

## **Springs in the Desert**

### **Mission, Communion, Community**

Bromley Parish Church weekend at Pilgrim Hall September 2005

[www.formation.org.uk](http://www.formation.org.uk)

For those of you who were unable to attend and those who would like to revisit what they heard, Viv and Sheila Thomas have kindly made their session notes available.

#### **Spring Three: Community Ephesians 4:1-13**

Reading: 1 Chronicles 11

#### **David and his friends**

Everything begins in a mess. That's what we learn about David. There are no totally new beginnings.

How was this friendship built?

There are crucial elements to the team

##### 1) The leader

- God was with him
- Similar roots to his people
- Shared experience
- They knew he was led

They had seen the hand of God on him, particularly in the Goliath encounter of 1 Sam 17.

These people did not gather around ideas or doctrine they gathered around David, Yahweh and their history.

##### 2) The people

- Listened with devotion
- Well developed skill
- Courage to follow

##### 3) The culture

- Atmosphere of honour
- Understanding of language

Community is our third spring leading to a stream of life.

#### **Conclusion**

The extent to which your circles overlap will be the extent to which we are following Jesus. It will also indicate what we are as a church and our spiritual health.

#### **Group Questions:**

- 1) What are the ways you can participate in building the community of your church?
- 2) Is there anything you need to do, say or repent of so that adequate communal life can be developed in your church?