

Wake up and look around

Wake up and look around is the Mission Committee's theme for this year's mission month. It is very much in alignment with the theme of Revive at the end of the month which is "See – global and Local" but has the subtitle of Wake up and look around.

What is this all about?

Romans 10:9-15

A couple of things in these verses which help us in our seeing, and in our waking up.

v9

⁹ If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved

This indicates what is the in to a relationship to God.

It is us who puts a heap of different standards that go along with it.

All God wants is a declaration of faith and that declaration to be heart felt.

It's not about church attendance, although that is beneficial for growth,

It's not about what we say or do, although that helps in the witness process.

It's not about singing worship but that helps the communication between worshiper and God.

It is about declaring and meaning it in the heart.

Does this change the way we look at some people?

Some people we perceive are not in the saved status but perhaps are.

What we need to always be thinking about people is How does God look at them.?

Look where Paul takes us next.

¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

It looks like he is just reiterating the comments, just repeating himself but he flips it. He started in v9 with the declaration, here he starts with the heart or the belief bit.

Why?

That's the way it works!! It hits us then we talk about it.

We believe then we declare!

Or

we get it

then

we share it.

That is the process. The funny thing is the longer we know, the less we share.

Think about this:

When was the last time you shared Jesus with someone?

How many people did you speak to this week?

Did you miss any chances?

I won't ask for a show of hands.

I love the next 2 verses.

¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be same.

The same Lord, the same saviour, that's where this becomes missional. Jesus is the same saviour for us and the local riff raff, the unloveable, the smelly, the weird, the different, the people who are deviants, paedophiles, murderers,

Do we get that? Jesus died for them too. It is the relationship to God that can change them but we are most comfortable talking, witnessing, evangelising people just like us.

I will be mildly prophetic here:

If we stopped trying to build our church into what we want and ministered to anyone in our community this church would explode!

We tend to minister to people who we are comfortable with, actually most churches do it in town, we all compete for nice people. If we just minister to whoever whenever wherever things will happen. We are not called to minister to nice people! Well not only nice people.

We are called to minister to this community. Where this church was placed 30 odd years ago. Those people out there.

And when we do it we get spiritual pedicures! More about that in a minute.

For too long the church has prayed for growth that is transfer.

We pray for growth but we hope new people move into town. I hear it every year “Maybe some new people will move to town, maybe some Baptist youth will come to uni.”

That mentality is stopping us growing.

We are called to declare Jesus to those who don't know.

Conversion Growth is real growth for the kingdom of God,
transfer growth is just pushing the pieces around the board.

Some people have been asking for a vision for the church from me here it is.

That BBC shares Jesus with all.

That we share Jesus with each other

That we share Jesus with those who don't know and

That we share Jesus who live next door.

When that happens, we will have to have discipleship groups, more pastoral care, more kids church leaders, more youth leaders, more church services, more bible studies.

You get it. Growth.

Do we get it. The reason we don't grow is because we don't talk – that is our mission. That is our vision. Listen what comes next in the passage.

¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Preached on this passage in Yeoval and one of the guys said I've seen the boots for you.

My initial reaction was “What do boots have to do with this?”

When he went to the states he bought them for me. He gave them to me, in other words he paid, there was one rule with them. When people asked about the boots I talked about the cross and the angel wings on them.

My boots became a tool for Jesus talk. I wore them to the pub at Yeoval, Marianne was away with the boys so a pub dinner was the way to go so I rang up Nick and he said Wear the boots. We shared Jesus with about 15 blokes.

My advice to you is to get beautiful feet.

Start talking about Jesus.

Now having said that. I want us to stop a minute. Who can I talk to? Who should I talk to?

While I play a bit spend some time praying for those who need to here from you.

While I play pray for the opportunity to talk to those people about Jesus.