

Summary of epilogue at CPM AGM 2005

Chris Cox spoke to us. She asked if our focus was on the cross or on people's brokenness. Is 51:1 'Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the Lord; look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn;'

When people come, do they want relationship or relief? Their brokenness is held in God's love and it is so important that we see them in the arms of God's love and that they are taken into relationship with Him.

She read a few beautiful verses from Scripture:

Job 14:7-9 Jesus gives the water of life – we want to be people through whom the scent of water will flow.

2 Cor. 5:16-21 There is a calling on our lives if we are in this ministry. Three times Paul talks about the ministry of reconciliation – this is our ministry, reconciling men to God, themselves, their brothers and sisters in Christ and across the world. What is our own calling? There are a variety of callings within our membership – all important and necessary. Eg helping, teaching, intercession, administration, prayer ministry.

Chris then held something in her hand which we couldn't see – precious and small (a conker). When people come to us they bring something small and precious in the scheme of things. But God sees the whole picture. (a picture of Harnhill – the conker came out of the house). We have to be careful to set the story (small and precious) in the context of God's big picture. Are we going to allow the person to move through the suffering in order to get to the big picture that God knows about? We have to be careful not to be the rescuers from the agony but to open their eyes to their poverty and need so that through their pain they come into a relationship with Jesus through the redemptive work of the cross.

We need to know that too in order to minister. The cross is sufficient. Let's keep that cross at the centre of the ministry. Let's keep that small picture in the frame of the big one and focussed on the cross in which we glory.