



I AM GOING TO DO A NEW THING

Have you made a resolution? Something that goes in one year and out the other?

It's the beginning of a new year and a good time to think about new things. Not just Christmas presents but new things in your life for the coming year. Last month we thought about the Coming of the King. One of the immense benefits of the coming

of Jesus Christ into your life is that new things are possible. Are you ready for the new life, new power to change, new hope he has for you?

Unlike resolutions, which don't work because they come from within, Jesus can do a new thing in you because he has the power.

Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. 3 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope.

I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols. See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you.

Isaiah 43:18-19

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. 19 See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

A year ago I spoke about how the Lord was calling us to a time of consecration – both as a church and as individuals. You may remember that we stopped almost everything for a month and entered the “bunker”. Through the course of the year we, the church, have trimmed back our activities and pruned our spending to get our finances back in line. We’ve invested ourselves in settling here at HMC.

We have prayed and many of us have pursued a deeper inner journey with God. He has been preparing us for what he has prepared for us. Many stories and some still ongoing. Some found it hard to step back. Others have benefited hugely from the discipline of prayer and waiting on God.

This year God is telling us that he is going to do a new thing.

That is not to say that we stop consecrating ourselves or risking that inner journey. Far from it, clearing space in our lives for our relationship with Him, space for consecration, space that feels risky, that's the only way we will see the new thing, the new things He can and promises to do.

These verses from Isaiah are encouraging and challenging at the same time, they are inspirational and testing too.

The first 4 verses are God speaking about His Son Jesus – the King whose birth and coming we have been celebrating in the last few weeks. Not just a baby but the one who will bring justice and hope to these lands.

Then verses 6-9 are Jesus speaking to you and me and the church. I find them daunting but exciting. The picture is of Jesus on the march – getting on with the work and the calling which he has been given and he reaches out and grabs you by the hand and says “Come on, this is what I have called you to, let’s go!”

Isaiah lists the job description:

justice (verse 3)

hope (verse 4)

a covenant for the people – a bringer of promises (verse 6)

a light in a dark place (verse 6)

healer of blindness (verse 7)

freer of captives (verse 7)

releasing the oppressed (verse 7).

Exciting but daunting.

Wherever you spend your time, wherever you work, wherever your “front-line” in life is, He is there, walking firmly on beside you, on mission, bringing light and healing and freedom, justice and hope.

I think the Lord is speaking to each one of you in a specific way about something new he wants to do in your life this year.

I don’t mean buying a new car or taking a new job. I mean that Jesus’ redeeming presence in your life will find a new expression and new meaning this year.

The former things have taken place he says, new things I declare (verse 9).

Or, in the Message translation:

I’m announcing the new salvation work. Before it bursts on the scene, I’m telling you all about it.

Today is an opportunity to listen to him. Jesus is inviting you into an exciting journey with him in 2015 - a new salvation work. It won’t all be easy. Some of it may be very hard and some of it may be wonderful. “I will take hold of your hand” he says (verse 6), “I will keep you and make you to be a covenant...” In other words he is saying, it’s you and me, together we are going to do a new thing and bring salvation to change the world.

Do you want to be in on His new salvation work? If you do, we are here to help you!

Three resources on which you can draw:



You are invited to join in this **week of prayer and fasting**. Something we do once or twice a year.

Fasting can take many forms: - food, drinks, habits, hobbies, comforts, distractions. Refer to website resources.

Prayer can take different forms – you can pray alone or in your housegroup or meet with one or two other people. Whilst you’re walking or sitting in your favourite chair.

There’s a scripture for each day, a brief reflection and some guidance for prayers. The theme is “I am

doing a new thing”.

And if you have a story to share about this – please respond to the website article. We'd love to read about it.

Weekly worship at seven

This promises to become a signature event for LV (starting on 25 January, 2015). It may help you to discover the new thing the Lord wants to do in your life by being:

- An opportunity to serve the church in a new way
- An opportunity to continue serving at weekly worship at eleven but being able to “receive” at seven
- A more creative and responsive space to hear from and respond to God than we have in the morning
- Another, different, event to which you can invite your friends & family



Doing the Stuff

On March 13 & 14 we'll be hosting one of the biggest events put on by the Vineyard in the North since John Wimber's visits in the 90s.

We are running DtS with guest speaker Robby Dawkins.

This will help you discover new things about prayer ministry and will challenge you into risk-taking as you share the good news and the power of Jesus on your frontlines.

We'll be helping by commencing a teaching series soon which will prepare the ground for Robby's teaching. Book now for the early bird.

TODAY I WANT TO YOU TO LISTEN TO WHAT GOD IS SAYING TO YOU AND TO RESPOND

Isaiah 43:18-19

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Doing new things is what God is good at because it makes it all about him. In this passage Isaiah is referring back to the Exodus where God made a dry place in the sea and he is saying there is a new thing coming – wet places in the desert. This is about the salvation Jesus is bringing to the whole world.

And it is a salvation work he wants to do with you.

Do you want him to do this new thing in your life?

1. It starts with worship – making him the King of our lives, surrendering everything to him. In verse 8 he says, “I am the Lord: that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols.” When we gather to worship in song on a Sunday or at housegroup it is an expression of worship in the rest of our lives. His presence with us every step of every day.

2. Then we recognise that he is God and we're not and we hand over our expectations for this year. All those outcomes we want to control – the new things we would like to see, the exam results, our children's performance, our career, our bank balance, our love life, our health – we have to put them down and wait for him to show us what he has for us.
3. And finally, for Jesus to do a new thing in your life, you will have to take risks. Whether it be the risk of trusting him with the frontiers of your heart and spending time with him in the secret place or whether it be the risk of letting him loose in your front-lines – in those places where you do life with other people. Stepping out in faith to see him do a new thing will mean taking a risk.

As you look ahead there are things you simply don't know about, but he does.

He can see round corners.

He sees what you and I do not see.

He hears what you and I do not hear.

He knows what you and I do not know.

God has you perched between his skis and is ready to take you down the mountain - he knows the way.

He knows your history, your fears and worries. He knows about the things you would dearly love to change – in you and around you.

He also knows your ambitions and goals – some of the things which compete with His kingship in your life, which take the glory due to him.

But He can see what your year could look like if you let Him do a new thing.

Will you worship only Him and trust Him with your heart and your future?

Will you take the risk of letting Him do a new thing in your life this year?