

## Community Group Notes from Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July

“In”

### Perhaps the Lord – Building Communication Peter Vincent (1 Samuel 14:1-23)

#### Group Questions:

1. 1 Samuel 14 describes different groups of people with different types of response to the Israelite's situation (Jonathon himself, his armour bearer, Saul and the army, those who had gone over to the Philistines, those who had hidden away in the hills.) Which character or group do you most easily identify with at the moment with regard to this potential building opportunity? Discuss why you feel as you do.
2. Pray together for each other as appropriate and for the overall situation with this building – that God will clearly reveal His will and do all He wants to do in us.

#### Building Progress Report

##### **Summary of Message:**

What began with “Perhaps the Lord” ended with a miraculous victory for Jonathon and the Israelite army. Jonathon took a huge risk to his own safety and a huge step of faith by stepping out to see whether God would be with him and give him victory against the Philistines. God did act on his behalf and he saw miraculous victory.

How does this apply to us? Background: Peter's “God dreams” in 1994 & 2008 of a congregation of 900 in the Community Church.

Terah set out from Ur to go to Canaan but settled in Harran whereas Abraham hearing the call of God set out from Harran and pressed on into the Promised Land in Canaan.

God is calling us as a church not to settle in the Harran of the Charis Centre, half way to the fulfilment of God's promise, but rather to press on into all that He has spoken to us about.

I have been praying that God will reserve for Himself the best location in town where He can display His splendour through a glorious church.

An opportunity has come up to buy and refurbish the garage site between the station and London Road at a cost of £5 Million+ this will be financed through a combination of selling the Charis Centre, an affordable mortgage of less than £1 Million, and a the majority being financed with over £3 Million in cash over a 2½ - 3 year period. This is a definite opportunity in that we have a preliminary agreement on the price, all subject to our response as a church, planning consent, the contract, Trustees formal legal approval.

Elders & Trustees position is twofold – 1. It's an ideal site and an ideal location 2. We cannot afford it without a miracle.

Three reasons for speaking about this today.

First reason – God has spoken to me clearly this week through the passage in 1 Samuel 14 about Jonathon and his armour bearer going up to see if the Lord will help him. This is an opportunity before us, let's go up and see what God will do. NB Jonathon did not know whether or not God would give him success until he went up – and nor do we.

Second reason – a fantastic location. This would answer the prayer “Lord reserve for yourself the best place” and take us “out of the side street into the main road”.

Third reason – it fulfils the dreams. The architects report on what would be the main hall gives a capacity of 900 in exactly the shape that I saw in the dream.

##### **Conclusions**

This opportunity is before us, let's go up and see what God will do. It has to be miraculous and it would involve sacrifice. The sacrifice itself would be miraculous as a result of God's work in us.

A cash requirement – just over £1 Million before the end of this year and a further £1 Million+ in 2010 and again in 2011. There would need to be cash given or firmly pledged to a total of over £3 Million by this September in order for the contract to be signed. This is not impossible for God!

Where do we go from here?

##### 1. Let's Pray

- a. Ask God to work in our hearts – our reactions now will vary and some will have more faith than others. This is to be expected. As Abraham took everybody he had acquired in Harran with him to Canaan so our heart is to take everyone who has joined us at the Charis Centre and is now part of the church with us on this journey to a new home.

- b. Ask God to speak to us.
  - c. Ask God to use us as a channel of funds “if you give it to me I’ll pass it on”
2. Think – Talk, constant consult. NB. Consultation nights with Peter and Colin this Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July both at 8pm in the Charis Centre. Propose business ideas for these premises.
3. View the site – dates to be published.

Prepare for a pledge offering on 13<sup>th</sup> September. This needs to be primarily lump sums but also extra monthly giving over 3 years. NB. Please take professional advice wherever appropriate before making financial commitments. Let’s see what God will do.

### “Out”

I want to host a BIG Alpha on a Tuesday night starting at the end of September so now is the time to get your friends and family meeting your Community Group – especially those you would like to bring with you to the Alpha Course. BBQ’s, Picnics, Days Out do whatever you can to get your friends in your community. I am really happy for Community Groups to have a table at the Alpha with your friends – you need to make sure the balance is right so there should be one guest for every Christian. I know it sounds harsh but too many Christians on Alpha just do not work.

If you are part of the new Year 12+13 Community Group maybe you would like to lead a table with some of your friends at the next Alpha – think about it and chat to me!

Any great or ideas or if you want to be involved in Alpha next term drop me a mail [Melanie@thecommunitychurch.org.uk](mailto:Melanie@thecommunitychurch.org.uk) or text me 07929791382

### Events Coming Up...

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July - **Group Leaders & Coaches Meeting** 7:45 @ The Charis Centre

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July – **New Building Consultation Evening** 8:00 @ The Charis Centre

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July – **New Building Consultation Evening** 8:00 @ The Charis Centre

### This Sunday...

Peter Vincent will be continuing our journey through the gospel of Mark