

Thanksgiving Forgiving Giving

Twenty-somethings in August

I've just got back from 5 days at the Momentum Festival. Over 5000 20-30s having a great time worshipping Jesus and being transformed by the teaching and the Presence of the Holy Spirit amongst us. Ready to give their lives and to serve Him to see the transformation of the nation.

At the same time another 20something was in Las Vegas in party mode. His Royal Highness Prince Harry was only doing what so many of his age group do these days - but photos of him doing it are worth money.

The people around us have lost touch with the Holy Spirit and have no knowledge of God's Word. In the past the Church has been laughed at or called kill-joy for disapproving of the party lifestyle. But it wasn't just the nudity, it was also the fact that there were people at that private party ready to sell those photos to get money and betray friendships and trusts in the process. The idea of commitment to each other as friends, let alone as couples, is becoming forgotten in today's culture.

We won't change 'them' by condemning them. We have to demonstrate an alternative way to live. Being committed to one another means not betraying trusts (photos on Facebook to embarrass them for instance). Being committed to God means making tough choices about the sort of parties we go to, or about leaving places we are uncomfortable in. But we also must be slow to condemn each other. We all end up in places or situations we regret. It's often a tightrope walk negotiating the traps the world has ready for us to fall into.

We need each other to help us stand up again afterwards and to move forwards. That's what I hope will happen as we walk forwards together.

Called to support young men

For some time now it has been coming clearer that God has placed walking with young men on my heart as the next stage of what He wants me to do. I've worked in secondary schools for over 30 years, and whilst I have pastored and supported many girls in that time there has always been a particular call and gifting when working with lads. And now I see that that extends to men in their 20s (and above) too.

"Walking with young men" means being available, it means being ready to share the good times and the bad, being a shoulder to rest on, cry on or even to thump. It isn't about taking over from current church leaders or trying to start a new group. As one of those teenage lads I have worked with before put it:

"It is not only the teachings you have given me and my friends. It is the commitment, patience love and care. You have led us wisely and really sensitively. Everyone in the school fellowship group has an official leader 'before' you - a youth leader, vicar, etc. but you encourage each one of us, never trying to intrude on any other work but complementing it so effectively."

That is what I now feel called to do more broadly. To start with I am planning simply a weekly recorded talk, linked with a download sheet such as this one and to start a Facebook page. We'll see where it goes. If you want to join in, or invite friends to, that's great.



COLOSSIANS

Knowing what Grace is and responding to it is so important. Colossians is full of this.

Covered by Grace we need to develop a Grace-Attitude or Gratitude.

Towards God, we are full of Thanksgiving
Towards each other, we are always ready to be Forgiving and towards those who do not yet know Him we are ready to always be Giving.

Week by week we will work through Colossians to see some of this in practice. You'll find the links to the talks at www.tfgministries.org.uk/podcasts

The first talk is on chapter 1 verses 1 - 14 and (like all of them) takes less than 20 minutes.



Geoff Lumley

E: geoff.lumley@tfgministries.org.uk

T: 020 8795 3210

A: 49 Woodstock Road
Wembley Middlesex HA0 4HQ

www.tfgministries.org.uk