

NETWORKS RHYTHM 1: Why It Matters

Do you ever do that thing where you head upstairs to do something and by the time you've got there, you can't remember what it was you went for? I do it to Rosie all the time, sometimes I'll try and guess what I was supposed to do - but that just makes it worse. I think the church can be like this when it comes to mission to reaching out.

Jesus's instructions are clear - Matthew 28:18-20(NIVUK)

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'

And yet maybe as a church we have lost our way a little bit in seeking to fulfil that great commission....

As we come to the NETWORKS aspect of the CROWN rule of life rhythm we come to ground that will be quite contested. I think culturally, we now find ourselves in a missionary context but the context of most churches is Christendom, we still expect people to come to us - and we're not sure what to do when they don't.

It's contested in us - in society faith can be an uncomfortable topic (I would say people like Jesus though) but this can mean engaging in mission is likely to encroach our comfort zones! And then Spiritually I think the evil one would do whatever he can to stop the church rising up with the power of the gospel message afresh in our day.

But Jesus's instructions have not changed. Maybe we are so used to 'doing church' the way that we do, maybe that we always have - that we've lost sight as to whether we are really 'fit for purpose' to fulfil his commission.

We've already looked at this central focus and call to discipleship in our foundational talks, but the rubber hits the road here in a particular way. If the church does reach out to others as Jesus commands then it rediscovers its movemental power, We become disciples who make disciples who make disciples.

And if the ground does feel contested, then Jesus command also comes with reassurance - our mission flows from his authority over the whole of creation. He is with us, we are not alone or in darkness, we are in light, in fact we are

lights. He gives us everything we need - as he commands us to GO! But we're not just told to Go, we are empowered and Sent.

John 20:19-23

19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

21 Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.' 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.'

In this amazing moment, the victorious risen Jesus greets his disciples, they are overjoyed that he has overcome the barbarity of the cross - if ever there was a moment just to soak it in, surely it would be then.

But Jesus doesn't leave them comfortable. Instead, filled with this joy he sends them. "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

They are to Go like Jesus did, to share in his mission but also his power and so are we. He breathes upon them and us the Holy Spirit - we are now his sent ones. Sent with authority - authority to call people to respond to the gospel. Sent with power. Sent daily.

Do you feel sent?

This doesn't mean leaving everything and moving to a distant land as a missionary, rather, it means recognising we are missionaries to the places we go daily. Our networks, whether that's work, school, our neighbourhoods, our friends and families.

A NETWORKS rhythm brings intention into what we do to fulfil this call. It positions us with others to call the lost home to Jesus. It helps us put into practice the principles Jesus himself taught and helps the church fulfil its calling to mission once again in our generation.

So let me ask you -

1. If Jesus has "sent" you, do you know who and where he is sending you to?

Think about that, talk to those around you, or leave you comments below... and we'll continue in a moment.

NETWORKS RHYTHM 2: Sent-Prayer & Partners

As we develop our thinking about how to build an effective NETWORK aspect of the CROWN rule of life we're going to be drawing from Jesus's teaching in Luke 10:1-24. All the key principles can be found in these verses, and it may help to explore spend some time looking at that passage as a whole separately. We're going to begin as we think about the place of prayer and partners with the first four verses.

Jesus sends out the seventy-two

10 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. 2 He told them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. 3 Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. 4 Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.'

PRAYER

Mission is a spiritual business, and it demands spiritual resources - not only does Jesus ask us to pray for workers for the harvest fields, his instructions also placed his disciples in a place of dependence upon God.

So, why do you think Jesus sends his followers out into local towns with nothing at all? Why does he tell them not to greet people along the way?

No purse, bag or sandals, no greeting and as Mark's gospel adds – no bread, no bag, no money in your belts.

I think it's a clear lesson - he is wanting them to rely on God's resources and not their own. When we have nothing, we realise that Jesus is all we need. I recall doing something similar as a trainee vicar with a group called the walk of 1000 men.

In fact, as a small concession, they gave us a small amount of money to buy someone a pint - which was nice - but otherwise we were on our own. It not only kept me praying hard, but also gave a real alertness to work out who God was working in, if ever there was a moment not to waste beer it was right then! How amazing then that the fruit of that nervous pub visit was to see a

family respond to the gospel and connect with their local church the following Sunday.

Now, we're unlikely to be travelling town to town, but we have to ask ourselves, is faith demanded in how we approach mission? Do we place ourselves in a position of reliance upon God? Would it all carry on the same if he wasn't with us at all?

Our eldest, Peter, has a powerful story from a mission week on his gap year. He went into town with another looking for people to talk with who might be open to the message of Jesus. Nothing much was happening. The guy he was with asked, would you be willing to kneel and pray here in the square of the city?

Maybe reluctantly they did - but as they did something happened. I believe they were crucifying their fear, and the affect seemed to change the atmosphere of their endeavours. Suddenly, out of nowhere people began to approach them, leading to series of great conversations.

Prayer then is crucial. Prayer reminds us that it is God's mission that we share in, not our own we hope he'll bless. But what should we pray for? For a rising army Kingdom harvesters, yes as Jesus said, and for those we are reaching out to, but also for Power, Opportunities and Boldness. We'll explore all of this further.

But Jesus also gives very clear instruction that this mission isn't one we take alone. There is a consistent picture across the gospels that Jesus sends out his followers two by two, he even sends two to go and collect the donkey on Palm Sunday!

This is a significant principle.

Going with others keeps us on track. I wonder how easy it would have been for the disciples to get distracted or discouraged. If we share in a common mission together, we can continue to encourage and inspire one another.

Now, this doesn't mean every day becomes 'bring a fellow Christian to work day' - but we can share progress and pray for each other.

Secondly, mission in community with others may help those we are reaching out to. A fresh insight or testimony from a friend or group might lead to a spiritual breakthrough. In fact, sometimes, a friend or relative might respond better to the voice of another. Certainly, it's a regular experience of mine that

when I run out of words to help someone, within the community of the church or Missional Community another brings just what they need.

Thirdly, we can learn from each other how to share our faith better. Have you ever thought, “I wish I’d said that!” One of the benefits of going with others is that we can learn from each other.

Finally, going with others is a chance to review and reflect on the progress of our mission. Luke 10 continues with Jesus reflecting with the disciples on their experiences of the mission trip - it was a joyful celebration of what God had done, and a word of wisdom to rejoice first of all because they were his! When it comes to reaching our networks, who are our partners? Who do we pray with and “go” with? Who is cheering us on? Who do we report back to?

In St Mike’s this could mean a number of possibilities. Principally in our Missional Communities and groups. As we build this aspect of our CROWN rhythm, we might want to ask,

How am I praying for mission?
Where [to which network] is God Sending me?
Who is God sending me with?

As you answer those questions you can begin to develop simple, sustainable rhythms to help you do this?

So let me ask you -

1. Who is encouraging and praying with you about reaching out to others? Who could do that?

Think about that, talk to those around you, or leave you comments below... and we’ll continue in a moment.

NETWORKS RHYTHM

3: Search for the Person of Peace

For many the NETWORKS rhythm represents one of the hardest aspects of the Christian life. It might be past disappointments, our fear of rejection or ridicule, feeling paralysed about *how* to share our faith prevents us from making any progress.

The good news is that Jesus gives very clear guidance and principles to help us reach out to others, these are both practical, helpful - but they also take the pressure off us. We're not sent out to bring back scalps, or get results, we're to find out where God is already working, and learn to work with him.

Jesus sends out the seventy-two

10 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. 2 He told them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. 3 Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. 4 Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

5 'When you enter a house, first say, "Peace to this house." 6 If a person of peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you.

In Luke 10, and similar accounts in Mark & Matthew's gospels, we see Jesus give very clear instructions about what it means to "Go". This is both liberating and empowering.

Jesus begins with a statement which should raise our level of faith - *the harvest is plentiful*. He then contrasts this, with our capacity - *but the workers are few*. In other words, the ability to see and bring in the harvest that God intends is only limited by our ability to raise workers for the harvest.

The problem then is not that nobody is interested in the gospel (who can see the hidden hungers of the human heart) but that we fail to see there are fields that are ready for harvest, or head out into them. In this respect you could say we often live like functional atheists, in every practical respect we live as though we disbelieve this word.

No wonder Jesus calls us to prayer about this, earnest prayer as Matthew puts it (9:38), so that harvest isn't missed, the fruit left unpicked. And prayer is necessary - one of the things that satan would most like to stifle is any missionary impulse in the church. That prayer must change our hearts too -

so we are moved by the need, rather than acting out of guilt, gritting our teeth and get on with evangelism (secretly resenting it along the way.)

BUT Jesus said, freely you've received - freely you are to give, going should be an overflow of our experience of God. A starting point for a Networks rhythm may be to ask for God to show you his heart for those who don't know him - to break your heart for them too.

in Mark's account (6:6-13) there is the sense that each pair are personally briefed by Jesus before they go. Part of this, I am sure is helping them understand **why...** he encourages them that they are bearers of the good news of Gods kingdom, allays any fears - affirms that they share his authority that can set people free and reminds them that there is an unquenchable hunger for God set in the hearts of people.

In our seemingly comfortable society people can cover the cracks in our lives with material things - keep so busy they don't have to ponder the bigger questions - and we may be tempted to think they won't be interested or have no need of God.

Jesus says different - and sends us to search for those who are open. In his briefing in Mark, there is the sense that he has specific destinations in mind for each pair. They are sent to particular places, to which Jesus will follow on. This raises a question for us:

Do you know who Jesus is sending you to reach? Has God shown you where the open doors might be for you in your part of his mission? Have you stopped to ask him?

If you are not clear which network Jesus is sending you to, then make it part of your rhythm to ask. If you are clear, then maybe the prayer is to ask for a greater revealing of his heart towards the people concerned.

So we are sent - and sent with a clear instruction and target... We're to find, as verse 6 makes clear, a "**person of peace.**" This search is our mission. In Mark's account of Jesus sending the disciples two by two it's clear he gives them individual instruction. So, where is he sending you?

When we know where we are to look we need to position ourselves to meet people, and as many as possible. The PAIS network call this step SPREAD and it means getting to places where young people are, for example, in

schools. The Church of England Fresh Expressions network use the image of a funnel to illustrate a similar principle.

The aim is to be 'out there' and to engage with people in their day to day lives and do this in a way that means we can be good news to people, serving them, whether or not they respond. Ideally we can do much of this within the rhythms of our own lives, not creating layer upon layer of busyness and meeting.

So where might Jesus be sending you to search?

This is good news in all of this - a crucial lesson for a Networks rhythm is that the pressure is off. We're not to force ourselves upon the unwilling - we're to seek out those who are open to God and ready to receive his message.

This is focused and fruitful, we don't need to pour our energies into those who are neither open or interested. Who wishes to antagonise anyone?

Instead, we find where God is already at work, we join in with what he's doing. We'll learn more about identifying People of Peace next time, but for now ponder this question:

1. How might this call to 'search for the person of peace' help your approach to mission?

Think about that, talk to those around you, or leave you comments below... and we'll continue in a moment.

NETWORKS RHYTHM

4: Spot, Stay & Share, connecting with People of Peace

So, last time, we introduced the idea that Jesus' instruction for mission is to send us out to search the Person of Peace. But how would we know when we've found one? Is it someone who sits there looking super-chilled, and even if we do find one - what do we do next?

We're going to continue in Luke 10 as we explore how all of this might help us develop a NETWORKS rule of life. What has been fascinating for me over recent years is how many movemental and missional focused groups have all drawn their key principles from this text.

The Person of peace is their language, whether The Order of Mission, 3DM, PAIS, Forge, Verge and so many others. It's our language too - we first taught this at St Mike's in 2010 using a 5 point framework, PAIS, the missional movement went one better and use four.

But however many steps, the real point is this, if we are to fulfil Jesus' commission then we need to find a way of putting Jesus' teaching into practice. A rule of life helps us to form the patterns to do this.

Building on a foundation of prayer, Jesus sends us to search for People of Peace. The next Steps are that we Spot, Stay and then Share...

See if you can figure why, as we continue to read from Luke 10:

Jesus said: *5 'When you enter a house, first say, "Peace to this house." 6 If a person of peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. 7 Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. 8 'When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. 9 Heal those there who are ill and tell them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." 10 But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, 11 "Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: the kingdom of God has come near."*

So, we're on mission, maybe with one of the communities from church, we're looking for People of Peace - but how do we Spot them? Jesus gives us some advice and things to look for.

We read in verse 6 that they welcome you, that there is an ease or peace in your interactions, your peace resting on them also suggests a Spiritual

discernment but there are practical signs too. We often think it is our job to lay on activities and events, but a Person of Peace might offer *you* hospitality and serve what you are doing. But there's more to it than that - they are not closed to your faith, it might even intrigue them...

As you are connecting with others, it may be good to ask - Who is responding? Who asks questions? Who welcomes you? Who wants to help? Who hangs around to talk? Who is *leaning in* to relationship with you? It's always interesting to me to see who stays behind to help clear up.

All of these might be indications that someone is a Person of Peace.

When you have "spotted" a Person Of Peace, then the next instruction of Jesus is to "stay" with them - verse 7.

STAY:

Failure to do this is probably my biggest weakness. I can connect with too many people or be too busy to properly invest in a relationship where someone might genuinely be searching and open.

To STAY is to prioritise a friendship / relationship and here consistency and frequency is important, Jesus said don't move from house to house.

When we stay we get the opportunity to share the good news of the Gospel and to seek God to move, doing the works and words of Jesus as Mike Breen puts it.

And if we are sharing our mission with others it may help to connect them with our own group or community in the church - this focus and context can help them receive the good news of the kingdom.

Missional Pioneer, Caesar Kalinowski, has a great method for this, which keeps God at the centre - he suggests that we ask the God for guidance about taking the next step with our Person of Peace. Links to his teaching can be found in the description below.

It needn't be anything over complicated, it may be an act of kindness, it could be something more bold, but once we have taken that step, we ask God for another, and again and again.

This involves taking the time to hear God - we're back to prayer, but also to believe for that and act upon the prompt accordingly. All of this serves to strip away our self-reliance as we let God lead our mission.

But our job is to make disciples and not converts, and so as People of Peace find faith in Jesus we're also invite them to **SHARE** in his mission, and begin forming their own discipleship patterns. As they do, then the church begins to recover it's capacity as a movement. When they join the search we see the work multiply.

There's more that we can say - a person of peace, can often open many doors to wider relationships / networks and opportunities, don't be surprised - this is what Jesus said would happen.

So, what might this mean for a rule of life?

A NETWORKS rule needs to have a consistent pattern of searching with or supported by others. At St Michael's this may be in one of our Community Ministries of Missional Communities. We need to make space for People of Peace, connecting with them where possible through our existing routines, and taking steps to help them as God leads us. As we do this, Jesus is faithful, we'll then begin to see others begin to share our mission.

So let me pose this question to you:

Do you think you have a person of peace? If not, where do you think your search might begin?

Think about that, talk to those around you, or leave you comments below... and we'll continue in a moment.

NETWORKS RHYTHM

5: Seek, Opportunities, Boldness & Power

So we're sent to find the Person of Peace, to stay with them, sharing the good news of the kingdom, and helping them find their place in that same mission.

If we are able to push beyond our fears and reserve and take steps of doing this, as Jesus calls us to, then the risk can be we can make this a 'technique' or a methodology, perhaps like the sales-person who has a process to evaluate and close deals.

Of course, we don't set out to approach things like this, and it's unlikely that we deliberately would - but it is possible that we are so busy planning and preparing what we do that we run out of time and energy for prayer. Or that we rely on well rehearsed answers without listening both to the person before us or to God about them.

Jesus won't allow us to do that, or at least, if we fall into that kind of pattern we'll fail. In our journey through Luke 10 if verse 4 - *don't take a bag, purse or even sandals* - reminds us this is a mission in which we're not to lean on our own resources - verse demonstrates that its fruits are those we don't have the power within ourselves to deliver:

Heal the sick and tell them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."

No pressure then!

Effective mission is a Spiritual business. We need POWER.

It never fails to fascinate me how God moves through his people - how the most compelling of messages delivered with great oratorical skill can fail to convict, and how, almost an incidental comment - anointed by the Spirit can break someone's life open for Jesus.

The story of Billy Graham is a case in point. A turning point in his ministry came on a mission trip to Wales. His preaching was described as ordinary and made little impact. (Isn't that strangely re-assuring to hear!)

He spent time with Welsh evangelist Stephen Olford during which he was broken and cried out for the Spirit's power. The result was what he described as a turning point in his life. That night, the church was filled and Billy spoke 'as a man absolutely anointed.' People came forward to respond before they were invited in a remarkable evening.

Olford returned home, declaring, “Dad, something has happened to Billy Graham. The world is going to hear from this man.”

We won't be Billy Graham's - but if we've shared the experience of seeing limited impact - let's make sure we are praying for anointing power of God to bring our words to life as we share the good news. Let us pray for power.

Our second Cry is for **BOLDNESS**. It is something of a joke in our family, that, given my lack of hair God obviously misheard my prayer for boldness!

It is all too easy to shrink back, say nothing, to fear rejection, to say people “No's” for them. Jesus calls us to reach out, step beyond, take a risk - and see what doors he opens. The more natural it becomes, the less forced it feels. Maybe some of our Englishness needs to die, but as we submit that to Jesus - as it is crucified - we make more space for his life to flow from us.

For me, I recall a season when I daily was asking the LORD for boldness. The fruit of that was one day, after a couple of weeks, I had a series of encounters with people, some in the Open Door Cafe, others at the school gate - and without being conscious or self-conscious of it - I had invited several to Church, Chase Chill and other events. It was just a natural overflow of the Spirit.

The cry for Boldness is a good prayer - and a biblical one too. In Acts 4. The church is under pressure, Peter and John have been arrested and dragged before the Jewish rulers and ordered not to speak about Jesus.

Their prayer, in response is this:

29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. 30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.'

God though, is only too willing to respond to their cry:

31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

As you build a Networks rhythm, what might be built in with regards to boldness.

If we ask for power, and boldness, then finally it's also good to pray for opportunities. I'm praying that right now.

Praying for opportunities to bring Jesus' goodness to others can change our perspective on the day - it may over time, lead us to random opportunities with people we meet. I suspect it also tunes us into what is already happening,

(A friend of mine) Royston tells a story of reaching the end of a couple of weeks mission and not having seen God use him in the way he had hoped. "Lord, why haven't I found anyone who wants to become a Christian?" he asked.

"You haven't listened to me," came the immediate response in his Spirit. "Lord, I'm listening now." he said. Immediately he was guided to speak to a young man, who responded to his message with repentance, becoming a Christian there and then.

As we form our rhythms - let's include prayer for opportunities to share Jesus with others, and be alert to his voice.

As we lay a pattern of prayer into NETWORKS rule let's be praying SEEKING for the right things. Opportunities, for God to Open Doors, Boldness that we'd make the most of them when they come and then Power, that we see God at work confirming his goodness as we become bolder. Are there partners in mission you can connect with to pray for these things together?

So let me pose this question to you:

Which of these aspects would you say you most need, Power / Opportunities or Boldness?

Think about that, talk to those around you, or leave you comments below... and we'll continue in a moment.

NETWORKS RHYTHM

6: Summing Up

Jesus commissions us to Go, with full authority and the promise of his presence. We are described as those SENT into the world by him, just as he was sent to us. A missionary people sent by a missionary God.

The church often seems more sedate and settled. We have formed patterns that worked in the days when Church-going was habitual, but the world has changed, the question is, will we?

And a networks rhythm places us in middle of that tension, it helps us engage with the question, helps us respond I will, in simple, practical and fruitful ways. It is a call not to a knee-jerk or guilty response, but the building of patterns that will continue to increase the missionary temperature of our lives and our church.

As we do this, we're become more deeply obedient to Jesus's commission - and let me say this it is a question of obedience - but obedience always positions us for blessing. We are positioning ourselves to see God at work, we'll become spiritually sensitive to where God is working and see his Kingdom grow.

We've learnt that it's hard to do this alone. We need Partners, the support and encouragement of others, ideally a group committed to the same vision. We need to be people of prayer, asking for Power, Opportunities and Boldness in our mission.

Together we can embark on the search for People of Peace, and as we spot them, staying with them until they share our mission - and the beautiful knowledge of Jesus our saviour.

Doing all this will increase our knowledge of him too - St Paul writes, *I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.* – Philemon 1:6 (NIV).

Don't get trapped with the idea that to grow in spiritual maturity we must study or *learn more*. *Sometimes to grow - we just need to GO!*

But what do you think may need to die if you're to form effective CROWN rhythms?

Did you spot that bit in Luke 10, when Jesus tells his followers to expect or be ready for rejection and how to handle it

10 But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, 11 "Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: the kingdom of God has come near."

This would have been a message to a village that they had made their choice, and chosen to reject Jesus. It would also have been, for the disciples, an indication that they had been faithful - but it was now time to move on.

For us, though, if we've known rejection and disappointment, we can feel weighed down with dusty and heavy feet and hearts. But Jesus said:
16 'Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me.'

In this respect rejection is part of the journey. Maybe we have to shake off the dust of disappointment and go about again with fresh hope.

The minister of a church seeing breakthrough in mission was asked what made the real difference, how did they meet so many People of Peace. His answer, when we were finally prepared to meet many people of un-peace.

Do we just need to die to our fear of rejection and accept the possibility as part of the privilege of being associated with Jesus?

So how might it feel like we're sailing as we build our Networks rhythm?

Firstly, don't crowd your week with activity. It would be better to do one thing a week in response to the Holy Spirit than dashing from one fruitless activity to another.

Prayer is the foundation, as we ask God to move in mission, and in us for mission he will - as we find people of peace. Some of us may need to die to our busy schedule to make space for mission, but can we also wisely spend time with them within our existing life patterns.

As we ask for God's wisdom to guide a next step with our People of Peace, and we respond to that - we will see him working in their lives. As a group, as a church rises to that we will see people saved - coming to Jesus with deep conviction and with the Holy Spirit.

God will not withhold Power, Opportunities or Boldness but will your patterns enable you ask?

Ultimately, it's a question of obedience - will we do the things Jesus has instructed his church to do.

A NETWORKS rhythm positions us outwards as bringers of Good news and bearers of God's presence. As we help those open to us and to Jesus come closer to and find faith we have the joy of seeing his Kingdom grow step by step and person by person.

SENT / SEARCH / SPOT / STAY / SEEK

Let's close by turning these verses from Colossians 4 which so wonderfully sum this up to prayer -

2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. 3 And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. 4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. 5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Father God, stir us to prayer for the mission you have given us. Open Doors for the gospel, lead us to People of Peace, and help us share Jesus clearly and powerfully. Give us opportunities to share you, boldness to recognise and take them, and power that our words are filled with you, and flavour for those who hear them. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

So do talk to those around you, leave you comments below...