



OneHeart OneVoice

www.oneheartonevoice.co.uk

Report: Leaders Away Day April 30th 2008

On April 30th 2008 church leaders from the One Heart One Voice Network met at Bawtry Hall.

The specific aim of this Leaders AWAY DAY was:

- To focus on developing direction, vision, and exploring the strategic nature of our work together across the town. We will look at what we already do together and how that is serving the purposes of God and also reflect on what other things God might be calling us to do in the coming months and years.

One Heart One Voice AWAY DAYS are about looking beyond the possibilities and boundaries of individual churches and ministries and understanding that the mission of the Church is a joint responsibility shared with others.

Introduction:

After a time of prayer and worship Ian Mayer outlined the history of One Heart One Voice Network. Each leader was then invited to share their vision for the network. Amongst the things that were shared the following stood out :- One Heart One Voice Network is most of all about relationship, a place for listening to God and each other, for encouraging and empowering leaders to live authentic Christian lives and so lead others into the kingdom. We are a diverse group who are united by our relationship in Christ. Scripture encourages us to work together, Psalm 133, 1 John 1:6,7, 1 Sam 23:16 reminds us that leaders need help to find strength in God. The One Heart One Voice Network is not an organising committee but a group of leaders who come together for the long term. Agendas cannot be forced but as we have met over a period of 10 years so God has led us and initiatives, such as City Celebration, City Prayer, CLAY and the Doncaster Teen Challenge work, have emerged and prospered.

Time was then taken to review the various joint initiatives that are happening in Doncaster. The following is a summary of the comments about each one.

City Celebration (CC)

Website: www.citycelebration.org.uk

The excellence of the current venue (Salvation Army, Lakeside) was celebrated, though we are beginning to be too big for it. The format was considered generally to be good for the variety; attention needs to be given to timing. Questions need to be asked about how we might cater for families and children. The speakers have generally been well received; CC is great to bring good speakers who might not otherwise be heard by many Christians in Doncaster. The worship was

considered critically, CC provides a place to learn new songs, alongside more well known ones, a good mix. People not used to the celebration style of worship seem able to join in; we need to recognise that some make a sacrifice to join us. There were requests for different styles of worship to be considered, and a reminder that worship is not just singing. When considering times of prayer people enjoyed the use of multimedia and variety. There was a request to ensure that prayer for Doncaster was always included. It was also felt that prayer should be kept brief and focussed. We are still finding our feet in terms of ministry times and need to develop “our” model. People come with different expectations and experiences. It was felt that there should be opportunity to respond to the speaker’s message whilst remembering that most people present are mature Christians.

City Prayer (CP)

Website: www.cityprayer.org.uk

There was great hope for this venture but a feeling that it has yet to fully develop. One person described it as inventive and accessible, whilst another said “Too Anglican”. The small numbers of Church leaders involved was lamented. There was a hope that it might grow in its depth and significance and also that it could lead to All Night Prayer sessions. The downloadable prayer sheets were welcomed.

CLAY (Changing Lives Among Youth)

Website: www.clay.org.uk

This was described as “A great blessing for small churches and groups.” “A fabulous resource” “A great opportunity” “A great vision” and “Fantastic”. It was felt that more could be done to publicise it and to encourage more churches to be a part of it, and share the vision for it. It was felt that the focus tends to be for young people who are already Christians, and this has its pros and cons. There needs to be an awareness that not all the young people who attend are Christians yet, and consideration needs to be given as to how to integrate them, engage with them and love them into the kingdom whilst at the same time equipping the young Christians of the town. Some felt that a development strategy was required. The potential, even importance, of linking with the Schools’ workers was recognised and the question was asked could we employ someone to work specifically with CLAY?

Teen Challenge Initiative

Again this was described as a “fantastic” initiative that has led to much spiritual growth in the lives of some of the volunteers and those who support the work indirectly. Judy, the leader who spearheaded the work, has left the area and since then the work does not seem to fit into the bigger picture as well as it might. It was felt that this ministry could be better supported by the local network.

Doncaster Schools’ Workers Trust (DSWT)

This initiative is not formally part of the One Heart One Voice Network network, it was felt that if better links were formed this might bring greater understanding and opportunity. There was a feeling that a great work was being done and that DSWT provides a “great support and

encouragement for work in local schools.” However more support was needed and especially at secondary level there is more to be done than can be done at the moment. Again it was felt that this ministry could be better supported by the local network.

General Comments

The leadership team were congratulated and thanked for doing a great job, and there was praise for the sense of fellowship and unity of purpose. There is room to improve communication and a request to develop a budget for a yearly leaflet of events.

Closing remarks – Reference was made to the story of the Lepers in 2 Kings 7 who “had good news” and were tempted to make it a private party but realised that they shouldn’t keep it to themselves.

For more information:

Mission Doncaster
Registered Charity No: 1077936.
Mission Doncaster
PO Box 589,
Doncaster,
South Yorkshire,
DN57YL,
United Kingdom
TEL: +44 1302 780276
FAX: +44 7092 027856
Email: trustees@missiondoncaster.org.uk