



TRUMPET CALL IV

REDEEMING OUR COMMUNITIES



13 MAY 2006

The fourth Trumpet Call for Christians to pray, worship and stand together before God for our nations saw 6000 people gathered at the NEC in Birmingham on 13th May 2006. Leaders of police forces and councils, MPs and many Christian organisations from across the UK joined us in the afternoon for a presentation of 'Redeeming Our Communities' pioneered by Debra Green from Manchester.

The Trumpet Call days are part of our corporate prayer journey as a nation, and as such are like milestones along the path of faith. They are opportunities to worship God together, listen to His word to us as His church in the UK as well as to be encouraged by the many stories of what God is doing to transform lives and situations. **Paul Miller** from Birmingham reminded us of the journey so far, of the call to wake up, to recognise the grace of God and move on from church as we've known it into serving the communities we live in. We were exhorted to recognise that the season is changing and a new day is dawning when we will see the harvest.

Lloyd Cooke from Stoke on Trent challenged us to recognise our true state before God, and to humble ourselves and ask for forgiveness. We then participated in communion to celebrate the death of Christ for us – a very powerful moment of stillness before Almighty God around the cross.

Debra Green highlighted some **keys to breakthrough** in seeing community transformation, namely building a foundation of united prayer, honouring and working with the police, loving people and showing acts of kindness - something we can all do!

In the afternoon, welcomed by **Councillor Mike Whitby**, leader of Birmingham City Council, we experienced a very moving and faith-building presentation through video and live testimony about how God has transformed not only individuals but also whole districts through prayer and positive action. As we saw police and former criminals standing side by side on stage, now both working together to bring hope to others, so **faith was stirred to see that we can all be involved in making a difference**. We were made aware of some harsh facts, for example, that 70% of all crime is linked to drug and alcohol addiction, but that social change is dependent on spiritual change. **The Right Honourable Caroline Spelman MP** spoke of the importance of taking Jesus into the community. As

politicians, council leaders, police and Christians have worked together in different projects, so God has shown His favour and brought life and hope to many people in some of the poorest areas. We heard from **Andy Hawthorne** and his team about: the **Eden Project** working in some of the Greater Manchester Estates; **The Message's** mission of bringing the gospel to young people in schools and how the band '**Blush**' is presenting Jesus through contemporary music.

It was so uplifting to learn of the impact of **Street Pastors** and the peace that comes when Christians take to the streets and pray. The police expressed their appreciation of the partnerships with them in fighting crime. They encouraged us to pray for them, because they've seen that prayer works! After inviting the police to come forward, they were honoured and thanked with a standing ovation by the 6000 strong crowd – wonderful!

After a time of faith-filled worship and the blowing of the trumpet, we learned about the vision of 'Hope 2008'. **Everywhere people are looking for hope, and God is already mobilising an army of young people to bring Jesus to every city by the year 2008.**

Ian Cole from Birmingham challenged us over where our heart is whilst encouraging us all to use the gifts we have. The question "What happens when the goose that laid the golden egg gets bird flu?" highlighted the error of trusting in money as a panacea for society's ills. **Only the Gospel can change the heart**, and so we need the power of the Holy Spirit to bring true life from Heaven. Only by dying to self can we transform communities. So prayer was made for everyone to be anointed afresh by God and released into their calling and gifting to become a world-changer.

Through the generosity of many, we were able to give away 5000 resource packs containing excellent materials to help us all get into focused prayer and action where we live. **The best is yet to come!**

The prayer journey continues with another Trumpet Call on Saturday 21st October 2006 at the NEC. This too will be a ticketed event, so book early to be sure of a seat – the Trumpet Call is being heard by more and more people! Tickets will be available from World Prayer Centre after 19 June 2006.

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