

The sharing of WORDS AND PROPHECIES in public meetings at OTCC

Please take time to read this document carefully - thank you

1 Corinthians 14:12 **“So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church.”**

1 Corinthians 14:3 **“But everyone who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.”**

The Old Town Community Church Leadership team met recently to agree how we as a body of believers can record, manage and respond to the giving of words and prophecies in our public meetings. (Public meetings are occasions like Sunday mornings when we have both regular and visiting people.)

- We recognise that the gifts of the Spirit flow in OTCC and want to encourage this in every way. Our desire is that we help this to happen in a positive, safe, and freeing ways.
- As we are aware, none of us get it 100% right when we share words as we "see through a glass darkly" (1 Cor 13:12) . Therefore we would encourage the use of "***I think / I feel God is saying...***" rather than; "***Thus says the Lord / the Lord says...***". This is for two reasons. Firstly, if we speak as though it is God speaking (E.g "The Lord says..."), it leaves no room for the prophecy to be weighed and weighing is very important ("weighing" means prayerfully deciding, if, when and with whom the prophecy / word should be shared). Secondly, visitors or new believers may be given a false sense of a person's authority.
- We are aiming to keep a book of "weighed" *prophecies / words*. This is so we can keep a record of recurring themes etc. This book will be available to be looked at and added to. Please can we encourage anyone who has (either from the past or present) had a word or prophecy to jot it down so we can "weigh it" and add it to the book. Thank you!

To help our understanding, we have listed different types of prophecies as we understand them, below:

Kinds of prophecy:

A) Encouragement B) Directional C) Correctional D) Predictional

Over the page are some examples of what these types of prophecies can sound like:

A) **Encouragement:** (example: “I feel God is saying he is pleased with you – he knows you are struggling and wants you to know He is right there with you and will help bring you through.”)

B) **Directional:** (example: “I think God is saying we should hold afternoon meetings on the beach.../ focus more on the elderly.../ have two morning services... etc.”)

C) **Correctional** (example: “There is sin in the church which must be dealt with before God will bless us... God is saying the leadership is not in unity and must repent... etc.”)

D) **Predictional:** (example: “This congregation will double in size in 6 months / revival will start this year / there will be a 50% drop in crime / suicides by the end of the year.”)

The actual giving of words or prophecies:

- **We feel that words of encouragement are appropriate to be shared at public meetings.** (However, it is good to get in the habit of first checking what we feel God is saying to us with a member of the leadership team before sharing publicly.)
- **If you have a word / prophecy that seems to be directional, correctional or predictive please always check first with a member of the leadership team.**

The reason for this is because it is not often appropriate for **directional, correctional** or **predictive** prophecies to be spoken out to the whole congregation, without first referring and running it through the leadership. Partly because it is not always helpful (or appropriate) for certain things to be "aired" in public - especially Sunday mornings which are open to the public and is, as has been said, "The shop window of the church".

And primarily because these prophecies should first be "weighed" by the leadership and those with prophetic gifting.

This document is a very simple overview and a basic framework from which we can safely operate. Over time we will look more at what the Bible teaches us about the spiritual gifts and how we can use them to glorify God and encourage us as a body!

This comes to you with much love, and a deep desire to see God's blessing and encouragement on your life - and for Old Town Community Church as a body of believers. Thank you x