

# Notts Prayer Network

## **The Journey and the Vision**

The journey starts in the early part of 1960. Over a period of time, the Lord revealed to Ruth Bussell His plans for 'preparing the way of the Lord' through prayer, in order for His purposes to be established in the city and county towns of Nottingham. He revealed His intention to establish this city as a 'City of God' (see Jeremiah 33:9-10) and a 'house of prayer for all nations' (Isaiah 56:7).

This was unheard of language, the present wealth of books and other materials on taking our cities for God and His plans to transform our cities and nations had not yet been written. Many years later we learned that God had been speaking similar things to a number of people, and it has been a joy to share and to travel this journey together.

In 1978, the Lord gave Ruth an aerial vision of Nottingham, with dark clouds covering it and a war going on. God revealed that He was calling an army of pray-ers together, from different church denominations, to begin to take the land. From the beginning He made clear that we were not to focus on the enemy and what he was doing as he had already been defeated by the Lord at the Cross. We were to concentrate on the Lord; our weapons being Praise, the Word of God, the Name of Jesus and the Blood of Jesus. As an initially small group of people we worshipped the Lord together and He began to share His strategy with us.

## ***Divide the Land into seven parts***

God showed that firstly the land should be divided into seven parts, these being:

- Law and Order
- Local Government/Politics
- Education
- Church
- Health and Social Services
- Media and Business
- Commerce

The Lord showed that these areas of the life of the city and county were wrapped around with a ribbon with 'Freemasonry' written on it and that we were to cut the ribbon before we could release these areas. The weapon we used to 'cut' the ribbon was 'high praise'. God showed us from scripture the principle that as we focus on Him in praise He is the one who fights on our behalf, causes chains to fall off and bonds to be loosed. We spent the next two years on an amazing journey with the Lord which culminated with a nationwide focus on Freemasonry, with bodies such as the Church of England and the Police and Judiciary saying that Freemasonry was not compatible with being a member of these bodies or organisations. We later discovered that many other Christians across the UK had been praying in this area also.

For many years, 'task forces' or task groups of people met regularly to pray over each of these areas partnering with people who worked in these places.

## ***Praying at the Gates of the City***

Historically, in common with many other cities, Nottingham had been enclosed by walls with high gates as the points of entrance. Although the actual gates and walls no longer exist in any substantial way we believed God was showing us the significance of the spiritual 'gates' of the city, North, South, East and West and that He wanted to establish Gatekeepers (spiritual leadership) and Watchmen (pray-ers) at each of the gates of the city. A watchman is someone who watches and prays and is vigilant for the life of the city, from their position on the walls they can see inside and outside the city. The gatekeepers are elders and leaders of a city who have the authority to open or close the gates as alerted by the watchmen. So, they work hand

in hand to guard and protect the city. Through research and prayer God revealed the characteristics and spiritual significance of each of the gates and prayer was established in churches located at these gates.

### **All Kinds of Prayer**

Prayer took place in many ways through Prayer Breakfasts and different prayer support teams at the city gates, prayer walks, prayer clocks, prayer walls, and the Neighbourhood Prayer Watch. As well as people praying in their local church and own homes. During this time people from around the county were meeting together and a relational prayer network began to develop.

We 'gave' this city to the Lord in January 2000 in a millennium celebration in the Market Square, with about 6,000 people, including officials of both church and city.

In the Easter of that year we raised a flag on the royal standard in the Castle grounds, which said 'Jesus is Lord, This is His City'. We were then discovered the significance of this as history tells us it was important for the Kings of England to take Nottingham castle for whoever raised the Royal flag in Nottingham ruled the Nation. We were preparing the way for the King of Kings to rule our Nation.

The Lord then told us He would set up His governments. Over the years we have seen many people raised up to serve our city in all walks of life but significantly to work in the areas of homelessness, prostitution and in the drug scene. God has many people in this city carrying His presence.

Over a period of time we received a number of pictures and visions that portrayed a man on a white horse in full kingly regalia. Behind Him were many other horses. He was looking back with His hand up seeming to indicate it was not time to move. We could see that He was also waiting for people to mount their horses. Later as He turned to look still with His hand up all the horses seemed to have riders. He then lifted His hand and signalled it was time to go forward.

## **The Present Day: Trumpet Call to Pray**

### **Intimacy, Identity and Authority**

In January 2003 we began a journey that was to be both challenging and exciting. We believed God was saying that we had been preparing the way of the Lord; we had removed the stones and pebbles but that now we had come to the boulders. He showed us that He was going to remove the boulders Himself. It was going to be a completely new stage on our journey and very different, a new level. It was going to be like the return of the Ark of the Covenant in King David's time and we had to take a step at a time, bringing a sacrifice. We had to be prepared for this new level and God showed us how. God gave us a very strong promise from Zechariah 2 and 3 that during this time He himself would be a 'wall of fire around us' and 'the Glory within'.

The first thing we had to do was to lay down all the past ways of doing things. The things we had built up over many years were to be laid down in readiness for the next part of the journey. By the end of 2004 the prayer breakfasts which had been taking place for many years were laid down. What remained were the relationships that had been established between the people who were praying for the county.

As the time of preparation progressed we became aware that the Lord was sounding the trumpet, calling us to Himself. Since January 2005 we have met together in response to the sound of the trumpet.

In 2007, we felt that God was commissioning a team to focus on the city of Nottingham and He gave us Jeremiah 1:10 as our foundational scripture. The 'Pray for City' team were prayed over during a Trumpet Call meeting at St Mary's and were set aside for this purpose.

See *Pray for the City* page: <http://www.prayer-network.org.uk/pray.php>