

## **Church Away Day – Stepping up Review**

### **Re-cap**

Back in January of this year I spoke about Stepping Up and shared that I felt God was calling us as Freshwaters and as individuals that it is time to step up.

Just to remind you of a few of the key points I made.

It's very easy when the challenge's come for us to back off / withdraw but that is the very time we need to keep going / moving forward in the things God has called us to.

I believe time is an issue for many of us. I know it is for myself. I heard this phrase mentioned recently, 'If we think we don't have time to do something, we won't, If we think we will have time, then we normally do have time'. Sometimes we are very busy and we do have to say no to somethings and that's OK, but what I am seeking to do is challenge the way we think and how we respond. If we have time issues, it's good to pray and ask God to be Lord of our time.

Thinking about when people join us who have only recently given their lives to Christ, we are going to need to help them, disciple them and equip them for the Christian life. Ron can't do it all, especially if we had say 50 new Christians join us in a few months.

I'm going to add that most of us here have been Christians for a long time, we have got loads to give new Christians in terms of bible knowledge, Christian living and prayer. We need to believe that God can use us and we can make a difference to others lives.

At the end of what I shared, I gave opportunity for people to respond and we had the step ladders.

One step = committing to seeking God about whether you should be moving into something he has called you to.

Two steps = you have already heard from God and need to respond in action.

### **So where are we at now? As individuals and as a church.**

I have seem glimpses of individuals stepping up. – I'm sure they are other examples.

E.G. Different people leading fellowship groups.  
Paul hosting Fellowship Group and going to the One Event.  
Bill and Barbara being Healing Rooms Directors

As a church

E.G The engagement in worship on Sunday

There are more people involved at corporate prayer times through the fellowship groups

More social activities – Freshwalkers / Film Club

### **Phil Thorne shared the other week**

'It's so important to be connected relationally with a group of people who will encourage you and help you and challenge you. The Christian life is a team sport. It's a group effort. It's a one-another ministry, it's a unity community.'

But don't miss this: **Christ has chosen to work in your life through others!** The church family are His body to you – His voice, His hands, His feet, His ears. Other people are to be "Jesus with skin on" to you. So, if you want to be unshakable, **put yourself in environments where Jesus helps you through others.** You count on Christ, but you also count on Him through others.

I think this is an important area where we need to continue to step up in – not neglecting to meet together. Each of us has an important role to play in the life of Freshwaters. When we meet together we encourage one another, build each other up.

When we are on our own we can easily become discouraged. So when you've not had a good at work and its fellowship group in the evening and you don't feel like going – that's the time for pushing through and going because others in the body can encourage you. Its choosing to put ourselves in God's way we can he can minister to us through others. It can be a natural response – our body leads instead of our Spirit. You also don't know how God wants to use you to bless others.

It's not just about meetings that are laid on by the church, you can meet together informally at other times. Inviting people around for a meal, going out for coffee.

So keep going, don't be discouraged and watch and see what God can do through you as you' step up' into all he has called you to do.