**Cumbria Ministry Development Day:**

**Leadership Post Pandemic**

**Online Zoom Platform, Saturday 17th October 2020**

**Intercessory Breakout Group**

Good morning, thank you for joining us.

Our brief for this session is to pray for the county within the context of the prayer work we do with Cumbria Prayer Net. So first we’d like to set the context in which we pray and work.

Back in the 80’s we partnered in prayer and fellowship with an Anglican minister and his wife and a small group in their parish. They once came home from a conference and shared with us a vision they’d received as they had been in prayer together for Cumbria.

This is the picture

*“Imagine an aerial view of Cumbria in darkness, within which small fires began springing up all around the edge of the county. As the fires began to burn streams of fire began to cross from fire to fire until the whole county was ringed by fire. As the circle became complete streams of fire began to flow up the valleys towards the mountainous centre until the whole county was ablaze.”*

This vision of Cumbria ablaze gripped and still grips our hearts and informs our prayer for the county.

During this pandemic we have seen the gathered church scattered into their homes and communities (not unlike what happened in Acts ch8) and wonder if this is a step in the beginning of a process to see the fulfilment of our prayers of some 30 years. Small groups scattered across the county ablaze with a love for Jesus and the desire for their neighbours to share that same love. For us it’s a time to refresh the vision and not unlike the vision refresh already described.

Our conviction is that post pandemic leadership should be focussed on equipping the scattered people of God in three key activities.

* Listening to Father in prayer
* Interceding in prayer with what they hear
* Obedience to the leading of the Holy Spirit to impact their neighbourhood and community.(Putting legs on our prayers)

These were the key principles of Jesus ministry in the gospels and summed up in Jn 5:19 *“Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.”*

To be effective in our leadership and fruitful in our prayers we must ourselves learn to **model** these principles.

We’d like to suggest that for the remainder of this breakout time we adopt this pattern then listen & pray into four specific areas:-

First lets’ reflect on what’s just been shared in relation to our own priorities. Holy Spirit who will cause each of hearts to respond in ways personal to us.

Then we’ll invite you to listen to the Father’s heart in four areas important to this county beginning with God’s word in scripture to direct our thinking.

1. Farming Community *(Psalm 67)*
2. Hospitality Industry *(Romans 12:13 Hebrews 13:2)*
3. Aging Population at it’s challenges and needs *(Psalm 92:12-15)*
4. Draining of Young people away from county *(Isaiah 43:6)*

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**Scriptures**

**Farming Community**

*May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you.*

*Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us.
God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear him.*

*Psalm 67:5-6*

**Hospitality Industry**

*Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Romans 12:13*

*Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2*

**Aging Population**

*The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon;*

*planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God.*

*They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming,*

*“The Lord is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him*.”

*Psalm 92:12-15*

**Draining of Young People**

*I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’
Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth Isaiah 43:6*