

Springs in the Desert

Mission, Communion, Community

Bromley Parish Church weekend at Pilgrim Hall September 2005

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 One: Mission Ephesians 3:1-13

Reading: Genesis 12:1-3, Matt 28:16-20

1) God's people are intended to be mobile

Gen 12:1 – 'Leave your country'

Matt 28:19 – 'Therefore go and make disciples....'

2) We are to teach and bless the nations

Gen 12:3 – 'I will bless those who bless you ...all the people of the earth will be blessed through you.'

Matt 28:20 – 'teach them to obey'

To bless and teach you have to be amongst the peoples of the world.

3) We are to Obey

Both Gen 12 and Matt 28 are invitations given by God. They are invitations to obey. Our glory is not in our ability but in our submission.

This is God's agenda. He sets up the frame of reference. Our job is to submit to his agenda and see where it leads.

4) We need this vision to grow healthy Christian lives

Gen 12:2 '...make you a great nation.' God creates them as they go.

Matt 28:20 'I am with you always'. The ever-present knowledge of the presence of God is with them as they follow.

In conclusion

- Life is to do with what has captured your heart
- Life is to do with accepting the responsibility God has placed on you.

Mission is our first spring leading to a stream of life.

Group questions:

- 1) Where is God calling you to reach out to the world both as an individual and as a church?
- 2) How can that calling be developed?