

**MUSIC MINISTRY
TEAM TEACHING: AUGUST 2011**

DWELLING & DOING

Biblical Thinking

The Bible teaches us that we are three in one. This shouldn't come as a surprise because we are made in the image of God who is . . . three in one. Whilst he is Father, Spirit, Son, we are spirit, soul and body. You can see these parts of humanity at work in Jesus Christ as he wrestled with the destiny of the cross in Gethsemane. (Mark 14: 32- 41)

These *bits* of us respond differently to different stimulus. When we hear something Godly and good, it connects with our spirits and we respond. If we then regret what we signed up for, this is usually our flesh/body feeling weak, drained and insufficient. The Bible teaches that we are to subject our spirit and body to the renewal of our minds. Your soul needs to participate in training your body to get wise and follow good decisions. (Rom 12: 1-2 & Eph 4: 22-24)

Balancing your commitment

In Worship Teams I've rarely heard anyone talk about overcommitment - usually we are desperate for everyone's involvement that we'll take whatever we can get. I'm told that overcommitment is not a major issue within churches? My experience, both observed and personal, is that burnout, imbalance and overextending are very common issues in church - especially music teams. One possible reason is that lack of commitment is commonplace too.

So I want to share some thoughts that address the root of both these issues and hopefully we will be inspired and encouraged to take stock of our efforts and self-manage with purpose and consideration for each other.

Do you love the house in which you serve?

Maybe this is a strange question, but the Bible says that Jesus was consumed with zeal for the house of the Lord. In this sense the word "house" means those in the lineage of God. It's talking about the heirs who live there.

As you look through the Bible you will struggle to find a Music Ministry Team in the New Testament set up of the church. The closest you will find is the Ministry of Helps. This is the very reason we now have the name "Music Ministry". Ministry means *to serve*. This will be a key theme as we develop the Team and consider our purpose. We are indeed servants at All Saints. The

problem with this model is we are not *only* servants. We are heirs and we live here too. An over focus on *doing* leaves us forgetting that we must *dwell* here as well. It's hard not to be confronted with the question of love if we live with each other. You have to love people in order dwell together. If we don't, then we find ourselves avoiding being at home.

Are we in the house when we aren't serving?

This is a working definition of being wrongly committed:

My time and energies spent dwelling in the house of the Lord is out of balance compared to the time I spend serving in the house of the Lord.

I believe that this is practical and spiritual. A prayer offered up will never be effective *unless our souls are submitted to practical change.*

So, I'd like you to give this serious consideration:

***Do I need to serve more or less? Do I need to dwell more or less?
Am I well balanced?***

Once we get the balance right we can adjust the level appropriately too.

We know that it's the hardest area to get right. Juggling life, work, family and voluntary commitments is a complex task. At the start of this time of new leadership I want to be up front and say, *God doesn't want to bleed you dry.* He wants to fill you up so you are fit for purpose. He has given us his Holy Spirit for that very reason.

Much love,

Nathan