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Letters to the Church during COVID-19: 8 July 2020

To the Church Family at KBC,

I hope this finds you well and keeping safe and alert as we emerge out of lockdown. I also hope this finds you with your heart set on things above and your mind set on things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God and thus filled with hope and joy.

I have been thinking this morning about Moses and Isaiah, Ezekiel and Jeremiah, Mary (the mother of Jesus) and Peter and countless others we find in Scripture who all shared one thing in common. Can you guess what it is? Yes, they all shared the same nationality in that they were the covenant people of God. Maybe have a look at the following verses to get a clue...Isaiah 6:8 and Luke 1:38. You've probably guessed it now...they all said 'yes' to what God was calling them to.

Of course, when looking at the names you may know that not all of them were 100% willing to begin with. Moses, after making various excuses (Exodus 4:10) seems to have a pleading note in his voice as he asks God, 'O Lord, please send someone else to do it' (Exodus 4:13). Jeremiah was similar and argued that he was unsuitable on the basis that he was still too young, only a child who didn't know how to speak (Jeremiah 1:6). Their stories reveal that not everyone responds with joy and vigour to the call of God on their lives. But what I love about Moses and Jeremiah in particular is that willing or not, feeling qualified or not, feeling able or not, they both ended up saying 'yes' and they both ended up serving the Lord faithfully for 40+ years.

So, you may be wondering, 'why was he thinking about Moses and Isaiah, Ezekiel and Jeremiah, Mary and Peter' and the answer is because I have been thinking about us as a church. I have been thinking about church starting up, thinking about what it means to be the body of Christ and thinking about what it means to serve one another. I have been encouraging us a church over the last few weeks to be thinking, 'what can I do to serve the church when we start up'?

I encourage this because I have a dream that every regular worshipper at KBC would do one thing in church life, and do that one thing well. I imagine us living out 1 Corinthians 12 as an act of obedience and an act of joy. Where every church member knows what their spiritual gift is and is growing in faith using their gift to build up the church. Where every church member knows that they are not at KBC by mistake but that they have a purpose in God's plan serving in this family. Where every person is valued and cherished. Where

every one of us live with a common heart and mind, knowing that the church does not exist to pamper to and serve our needs, but we exist to worship and serve God and His purposes. And the fact that we get to play a part in His great plan of redeeming the world should always leave us breathless with wonder.

I imagine this because I believe it is possible, I believe we see it happening in the pages of Scripture as ordinary men and women of God, in spite of the failures and short-comings say 'yes' to God. I believe it is not just me asking you, 'what can you do to serve the church?', I believe Jesus our Saviour is asking us personally, 'will you serve my bride?' There is so much opportunity, not least in Sunday Flight and stewarding, serving the homeless and pastoral care.

May you, excuses and all, say 'yes' to the Son and may you know His power being made perfect in your weakness.

With love in Christ
Stu

#KeepTrusting #KeepConnected #Call4Support

Notices and Upcoming events on Zoom:

Thursday: Unpack the Preach discussion from 7:45pm.

Friday: Children and Youth on line for those aged 11+ at 7pm.

Sunday: 10:30am, Sunday Morning Service (we will open the room at 10am for people to gather to chat and leave it open after the service for people to chat as well).

KBC YouTube channel: Here you will find our new daily mini devotional series 'Therefore..' and back copies of Stu's daily devotional series 'You are....' and our sermons each week. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0lqZEJkxDYGSeCQCw6onJw/featured>

Resources: Do not forget to check out our resources page on our website, which is constantly being updated, including resources for families and activities for children and youth: <https://kingswoodbaptistchurch.co.uk/resources/>