceived inadequacies.

The eminent psychologist Abraham Maslow theorized that we all need long range goals to utilize innate abilities which promote growth instead of stagnation. Maslow is famous for formulating a table which he called the ‘hierarchy of needs.’ He postulated that every human being required fundamental needs to be met which enabled the individual to maintain their sense of wellbeing. One of the many needs he proposed was the need to experience self

esteem and the esteem of others. The need to feel confident, competent and useful.

We need to be extremely cautious when we speak about 'confidence and self esteem.' But there is no doubt that God directed encouragement strengthens and engenders a sense of confidence to achieve a successful outcome.

There is nothing like encouragement to stimulate flagging spirits, it's like water to a plant that's suffering drought or receiving good news when you expected bad. The encourager is one who is engaged in a service that will do more for an individual than many sermons.

Encouragement within our assemblies needs to be experienced within a wide spectrum of situations such as relationships, activities and responsibilities. These are areas in which encouragement can be given to convey our interest and help. It's not a ministry that is the preserve of the few within the church but is an area in which the caring saint is sensitive to the needs of others.

When was the last time you were encouraged? Have you recently sought to encourage someone? How do you encourage? Is it verbally or the reassuring touch on someone's arm or shoulder? Have you felt the need to invite the person/s to your home for a time together? Perhaps in our discussion some of these questions will be answered.

STUDY PAPER: ENCOURAGEMENT

ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE LORD:

In which way have you experienced encouragement from the Lord?

"But I have prayed for you" Luke 22:32. In which way can we draw encouragement from what the Lord said to Peter?

"My grace is sufficient for you." I take pleasure in infirmities, reproaches, needs, persecutions distresses. 2 Cor. 12: 9, 10. How can we make this scripture 'work' for us?

Give attention to reading, exhortation (encouragement) teaching. 1Tim. 4:13. Where is the encouragement to be drawn from?

How to get there



From North West, Birmingham, Leicester

A14, turn right onto A6 Burton Latimer bypass. At Irthlingborough turn left onto Addington Road. Frontier's entrance is on the right just after the 'Crow's nest' pub.

From North East, East

Leave A1 at A605, then A45, towards Northampton. Turn right at A6 towards Kettering. Turn right into Addington Road (not at a roundabout) then as above.

From South

Leave M1 at junction 14 onto A509 towards Wellingborough. At Little Ilchester, just before Wellingborough, turn right onto A45. At A6 turn left, then at Irthlingborough right into Addington Rd. as above.

Alternatively, go up M11 or A1 to A14, then left towards Northampton and as from east.

Post Code for Sat Nav: NN9 5UH