

Word notes Sunday 21/6/09 Tony Hodge
Testimony

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

We had an "Offering of Testimonies" where people from NCC shared their experiences of God's healing, provision and work in their lives over recent times. Tony then spoke about Testimony in the Bible.

In the Old Testament "Testimony" with a capital T is used in conjunction with the stone tablets of the Law, the Ark of the Covenant and the Tent of Meeting. All testified to God and His:

- Covenant (promise) to Israel that He would keep when they followed the Law
- Provision – their daily bread
- Authority – represented by Moses and Aaron, God's appointed leaders and a reminder not to rebel.

In the New Testament Jesus is God's Testimony:

- A new Covenant, the Law fulfilled in Jesus.
- Jesus -the Bread of Life
- Jesus is God's chosen one - God's Son.

The Church and us as individual Christians are a Testimony to God's salvation through Jesus:

- We've been redeemed from the Law and God's law is inscribed on our hearts
- Jesus is the Bread of Life – our daily bread
- Our salvation through Jesus causes new life to sprout from within us.

As we share our testimony of God working in our lives, healing us, renewing us, answering our prayers then we stand before the world as a testimony to Jesus.

Application (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

The challenge Tony gave out to any unsaved in the congregation was what is their response going to be to the work of Jesus demonstrated before them in the testimonies. What challenge is there to us, carriers of the Good News in sharing testimony of God's work in our lives?

Do you think non-Christians are more interested in testimonies of salvation or of God meeting our needs? How can we share both?

Witness (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

Discuss with whom each person is witnessing the love of God? Does anyone feel they have no-one to witness to or no witness to give? Pray for those to whom we are witnessing and that our witness would be effective as we ask the Lord to fill us with His Spirit.