

“If it is to be it is up to me”

July/August 2009

Hymn “I, the Lord of sea and sky” VU 509

Scripture Luke 10: 1-3

‘After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where He was about to go. He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go, I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.” ‘

Prayer Let us pray together – We gather to hear your call, O God of love. Speak to us in this time of fellowship and worship that we may hear your call to service and answer, “Here am I, send me.” Amen.

Reflection Do we see the work that we do each day as a part of God’s work and God’s plan? Do we see that there are many tasks that need to be undertaken to bring about justice and peace in our world? Do we name justice and peacemaking as the work of God and therefore as our work as well? God calls us to do the work that needs to be done.

In his book “If it is to be it’s up to me”, Author Thomas B. Smith tells of the powerful impact this attitude has in every area of his life. As he states in the first chapter, “An optimistic outlook on life has many advantages. It means you’re solution oriented and a possibility thinker. You look for the good. When you have a positive attitude, you’re more likely to be committed and achieve your goals and dreams.”

When we follow that message, “if it is to be, it is up to me”, as we work in our church and in our community, then we can know that we can do the work that God needs us to do.

There are many in the Bible who heard God’s call. Abraham, Samuel and Isaiah all heard it and gave the same answer, according to scripture. Isaiah heard God asking, “Whom shall I send and who will go?” They all replied, “Here I am, send me.”

In modern times, many have heard God’s call – some to be teachers, others doctors and nurses, social workers or labourers. It does not matter what the task, if it is done in a spirit of love and justice. It does not matter where the work is to be accomplished. It is our work, it is God’s work. God calls each of us to share in the coming of a world of peace and justice

Discussion What is our work at these stages in our lives?

Closing prayer Let us pray – God of call, help us to listen to your voice. Your work is our work. Our work is your work. Give us the will to follow where you lead, to reach out in love, to struggle for justice. Grant that we, with courage and daring, will stand up and be counted among your servants. In Jesus’ name. Amen.