

WE CAN CERTAINLY DO IT Pete Greig

- Where have you seen God at work in your life this week? (Share any brief examples and encouragements).
- Was there anything from Sunday's message which you found particularly inspiring or challenging?
- Was there anything else you particularly noticed?

Numbers 13v26-33

Vision Sunday is the culmination of a careful, prayerful process begun before Christmas 22 involving the trustees, leadership, and Family Business Meeting. Over the years we've had a variety of prophetic symbols and this year it is **grapes, cream and honey** - 3 foods representing the Promised Land. Moses dreamt of the Promised Land and 12 spies spent 6 weeks checking out the land. Their report was that 10 focused on the problems (yes, but) whilst 2 focused on the incredible opportunities (but, yes, we can certainly do it, v30).

We live in a hostile society, now less that 50% call themselves Christian, cost of living, inflation, etc. and we have our own giants - marriage, kids, health, work, addictions, etc. But there are incredible opportunities. Do we "batten down the hatches" to ride the storm when God calls us to be brave?

Reflecting on Emmaus, Rd., the church has grown by 400 in last year, Aldershot now has 180 adults, Woking needs 2 services, Guildford has 65 students, 67 young people and 110 under-10s. There is a depth of prayer (3years of daily prayer). The ancient prayer centre of Waverley Abbey is revived. Care for the poor: 8,000+ supported, 140 in Ukrainian hub in Woking, 5,000 access the food-bank, 800 clothed, 800 at Jigsaw. Pete then cited various examples of service, some attracting national and international attention.

The most frequent command in the Bible is "Do not fear." Of the 12 spies, the 10 Yes-but didn't enter the Promised Land, being intimidated they were eliminated. The 2 But-yes men, Joshua and Caleb, had a posture of faith which released God's favour. (Caleb is mentioned 39x after this passage, always about being blessed) Heb 11v6 *without faith it is impossible to please God.*

Our Vision for the coming year:

Regional.

- * Continuous prayer across the 3 towns in Prayer Rooms. * Termly celebrations at Waverley Abbey.
- * Improve our digital engagement. * Strengthen our operational engine. * Longer term regional home.

Guildford. * Lighthouse in Guildford. * Children's pastor. * Second morning service at Yvonne Arnaud. * Hire The Mill for Youth work. * Further develop a culture of Welcome and Hospitality. * Provision for pastoral rooms and office space.

This has an additional cost of £185,000 for Guildford Church (Ed: There are separate additional costs apportioned to Aldershot and Woking for their expanding activities).

So, let's talk about money. We can worship God with our money. We have the choice to give which can change lives for eternity. We are to worship God and not worship money. This is counter culture as we live in a materialistic world. Giving 10% of our income is the token tithe. With current levels of inflation, increasing our giving by 10% simply keeps pace with current levels of activity. 2 Cor 9v7, 11 *Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ... You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*

If you have financial problems, please come and talk to the leadership privately. (Ed: Emmaus Rd doesn't want your financial giving to the church to increase your financial anxieties).

A video was shown of a man from Aldershot sharing his testimony before there was opportunity to pledge financial giving towards the Vision.

For Reflection in Collective:

- Which part of the Vision especially resonates with you? Why do you think that is so?
- How will you get involved? Personally, as a family, and as a Collective?
- What does the prophetic symbolism of Grapes, Honey and Cream say to you?
- In addition to our finances, how else can we give toward the Vision?

23 April 2023. Emmaus Rd., Yvonne Arnaud, Guildford

