

Fivefold Ministry Resource

Session 1 – Prophetic pictures and words spoken over Bridge Church

Context

It's always good and encouraging to hear God's promises over His people. Here are some words and pictures that have been spoken over Bridge Church, some by members of Bridge Church, some by people that know us and, some by people that do not know us.

In I Corinthians 14:3 Paul gives a simple definition of prophecy:

But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.

However prophecy is not just speaking human encouragement; it is speaking divine encouragement. In simple terms, prophecy is hearing from God and speaking what you hear in order to build, comfort or encourage someone or a group of people. To prophecy is to hear *from* God and speak *to* men. What we must then do as believers is to ask for, recognise and interpret specific revelation for the purpose of encouraging, building up or comforting individuals or groups of people. It's then up to the individual or group to receive (or not!) and respond (or not!). Generally God's promises over us are invitations for us to respond and walk into His divine future that He has prepared for us.

Please remember that prophetic pictures and words have three different components; these are the *revelation*, the *interpretation* and the *application*. Briefly:

- The revelation – the information we receive from God without having any prior natural understanding – basically knowledge or information we could not have known unless God revealed it to us. Revelation can come as a dream, a vision, an impression or as a knowing. It is often quite useless without an interpretation.
- The interpretation – This is the understanding that God gives about the revelation we have received. Interpretation is the “What God is saying?” or “What does this mean?” portion of the prophetic word/picture.
- The application – This is the understanding of how we implement or utilise the revelation and interpretation that we received. Application is the “What do we do with this?” portion of the prophetic word/picture. Often the application is in the hands of the receiver/ receivers to determine what he or she or they are supposed to do as a result of the revelation.

So have a look at some of what we have in terms of words and pictures over and for Bridge Church, and see what you make of them. Please note down anything that strikes you or is revealed from these words and pictures. Also be aware that this is not everything; there is more and our leadership are compiling a more complete journal of promises. However, for the moment, and to help us, here are some of those that were more recent and readily to hand.

(I have not changed, edited or re-written any of these – they are as I received them; thank you to all who shared at such short notice)

Words and pictures over Bridge Church

- Before we launched. A picture about Bridge Church being a water source which flowed out to many other churches in our area & across Cornwall & Devon. Much like a river begins at a source and feeds into tributaries which feed into rivers, creating a network of flowing water. Particularly out to the coasts and down. It would be a lifeline.
- 1st year of the church a missionary felt that she saw a picture of rainbows spouting from the building across Devon and Cornwall and would bring refreshing to the counties.
- A picture of the church as a big net capturing people and also in the net there is lots of rubbish and we are the 'dumping ground' for everything and will be our role to sift through and bring hope.
- A holidaymaker who did not know us shared that she felt our worship team and our ministry team was there to equip and enable and resource and we would see more leaders coming and needing refreshing.
- A picture of people walking around and saw their shadows coming into the light. She had a real sense that people's darker sides would start to come into the light and that we as a church and particularly leadership would have a role here that wouldn't be easy.
- Unnamed visitor - Picture of the church and have veins that extend into different areas of the county bringing life blood.
- Picture of the draw bridge being let down in the school and enabling us to walk through and operate as church in that space.....(not long on and Tom and Jordan are there).
- Unnamed Visitor - Gods not done and hears the cry of your heart for this community. You will be a village.
- Vision of big building and seeing room after room of kids and youth and adults and on the walls are the words Faithful.
- Over the years people have continued to share of the encouragement of the worship and word and how they are refreshing for this area but no specific words around that.
- Ephesians 3:20-21 – Spoken over us from a number of different sources.
Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen
- Around the time that we began to receive the Ephesians 3:20 verse spoken over us from several different places, I gave a talk in Bridge in which I told the story of the 1906 Welsh revival movement. The following words really struck several of us: "On the way home Roberts first suggested the idea to Sidney of 100,000 converts: "Do you think," he said, 'that it is too much to ask God to save one hundred thousand in Wales?' 'No,' was the answer, 'it would not be too much to ask Him to save Wales and the world.' 'Well,' Roberts replied, 'we must go at it earnestly.'" From that moment we began to pray that 100,000 souls would be brought to Christ from God's work in Bridge.
- Picture from about five years ago and spoken into by others – some not known to Bridge Church:
 - A picture very similar to yours (about 5 years ago) of an enormous, Spanish galleon style ship - like Pirates of the Caribbean! The wind in its sails was the Holy Spirit. God said, 'I will blow this ship wherever I will it to go'. Stop trying to steer it in the

direction YOU think it should go. Let go of the steering wheel. sit down and enjoy the ride!

- A large sailing boat with many masts, whose sails were different shapes, sizes, colours and textures. These were propelling and steering the ship and were both made and winded by the Holy Spirit. I felt the sails were the ministries of our church. On the boat were many rooms all which were centred on the glory and majesty of our Father, Son and Holy Spirit where people found restoration, healing and forgiveness – a place of love. Our direction came both from the Holy Spirit and from the prayer room. Only prayer and intimacy with the Father would steer the boat with the Holy Spirit.
- Just a reminder for us all of what Gill shared at prayer/ worship evening, Graham B shared similar and a man shared from a group that were visiting that night a similar picture too.



- The picture I had in my head last Fervent was of our church, full of people standing and clear water flowing all across the floor up to everyone's ankles. I also imagined the water rising to the knees and then everyone's waists and then deeper but at the time, I wasn't sure if this was just my thoughts, my imagination. That bit didn't feel quite as strong as the ankle bit. Then this week I was doing the random open the Bible at a passage thing and I read Ezekiel:47 v1-12, which I'd never read before. I've just re-read it and it seems to match the picture in my head, doesn't it? This passage in Ezekiel in my Bible has the heading, 'The river of healing'.
- And one of my pages of notes from Tim Hughes preach (again excuse hand writing, I was writing so fast as I didn't want to miss a detail!) Wow on re reading... the two speeds got me...the slowly, oh my days lord we seem to be parked there at the minute and it would seem that's the speed you have us set on at the minute, but the blessed assurance the suddenly is coming!!! And you will have us wonderfully prepared when it does! Change of leadership saw Joshua gather and take territory within 3 days!! There had been the slowly, the sudden day came! And they were ready. "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you!" Amen thank you Jesus 🙏 Look forward to reading more of your faith filled recollections as they come to memory!



