

## **PAPER 1 Abbreviated thoughts on 'The Way Forward'**

**Discussion started by Trustees (10.10.23) – now opening up to all**

### **SHOULD WE STILL BE SEEN TO BE ROCKING THE BOAT?**

*This ministry has always been concerned with 'change' - and change is a bit like 'rocking the boat', ie not accepting the status quo but shaking people, and especially Christians, into thinking seriously about why they do things. Christians should always be proactive in change and challenging the world with Kingdom principles and striving to enable the world to become a better place while they themselves also continue to grow in their faith.*

*In our lifetime, there have been many changes, not just in our 70 years of ministry, and not just affecting our own small sphere of influence but also so many of these changes are affecting world history. And we have, more often than not, through our ministries responded to the need for change and been involved in, if not usually helping to create, this change*

*We personally have each lived through a great time of change – and have also been at the forefront of much change which still has not settled down and continues today. Other areas we have barely touched upon are now topically in the news everyday, on which we could comment from experience – having lived through times of war and peace; known the great north-south divide in our own country; the changes in relationships between men and woman (and children); between rich and poor; between the educated and the masses ..... and we could go on. Even recording facts and book publishing which has been an important aspect of this ministry, has changed enormously at all levels (even with a new breed of Publishing Houses and many books now being self-published with E-books on the scene – bringing in the need for new skills).*

*Change is always with us - and another side issue for this ministry is that many of our records are being seen as valuable and are being sought for, and by, museums, etc. How can we use this to our advantage – both ways?*

*These are only discussion starters and primarily for the trustees in their planning for the future!*

*Our lives have been spent responding to need and 'rocking the boat' – I am attaching a contribution overleaf from Cliff on a further need now for 'steadying the ship'. We are not sure that this is, or should be, an 'either/or' but rather a 'both/and'!! One certainty is that change will not go away – but neither can we stand still without responding or being of no further use and fading away!.*

*The trustees are discussing this but are there other needs too? As we widen the remit, your thoughts and contributions can be added.*

*The additional discussion point from Cliff mentioned above is overleaf*

## **OR SHOULD WE NOW BE 'STEADYING THE SHIP'?**

*Monica is right in saying that we have lived with change all through our lives. I was born in a house with no electricity, only gas lighting, no bathroom, no central heating, no hot water, no indoor toilet. We had a tin bath in front of an open fire in the living room and you had to use an umbrella if you wanted to go to the lavatory when it was raining.*

*We have seen many changes in our lifetime but to me it is still like the boyhood dream of an indoor lavatory – it is just not my world!*

*I would have thought that the role of a heritage ministry in a time of rapid and radical social change also needs to be to steady the ship. Should we not be pointing the next generation to some of the unchangeables in life? Surely the kingdom values of truth, honesty, integrity, fidelity – to name just a few – are the things to which we should be pointing.*

*How can we use our vast experience of coping with change, to benefit the next generation? I would suggest an emphasis upon **the Unchanging Love of God in a Changing World**.*

*If we are right in believing that the next generation of Christians are going to experience far greater opposition than we have had, we should be: –*

### ***Equipping, Encouraging and Empowering***

*So that the next generation can also draw upon the amazing things we have seen God doing in the difficult times through which we have lived – and continue to change Christians and ultimately society for the better..*

*I could expand this, of course – but it is just a further thought!*

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