

## **31 OCTOBER 2010 – EVENING SERVICE – 18:00h**

### **Joining a Revolution: The local church**

I am absolutely passionate about the local church in the local community. Recently went to Johannesburg to visit about 15 churches to motivate them to get involved in their community.

#### **Joining the Kingdom cause:**

One of the churches I met with runs a project called the “ORANGE REVOLUTION” they go out every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in their community, dressed in Orange and work on the roads, clean the parks, etc. They making a stand in their community. They got the concept from a Revolution in the Ukraine where the whole nation stood up for what they believed was wrong in their government and eventually brought about change and the opposition won.

I get so excited with this kind of stuff because I know that as a church we can do the same.

When you sign up with a revolution or movement you buy into their cause!

So as Christians we might not have joined a cause or a movement BUT we did sign up to follow Jesus.....right? So whatever Jesus stands for, if we His followers then we stand for what he stands for right? Because when we follow someone or join a movement or cause we adopt their mission statement.

So in Mark 8 verse 34 and 35 Jesus says:

IF ANY OF YOU WANTS TO BE MY FOLLOWER, YOU MUST PUT ASIDE YOUR SELFISH AMBITION,  
SHOULDER YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME

IF YOU TRY TO KEEP YOUR LIFE FOR YOURSELF, YOU WILL LOSE IT. BUT IF YOU GIVE UP YOUR LIFE FOR  
MY SAKE AND FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOOD NEWS YOU WILL FIND TRUE LIFE!

What a mission statement!

Did you see this in the fine print when you signed up to follow Jesus?

I think as Christians we need to know what we signed up for, because if we are going to be true followers of Jesus then we need to stand for the things He did and fight for the things He fought for.

I do believe that the early Christians fully understood this! Some literally gave up their lives. In the Roman era Christians were fed to the lions, dismembered, tortured etc, You had to be pretty sure that this is religion you wanted to follow.

I believe that we sign up for Christianity because we are seeking a Saviour and that's where most of us start, but we also need to seek His Kingdom too

For many Christians we get saved and try stay out of as much trouble as possible until we get into heaven and then we safe. Shoo made it!

### **What are the core values of Christianity?**

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS ROOTED IN SERVICE AND LOVE!

And if there is one verse that can wrap up what Jesus wants from us to join his Movement to have a relationship with him its:

MATTHEW 22 VERSES 37 TO 40:

YOU MUST LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, ALL YOUR SOUL AND ALL YOU'RE MIND. A SECOND IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT: LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF. THE ENTIRE LAW AND ALL THE DEMAINS OF THE PROPHETS ARE BASED ON THESE TWO COMMANDMENTS.

## What keeps u from joining the fight for the Kingdom?

What keeps us at just being saved for ourselves and not picking up our arms and fighting for the Kingdom?

- **Fear:**
- Don't allow your fears to keep you from serving God. My fear and your fear might be totally different. For some it might be real fear of going into an informal settlement, it might be fear of a husband or wife not giving their blessing for you to do this work. It might be fear of commitment, it might be fear of the unknown.
- First try before you allow your fears to keep you from at least trying.
- **I am not called:** Rubbish! We are all called!
- It's not just your leaders and Elders who have been called to Grow the Kingdom.....we all have
- There are just different entry levels
- You may be packing chairs before a service on a Sunday.....it's part of building the Kingdom
- Satan might be telling you Who the heck do you think you are thinking you can change the world
- He tells me that on a regular basis.....who do you think you are? Thinking you can change your community? You just a bored housewife with nothing better to do. Go get a real job!
- It's at that stage I normally land up crying on my Pastors desk.....he tells me I am insecure and need to pull myself together.
  
- Throughout the Bible God used people who were not perfect or ready

- Abraham, gave his wife away twice because he was afraid
- Moses begged God to use someone else because he was insecure about public speaking.....imagine where the Israelites would be now if he believed he was not called?
- I bet Joseph was a brat! I bet he offended his brothers .....I am daddies favourite.....he loves more.....I dreamt that you land up serving me
- Ruth was a foreigner
- Ester. Oh my word if anyone could have been insecure it would have been Ester. I am just a little Jewish orphan girl.....what will the King see in me. She landed up saving the Jewish nation!
- The Bible is full of people that God used who probably thought they were not called.
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- You might be packing chairs on a Sunday, or serving toasted sandwiches in the coffee bar .thinking am I really serving the Kingdom?
- Yes you are!
- We have met the most incredible people in Du Noon who take care of disabled children, barely being able to put food on their own table, they share what they have with others.
- The other day we had a 10 year old girl that was raped. There is a lady in that community, poor, struggling to make ends meet, continually fighting with the druggies to leave the kids alone. She apparently kicks down doors to remove kids from homes where she knows the parents/families are taking drugs
- One of our ladies from Isidima was being beaten by her boyfriend, we got her out of DuNoon and away from him. Lucy actually sat him down and read him the riot act.
- Dedicating their lives to helping. Imagine if they believed they were not called? Or they could not make a difference?
- You know how many times people have told me I AM JUST NOT A COMPASSIONATE PERSON? Well would you be surprised if I told you that I am not the most compassionate person in the church?

- I have to pray regularly for compassion
  
- **Time:**
  
- If this generation was to be labelled it would probably be the generation that was too busy to get much done
  
- Satan has tapped into this busy generation and keeps us busy with good intentions, but we too busy to get around to actually doing them
  
- How many of us today get up in the morning and its Gym, work, family, growing God's kingdom?
  
- If we are Jesus followers, part of His Revolution, His movement, then surely this should be a priority in our lives
  
- Surely everyday when we get up, every part of our planning for the month and for the year should include.....What am I doing for the Local church today, this month, this year?
  
- It's a case of When I get time, I will serve! Problem is if you don't make the time, its never going to happen
  
- If you join the gym, you have to make an effort to find time in your day, actually pack your gym bag, get into the car and drive there.
  
- It's because you make it a priority if your life
  
- What effort are you making to grow the Church?
  
- Will you make it a priority in your life?
  
- **HOW TO SIGN UP**
  
- Well first you need to make sure you know the conditions....Read the word of God
  
- Are you a Jesus follower and are you committed to seeing His Church grow?

- **THE LOCAL CHURCH:**
- A question we asked all the churches we visited when in Johannesburg was: As a church what legacy do you want to leave behind
- If your Pastor got up one Monday morning and announced “thats it! I have had enough of ministry! I am closing down the church.....shutting the doors
- Would our community miss us?
- Would we have the community banging on the church doors begging us to come back because of the influence we have?
- One of my personal motivation reasons for doing what I do is Leaving a legacy
- One day I would like to see my kids telling my grandchildren.....Your granny helped put up the school, or your granny raised funds to build a community centre.....I want to leave a legacy
- **You do know that the Church is a way to leave a legacy for Christianity for our generation**
- God does not have a plan B! We are it!
- The reason why I am so passionate about what we do at SALT is because I get to see Gods plan at work
- Our Isidima project.....we see women totally broken, lost all hope. You can see it in their eyes. Its just dead!
- They tell us their story and then we help them where we can.....some just start weeping
- Just the relief that someone cares.....someone is willing to listen.....
- The change we have seen in those kids at Joe Slovo crèche/school is unbelievable

By giving them awesome facilities a new playground, qualified teachers, they see it has we have placed value on them, they are a somebody .**In this small book written by Bono from U2 he says that he never really liked hanging around Christians.....found us superficial, we made him uncomfortable and**

nervous. And over the years his been quite vocal about what he feels churches should be doing about Social Justice.

In his book he now says: When churches started demonstrating on debt governments listened. When churches started petitioning and even lobbying on AIDS and Global health.....governments listened and acted.

His talking about this generation.....this generation sitting right here....right now!

- Besides SALT and the projects you just saw we have 15 other community projects being run weekly or every 2<sup>nd</sup> week
- Anything from working with the elderly to praying for our community  
**Community at a large**
- Can you imagine if every Christian in a community (we have about 1400 members alone) joined the local Ratepayers Association, Every school PTA, Every School Forum, Police Forum, Neighbourhood watch? What a difference we would see in the community.
- Sandra my assistant mentioned to me that a new adult shop opened in Table View, how does this happen? Easy! There is no one to fighting it! There were no Christians in the meeting.
- Eleanor from Home of Hope is challenged about same sex marriages wanting to foster or adopt kids.....the law says she can't say no but where are all the Christians Pauline she asks me.....they don't agree with it but they not prepared to take the children themselves!
- Child prostitution is so rife in our own community, right here on the beachfront. Colleen from TLC fights the battle alone! Imagine if on a Friday night a couple of hundred Christians just hung around the parking area.....
- How many bad ungodly decisions must be made in our community before we are willing to stand up as the Bride of Christ and say NO MORE! This is not what we want for our families, this is not what we want for our community.
- Maybe I am naive, and a bit of a dreamer, but I do believe that we can change the face of this community.....if we made it a priority!

- Last year a group of teens went to Mongu in Zambia to help set up a worship team at Hope Church
- They came back changed.....I know this because my son was one of them
- A few of them wanted to go again now in June/July school holidays
- We discussed it and we decided lets rather organize a big trip for next year and take a whole bunch of teens
- This did not stop them, they piled into a Corsa Bakkie, a Yaris and a Jetta, drove 3 days there, 3 days back. Matt Gillet is 6ft8 inches tall. He sat with his knees under his chin for 6 days!
- They went because they knew they would add value to the Church, here in Table view and in Mongu.....I think they got it hey?
- It's this kind of determination that will bring change to a community, to a nation to a world!

**CLOSING:**

I want to challenge you tonight to go read the fine print again.....Go see what you signed up for. Get passionate again about serving our community. Get passionate about the Church in our community.....

And most of all to allow God to use you because there is still so much to be done.