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EDIFYING
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YOUTH WITH A MISSION
ENGLAND

It is time for you to act, O Lord!

IN THE UPPER ROOM, as the disciples were praying and waiting to be clothed with power from on high to go to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth, did they have the slightest idea what Jesus was about to do? The Lord Jesus Christ, whom they had followed for three years, was about to baptise them with the Holy Spirit and fire. Did they know that they would be healing the sick and raising the dead? Did they have any idea what was about to be unleashed?

The Lord Jesus Christ was about to pour out the Holy Spirit. It was time for Him to act. Jesus had already entered the stage in Act 1 as a baby and lived as a man for 33 years. But now was the beginning of Act 2 of the drama. It was time for the acts of the apostles. One hallmark of the apostolic age was that the disciples followed the divine leading of the Lord Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. He is the head of His Church, and they only did what they were told. They followed His leading at all times and they would not move an inch without His leading. Did they realise the opposition that they would face? Did they imagine that they would be persecuted and scattered? Did they realise how fearfully dark the times would be?

Darkness covers the earth

We are living in a time of thick darkness over the earth. There is a rising tide of anxiety and fear in Britain today. When computer disks are lost with the financial details of nearly half the population, when there is a collapse of a high-street bank and a global credit crisis, fear rises, anxiety covers like a blanket.

What are we to do as the Church of Jesus Christ at this time in a nation that is paralysed and humiliated by a rising tide of events, locked in fear and anxiety? Isaiah 60 says, "Arise, shine, for your light has come ... darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you." (NIV) The very time when thick darkness covers the earth is the very time when the Church of God is to arise. One of the hallmarks of the apostolic age was that the apostles waited and prayed and only acted on the Lord's leading. Another hallmark was their boldness and fearless proclamation of the gospel in a time of much opposition.

In Britain today, as we see thick darkness and a rising tide of fear and anxiety, we need to arise and fulfil our destiny. Jesus has called His Church to go to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth. So, yes, we need those who will be light in the darkness in this country — our Jerusalem — at this time.

But we also need people who are willing to go from here — to go to our Judea, our Samaria and to the ends. We only need to read the newspaper, surf for news on the Internet, listen to the radio, or watch the television to get a picture of the darkness over the earth. Will we be part of a new apostolic youth movement to take the gospel from these shores to the ends of the earth? A movement that will arise and shine God's light into these dark places in the world?



Connie Taylor
YWAM England
Executive Team member

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To the ends of the earth

I went to the ends of the earth this summer with 44 young people, to a nation where the harvest is ripe. One young man I met told me he had seen Mel Gibson's film *The Passion*, but he didn't understand why Jesus had to die. A friend and I explained the gospel to him, and he was eager to know how God cleanses our evil hearts. The next night we continued sharing the gospel. I asked if he would like to receive this gift of forgiveness and to become a child of God. "Oh, I would," he said, "but I don't know how to pray." So I led him in a prayer and then he prayed in his own language and asked God to forgive him specifically for his evil deeds. Afterwards he said: "My spirit has been set free, my head feels clear!"

In John chapter 4, Jesus said, "Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." (NIV) As I spoke to young people last summer they were hungry to hear about knowing God personally, and eager to surrender their lives to Him. The blood of the martyrs and of the missionaries who went out from our nation has soaked the ground. The seed has been sown and now is the time. The fields are ripe for harvest. I am going again this summer. Will you come with me or one of the many other YWAM teams going out from England this summer? Or will you encourage a young person to go? Check out our website (www.ywam-england.com) for more information.

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Let's pray together that the Lord will thrust out labourers into the harvest:

"It is time for you to act, O Lord! It is time for the Church of God to arise. It is time to go to the ends of the earth. Unleash Your Spirit on us today, O God! We will not be daunted by fear and anxiety. We will go wherever You lead — just say the word and we'll go."

For Christ and His kingdom,

Connie Taylor
YWAM England Executive Team member