

Cell Notes Sept 27th 2009

Maybe you were listening to Joseph on the Sept 13th or Elly and Pat on the 20th (both sermons are on St.Simon's website) and feeling thoroughly INADEQUATE.

'I know I should share my faith, but I just don't have it in me. I am not gifted in that area / don't feel that burning inside me / don't know how to start / to be honest, I'm scared' or whatever

Do not be discouraged!

It is hardly surprising if you feel inadequate. Read **Matt 5. 43 - 48** The first thing Jesus asks us to do is not to evangelize, but to learn to 'love'! There are BARRIERS to cross, and, guess what... a JOURNEY to travel

1. to lose our fear
2. to relax and learn to trust Jesus in all sorts of situations
3. to identify the barriers we unwittingly put up
4. to grow in understanding of others. How well do I know them? What barriers do they have to Jesus and to us? How to build bridges? How to help them to feel secure with us?
5. to make ourselves vulnerable by learning to come out from behind our barriers so that we can be truly present and open to others. This becomes easier for us as our security in Jesus deepens
6. how to share Jesus and his gospel in appropriate and natural ways. This takes time and practice.
7. how to let the Holy Spirit lead us as relationships build

This list is oddly comforting! It is hardly surprising we feel inadequate. We can see now why Jesus took three years to prepare a small group of disciples to carry on his work! It was this preparation that that prepared the way for the explosion that is described in Acts!

Matt is proposing, first a relaunch of small groups with a clearer focus on preparation to do Jesus' work... 'discipleship', and second, gathering a small group to look specifically at how we do 'Local Mission', how we get alongside the rich variety of people who live in our part of the city...including the ideas we have been sharing for 'Open House'.

He will be talking about this with the Cell Leaders and at the October 1st PCC

Now think how desperately this world needs Jesus. Millions are perishing because they need the heart transplant that only Jesus can give.

Is this the journey we need to take? Are we ready to set off?