

We Aspire To Be A Church For The Nations

I) A Far Flung Vision

Begin by reading the following verses: Matthew 24:14/ Matthew 28:18-20/Acts 1:8

Acts 2 records the moment the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the disciples, Jerusalem at this time was filled with 'every nation under heaven' (verse 5). Following Peter sharing the gospel with the crowd, we are told that 3,000 took decisions to accept Jesus. It is therefore highly probable, that the first church was made up of people from many different nations. This has always been God's plan! Going all the way back to Abraham, whom God called Father of Nations... To tell a 100-year-old man that his 90-year-old wife will have a child, her first child, is about as unbelievable as it gets. God loves to present us with 'far flung visions' that only he can ultimately achieve, what's required of us is to believe His promise.

As a nation we have been 'reached' – the gospel came to these shores on account of the risks taken by men and women eager to share Good News with us, before we go to the nations we must express our gratitude towards nations that have come to us. We continue to be strengthened and enriched by having many from other nations among us today.

Q. In what ways are we enriched as a church by having other nations with us?

We aspire to be a church that blesses the nations of the world through...

Projects – Giving generously towards projects such as Operation Christmas Child/Odisha School project and many others

People – We aspire to equip and send our CCC members to bless nations around the world

Plants – We are committed to seeing new churches started in many nations, through existing relationships within the church, in addition to our partnership with Commission and Newfrontiers globally

Q. Why is it important that we have an international vision as a church?

Q. Are there ways as a life group that we can bless other nations?

Q. Where would you love to see a new church planted? Why?

II) Far Greater Power

The power of the Gospel working in us not only reconciles us to God but also to one another.

2 Corinthians 5:16 **"So from now on we regard no-one from a worldly point of view"**

The evil one loves to cause division and hatred between people we must be quick to snuff out any divisive attitudes in us. There can be no place for racism, xenophobia or classism within the church.

Q. What do you think our attitude should be towards asylum seekers?

Q. In what ways can we reach out to the 'nations' that live in Portsmouth?

Q. Why does the gospel necessarily result in us loving others?

III) Far More Glorious Community

On Sunday Tim made reference to when England won the Rugby World Cup and how he found himself partying with complete strangers. In that brief moment everyone (who was English at least) were united in their praise of the team's victory. The only victory that has the power to unite all nations in praise and celebration is the victory of Christ over sin and death at the cross. At the end of time vast crowds from every nation, tribe and tongue and from every generation that has lived, will party together, celebrating the great conquest of Jesus Christ.

Read Revelation 5:9 this is the song that we will sing together on that great day.

Q. Why is the church made more glorious by this multi-national complexion?

Q. In what ways can we as a church embrace this vision for the nations?

Finish by praying for the nations, ask members of your group if there are any particular places/situations they would like to pray for.