

Saturday 1st September 2007

The September meeting focused on the river of life in Ezekiel 47, and we were all blessed by the constant stream of worship provided by the musicians and singers, which kept us in the flow of prayer throughout the meeting, even while listening to people speaking. Ruth felt that our singing at the beginning was like the river of healing. God's kingdom is advancing, and bringing life back into society. As we sing healing flows in the streets of our city.

Sue shared some revelation from the walk around the city centre following the July meeting. She saw that the city had horrible foundations, and said to God, 'I've had enough of this mess, what is your strategy?' Then she saw a river which flowed down into the city and covered everything. All the mess was carried away by the river, but the river itself was not contaminated; it was an unchanging, pure, golden river. The river flows from the throne of God, and as we enthrone God on our praise the river flows.

Richard taught from Ezekiel 47. Unlike the Jordan, which flows into the Dead Sea and doesn't make it live, the river in Ezekiel's vision flows from the temple, reaches the sea, and the reverse happens. This is a New Testament image; an image of what Jesus came to do. When Jesus touched the leper he should have been contaminated, but the reverse happened. Jesus' life flowed into the leper, and he was healed. The river was full of fish, and we need to ask, are we getting more 'fish' in our churches? The water made the trees bear fruit, and we need to stop trying to engage on a head-knowledge level with people, and get to spirit-to-spirit meetings. Finally, God is saying, "listen to those who tell you that the river will flow through praise. Bless those who seek to reach out because they sow many seeds. But release the river through worship from the temple to bring many people back to me."

Ruth confirmed this by encouraging us to release worship in the area of our hearts, and to expect to see a difference within days.

During the praise that followed the sword was lifted over the city, and some held the arms of those holding the sword as we declared 'how great is our God!' High praise gave way to a time of quiet as we waited on God. There was a sense that there had been a victory in the heavenlies, and that now it was time to sit quietly and 'have a meal' with the Lord. We shared fellowship, prayer and bread and wine in groups.

At the end of the meeting various words and thoughts were shared:

- The river in Ezekiel is singular, one river not many. We must remember that we are one body of Christ, not many.
- John 4 – the well springs up 'in you'. We don't need to struggle with buckets; we need to let the river well up in us and overflow.
- A memory of seeing a log-jam on a river, where one side was flowing fast and the other was stuck. In praise we release the log-jams in our lives so that the river can flow freely.
- Joshua 1 – everywhere the river flows shall be your territory.