

Jesus said 'My sheep hear my voice' (John 10v27)

Key scriptures:

John 10v27: "my sheep hear my voice, and I know them and they follow me".

John 18v37 "Everyone that is of the truth hears my voice"

Romans 8v14: "Those who are led by Gods spirit are Gods children".

Ephesians 2v10: " we have been created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

2 Corinthians 4v17 "We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure.

2 Corinthians 12v9 – My power is made perfect in weakness.

Isaiah 61v1 –The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.

Conversations

When you are having a standard conversation with a friend, which do you the most – talking or listening? Hands up those who talk more? Hands up those who listen more? The person you came with has to verify you are telling the truth!

Why are our conversations so important? Without spending time with people both sharing and listening we have little chance of getting to know them, especially if you can not regularly observe that person, so your ability to form a relationship depends mostly on the conversations you have.

Fellowship with Jesus

We can accept Jesus into our lives when we become a Christian, but we sell ourselves and Jesus well short if we do not then work at that relationship, which involves talking to him in prayer and listening. Giving over quality time to working on your relationship with Jesus. Makes sense doesn't it. You'll find as you share more of your heart with God, what worries you and your own difficulties, then you will experience more of him sharing his heart. You'll find him more of what he is doing in this world, and your place in those plans.

God created us because he wants us to fellowship with him, he wants our worship, our time, our love, our ears, and wants to engage with us continually because that is where we will find fullness of life.

When I was baptised (here) in 1978 my bible scripture was from Colossians 2 (v6-7), and it reads. ⁶Since you have accepted Christ Jesus as Lord, live in union with him. ⁷Keep your roots deep in him, build your lives on him, and become stronger in your faith, as you were taught. And be filled with thanksgiving

He wants us to keep working on that relationship because as we seek his purposes and press into this relationship with God, then we become more and more like him, and become stronger in our faith.

So fellowship is important, our relationship with Jesus will grow as we speak to him and listen to him.

Friendship not confusion

God is not trying to hide from us. Jesus did not do his good works in secret. He was out in public, people could see who he was and what he was doing, and what his heart was.

He is not trying to confuse us either. He want us to follow him by regularly staying in touch and understanding his will for our lives, and being obedient to that. We might not understand his ways, and why something happens the way it does, or why he leads us in a certain direction. But that's okay. The bible says this (Isaiah 55 v 8-9). **For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways.**

He is God. We have to trust him, that he knows what is best for our lives.

Listening

So what does the bible say about listening. Our key verse today is from Johns Gospel (John 10v27) where Jesus says **“my sheep hear my voice, and I know them and they follow me”**.

Jesus is saying that his followers, me and you, are able to do just that and follow him, because we listen to his voice. He goes on to say this more strongly by saying:- **“Everyone that is of the truth hears my voice”** (John 18v37)

In Pauls letter to the Romans he equates listening to Jesus, by being led by the Holy Spirit. In Romans 8v14 he says **“Those who are led by Gods spirit are Gods children”**. So the bible is telling us that to follow Gods purposes in our lives, we need to be led by his Spirit, and to do that we must be able to hear his voice, hear and know the promptings of the Holy Spirit

What happens if we don't hear his voice. Well I suppose we can still do random acts of kindness, and do what we judge are good things and God things. But how much better for us, to fulfil the very plans and purposes that he has desired and prepared for you.

Ephesians 2v10 – says that **“ we have been created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”**

These things are NOT just a sack of random stuff, that he has wrapped up for us to dip into and take out in any order at any time during our lives. A bit like a small child with a large Christmas sack, and its all too much to do it one go, so you open the presents over a couple of days, in the order that they randomly get pulled out. Jesus is our example here, he said that **‘he only does what he sees God the Father doing** (John 5v19), which comes after he purposefully heals one particular man at the Bethesda pool near Jerusalems sheep gate, who had been lying on his man sick for 38 years.

Jesus may have seemed to some to have wandered randomly around the villages healing anyone he saw, but his life was purpose driven, doing what was destined for him, being in touch with his Father, and listening to his promptings, effectively doing what the Father was willing him to do.

How do we hear his voice?

So the Lotto winning question, is then 'how do we do the same? How do we hear Gods voice, be led by his spirit, into a purpose driven life that keys in with what the Father is doing, and this into what Jesus wants us to do with our lives.

Do you hear from God? Do you hear his voice? Yes?

Is it an audible voice? For most people most of the time, the answer to that is no. I have heard on a documentary of some-one who does all the time, and I have met people who on a rare occasion have heard an audible message from God, but generally this is rare. Sometimes Jesus, or his angels appears in person to people in dreams of whilst they are awake but in a vision. He appears to be right there in the room with them, and they get spoken to in that way. I hear that this is happening more and more in Muslim counties such as Iran. But again this is rare.

So how do we listen to God voice; how do we get led by his Spirit. Well we serve a creative God, so I am sure than there are more than 3 ways, but I want to focus on 3 ways today, and illustrate these with a testimony from my Mission trip to Macedonia which I have just returned from, and this is the first chance I have had to share details of the trip in Church.

First – We here from the Holy Spirit, by our thoughts, through words, phrases or pictures that come into our head, that we learn to distinguish from all the other stuff, including our mental shopping lists that up in our brains. Listening to his voice in this way, is something that gets better, the more you work on it. Asking questions for directions in your life, even in the very small decisions, and seeing if you can hear a prompting. Sometimes it is a strong word that comes through clear and repeatedly. Sometimes its just this faint impression, but it feels that it is right and its from God.

Second – Is our Bibles. Especially if as we go through our Christian lives we have been underlining or key verses in our bibles, then we can ask him to encourage us and guide by using our bibles. It is a very powerful tool in being led by the spirit, and not going off doing the wrong thing.

The third on I propose today for hearing Gods voice is through other Christians who love us and support us. They can bring you words and pictures, and prophecies, which is where they believe they have heard Gods work for your life and direction, or some other insight that will help you.

Sometime they are all combined. Last week I was having a day of discouragement, I was on the phone to a friend who prayed for me, asked the Spirit to give me a bible verse that would help me. A scripture reference popped into my head. I looked it up and it did help. So that combined all free, a friend's advice, listening to his voice, and then using the bible to help restore me!

Mission Macedonia – Testimony of hearing Gods voice

Boiler House is born

My friend Jason and I had been enjoying dynamic prayer times on a Monday night at our local Baptist church, but then moved house and moved to a more local church. He suggested we continued prayer times at his new house on a Monday, and also invited a friend Richie from his new church. We called these meetings 'The boiler house' as we were serious about working hard at prayer and doing business with God, whilst also listening to some good worship music, and enjoying some good male banter!

Richie had been going out on trips each year to Macedonia, at the invite of a Nigerian Evangelist, brother Jimmy, who over recent years had planted 27 churches in some of the poorest parts of Macedonia, which is itself the 2nd poorest country in Europe, with an average income of just 350 Euros a months. I am told 60% live below the poverty line, some cannot get enough fuel to see them through the bitter winter. There are few jobs so most educated people look to migrate for work. One of Jimmy's churches reduced in size from about 100 to 10 in a year due to migration. There are very few free protestant churches (less than 1%) and there seems to be mostly post-Communist suspicion, and division between denominations. There seems to be some persecution of the free churches by the states Macedonian Orthodox church, with people I have met having lost jobs when they joined a free church. That's the beautiful but needy country of Macedonia that Richie introduced us too.

So it was probably no surprise that one of the things we prayed for on our first meeting was Macedonia. The country where Alexander the Great was born, the country where Dr. Luke led Paul on one of his missionary journeys. In Lukes 2nd book, the Book of Acts, he is telling the story of the early church, and particularly of St. Paul, and he is just over half way through his story when he joins the story himself. It's written so subtly that you may have never noticed this.

In Acts 16 v8, he is talking about Paul, Silas and Timothy, when he said **they went through Mysia and on to Troas**. Then he says **"That night Paul had a vision in which he saw a Macedonian standing and begging him – Come over to Macedonia and help us"**. As soon as Paul had this vision **we got ready to leave, because we decided that God had called us to preach the Good news to the people there**. At this point of the story it goes from 'they' to 'we'. Luke has joined in. And can you see how Paul hears the voice of God in a vision, but together they make the decision that he is calling them all to Macedonia.

We had not realised when we started the boiler house meetings that the main focus would become Macedonia, but I think that was always Gods plan. God had heard the cries of the people there today, 2000 years later, and was calling us this time, to preach good news to the people there.

A feature of our prayer nights, was to pray with the map of Macedonia on the table, bibles open, along with a journal which we wrote in with prayer topics, and verses that we felt God was prompting us to on that day. This became an important record of how God was prompting us, and also a reminder of answered prayers, and words from God that we needed to help direct us further.

Asking for direction

We brought Jimmy out for a few days last summer to the UK, and took him for one day to big New Wine Christian festival at Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Not long afterward, Jimmy invited us out to Macedonia to put on our own conference, and be the speakers. Wow? Whilst I had put on some events before, what we were agreeing to was to start up and put on a new type of Christian conference in a foreign country with a different language. We prayed, and felt it was right to do so, and so that Jason could take his family, we decided we would do it over Easter.

About 3 weeks later (5th Sept) we were praying over the map, and specifically asking God to give us some words for Macedonia, as we prayed over different towns that we knew nothing much about. As we prayed for the big town in the centre called Veles, Jason got the scripture from Isaiah 61 (which includes the words, "he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor") but also started getting disturbing images in his head of deformed children. We stopped praying and googled Veles to find out that it was described as the most polluted city in Europe, because of the sulphur levels in the soil, in which crops had been grown and caused health problems including serious birth defects. Veles became a frequent focus for our prayers. I got a verse Psalm 30v5 (Though there is pain and weeping in the night, joy comes in the morning) for a town on the Easter border called Delchevo. We prayed into the pain of these two towns. Quite extraordinarily, through a series of God circumstances, just 5 weeks later, my half term plans had suddenly been changed, and I found myself in the church in Delchevo, sharing that verse from the Psalms and praying for them. But that's another story.

Not giving up

Months passed, and we got nearer and nearer to Easter. We needed a team including a worship leader, we needed a big venue, and we needed to raise about £5000 in finance. I had spent many hours myself and with a contact out there, trying to find the right venue, but with just 13 weeks to go, things were looking dire. But we knew this was of God, and we had to keep **listening** and trusting God. We decided that even if all went badly wrong, we would be obedient and give it our all, we would work like it depended on us, and pray like it depending on God, and just see what happens. We called the conference – New Hope, and set out a vision statement for it, with 'unity' at the very heart of it, but also the ambition to see salvations and miraculous healings.

It was a Monday boiler house prayer time on 16th January. That week, with just 13 weeks to go, I purposefully wrote this in the journal as a marker:

Venue – none. Worship Leaders none - Finance – None. Helpers - Mario (who was a young Bulgarian film maker, a friend of my oldest lad, who had come to New Wine with me.). Publicity - None. We trust in Him to Provide. Interestingly I also wrote [Ephesians 3v20](#) 'There is no chain HIS love can't break'.

My biggest concern was after months of effort we still had not found a venue. Also if God was going to make a move and provide a team, then it would have to be done quite quickly now, as we would need to book up flights for whoever was coming! I was getting quite stressed, I wanted to push things along in my own strength, but it wasn't happening.

Team and Finance

My best man Jon Cox lives in Aberystwyth in Wales, but we meet up every Christmas at his in-laws farm near Bristol airport. I had shared with him at Christmas, that I was thinking of getting a small number of individuals or churches to sponsor £500 each. Most of the money we needed to raise was to cover the cost of transporting people to the event (in coaches) and feeding them all, as most would not be able to afford this, and we wanted to give everyone in these poor churches the opportunity to attend the conference. He said that he would talk to his vicar, who he thought might be interested in getting their church to support us with prayer and finance. Sounded good, but when I was invited to go and share the vision at his church in a 10 minute Q&A session at their evening service, I was full of doubt. A six hour round trip, and a tank full of petrol for 10 minutes, where there was no guarantee of support. Didn't make much sense to me. But Gods ways are **not** our ways. I rang up my best man with the intent of saying

'No', when I heard Gods voice say "Really Kevin – you won't do that for me? And the words that came out of my mouth were something like 'Yes that's fine Jono, let's do it'.

I was driving there in the car, I got another word from God, which seemed quite random. That before I do the Q&A with John I was to say that there was somewhere there who God wanted to step out in mission work, and they were worried that they couldn't do it, but that God was saying that he wanted that's persons availability, not ability, and he would provide all that was needed. The person would hear this and know exactly that the word was for that person. So I just shared that, then answered Johns questions about myself and Macedonia.

After the service I joined the prayer team, as I love praying for people. One young lady approached me directly and said ' I was the one you were talking to – it was me'. I looked at Freya, and the words just came out of my mouth "and you are coming to Macedonia'. She said ' Yes – I think I am'. Later I went to the back of the church, and another lady, a nurse of about my age, Brenda, came up to me and quietly said that she had heard Gods voice ask her recently to do some mission work, but she didn't have the confidence to go and regretted it, so said to God (note: this relationship with Jesus of talking and listening) if you give me another opportunity, I will go, so she would like to come to Macedonia with me. The next day, I got word that another young lady from that Church called Emma, also wanted to come out.

As far as I remember, I was looking for prayer and finance support, I don't remember saying anything about people joining me. When I got back to Jono's house after the evening service I was filled with an overwhelming sense of Gods goodness and his presence, with the scripture (2 Corinthians 4v17) ringing in my head **"We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves"**. I felt very much the unworthy clay pot that night.

I left Aberystwyth, with finance support, prayer support and 3 wonderful new member for the Mission Macedonia team. I almost did not go. His ways are not our ways.

In the next few weeks, we had another 3 people join our team, Simon a worship leader, Sally a prophetic artist, and Dan (a former member of my first youth group) who jumped on board with just two weeks to go. Along with Jason's wife and two children, aged 9 and 15, we now had a visiting team of 13, which when we got there would prove to fit perfectly into our mission house, along with our two Macedonian hostesses Sivvy and Magdalena.

When the date came to leave, we had a God picked team, with all the talents we needed. What amazed me about the Mission Macedonia team was that we had at least one person in each of the first 7 decades of life, with a wonderful mix of gender, background and talents. It proved to be a team where each person far exceeded their own expectations including the children. They all gave fully of themselves every day, and despite living in close proximity for a week, I didn't hear a single argument. We hadn't picked the team, we had listened to Jesus, and he had picked the team. In fact before the mission, there was no one person that knew everybody else except Jesus.

What about Money? We needn't of worried. He had that covered too. As an example, one Sunday I was passed on an envelope from an anonymous giver with £250 cash in. Children at one church raised £1000 by filling Mission Macedonia jam jars with money. By the time we went, we had all the finances we needed.

Artwork: The Venue

You may not have heard of prophetic art before today. My understanding of it was certainly very limited. One young lady from Jason's church called Sally, prays or sits in a meeting listening to God with her artwork, and pens or paints what she hears from God, and then shares it as encouragement or instruction. During the weeks before and during the mission, she came up with a series of incredible artwork that helped us in our preparations for the event, and courage to go through with it all. Sally joined

the team, and her prophetic work continually astonished and encouraged us. Jason's daughter Lily started copying Sally and learning prophetic art herself.

The first painting Sally sent along to our Monday meeting was of a fisherman pulling a net of fish into his boat, with encouraging scriptures around. She has coloured in sections of the net in Green, orange and yellow, a combination she had never used before. That evening we were still debating about the venue. Only one had been offered up to us, an indoor sports arena in Veles which was so big and with looked completely impracticable. We thought Jimmy must have had a word from God about it but he said he thought it was what we wanted. I had a photo of the venue that we were discussing. We were frustrated because none of us particularly like the venue, but there was nothing else yet on the table, so do we wait or do we go for it. But there was something else on the table, right next to it, it was Sally's artwork, and the colours of the sports arena matched the colours in the net. Then the penny dropped. That's the net. The sports arena in Veles. That is where we will catch the fish. That is where people will be saved. Then and there we took that as a clear word from God and followed his lead. When we finally got to the day where we walked into the stadium, hung up on the wall at the back were nets. But not only that, we were going to get a great catch of fish in that venue. We were going to see the salvations that we had prayed for.

At another prayer time, I started praying 'Lord we invite you... and I was going to come with a shopping list of things for him to engage in. I felt him stop me mid-sentence and say to me – You're not inviting me – I've invited you. I've invited you to come and work with me in Macedonia on what I have already started out here. Another one of Sally's prophetic artworks, had a bridge built between us and the Macedonian church people, and some of the words on that artwork said this:-

'Your going is in answer to their prayer. They asked me to send support. They need to know I heard and care. Go and build them up. I will make a way where there was no way. God is paving the way, and the way is reinforced with his blessing, his words, his plan. Every piece will come together, trust him. Follow my lead one step at a time. Come and see what I have already begun. Go and build them up Bring what you have and watch what God's rich anointing can do with it and through you.'

This was at a time when it seemed a bit impossible. You can see how encouraging prophetic art can be, and now in retrospect how absolutely accurate it all was.

Healing promises

We had a vision statement for our New Hope conference which included unity, worship, teaching the word, salvations and healings. Seeing God transform people's lives including miraculous healings was always going to be part of the vision, but we were still very surprised when we read what Jimmy had put on the flyers for the event. This also went out for two weeks on local TV and radio in Macedonia.

New Hope. – a week of Godly healing. You have been to your Doctor lately and you have received a scary diagnosis, or you have been sick for a long time without any improvement. Maybe you are not sick but you still feel that there is something that is not right in your life, or in theory you should be successful, but actually things are really bad, or your family relationships are a real battlefield. Jesus is the cure. His servants Richard, Kevin and Jason who are guests in Macedonia are inviting everyone who wants a cure and solution. These guests from England will bring success to everyone who believes.

Wow – so no pressure on us there then !!!

Outside the venue on a huge board, were these words

Today Jesus continues to perform Miracles, give sight to the blind, heal the sick and to the poor he brings good news.

During our Monday night prayer sessions before the trip, we prayed for words about healing. Who did He want healed when we were there. Just give us a clue. What can we call out, that he wanted to heal? In listening to God, the first words I received on this were very clear and specific. This happens by a thought repeating itself in your head, with no other thoughts crowding it out. There will be somebody with complete deafness in their left ear. We later receive other words too of specific healing.

But from Jason's house in our prayer meeting, we can hear things and write things down, even look at encouraging pictures, but would God actually turn up, would we really see Macedonian people come and get saved in this sports arena. Would we really see any healings let alone a deaf ear completely healed. It seemed a world away, we just had to go for it and see what happened. One thing that encouraged me was the first person added to the team was Mario. Before I had even asked him, he had listened to God himself, who had told him that he was to make a documentary lead by the Holy Spirit about miracles that the Holy Spirit was going to do. I didn't know that, and when I felt prompted to ask him to come, partly because he would be good with the language, we both knew it was right for him to film it. Why would God send a film maker to Macedonia if there was going to be nothing amazing to film. So we thought God would move in power, but just seemed too incredible to actually visualise it happening to us. If even a fraction of the prophecies on the trip, came true, it would be well beyond what any of us had previously experienced.

Three Taps.

We arrived late at the Three Taps Mission house on March 13th, having set off at about 2am from home. The next morning was our first church service for the local villagers and was a taste of what was to come. We shared some thoughts and scriptures, had our first attempt singing a chorus in two languages, and then asked if anyone wanted healing prayer. Only one lady responded Veronica. She had pains in her head, knees and spine. We prayed for her and bit by bit the pain in the different areas disappeared. It took a while. Then seeing she was healed, everyone else wanted prayer. That day we prayed against bronchitis, numb hands, lumbago, an abusive husband, insomnia and sinus problems. As far as we could tell, each person was touched by God by the prayers, and whilst some healings were instant others will take time to test. The team was beginning to listen more to Gods promptings, and helping each other out with insights into different conditions. Having a nurse with us that understood more what symptoms meant, couples with spiritual insight helped direct our prayers more accurately at the cause.

Young Leaders

Whilst praying in the Boiler House, one thing that we felt strongly we wanted to do, was to have a leaders day, and had a particularly heart for the youth and the young leaders. So it was a delight on the second day, to be able to drive to Veles and run a day for young leaders. This included a practical session I gave on healing ministry, where they practiced how to do it on each other. When one of the older regional leaders was healed of her pain, it set everyone off in the right direction. It was a great time, and I since we have got back they have gone on their own mission, and prayed for people and seen them healed.

Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday, was that the first time we got to go into our sports arena, the Gemidzi stadium. It was our set-up day to try things out before the conference, and we held a Easter day service there for the closest churches. Jimmy had come with a new way of preaching for us which he wanted us to try, tag preaching, where we speak in turn for a few minutes each and to tag each other in and out. It seemed crazy, but worked really well. Tag preaching was born. We had a time of praying for healing afterwards, and by now we were getting used to seeing people healed with consistency. I remember praying for one man, who had problem with his ears that was causing him loss of balance. I prayed for him and felt he was ill, but it was hard for him to test it out on the spot as it came and went. Next day I saw him again, stewarding in the car park. I asked him how his ears were now, and he threw his arms in the air and shouted wonderful, clearly demonstrating the joy from his healing.

The Conference.

The day of the conference, Easter Monday came.

I was up by 5am praying and writing down words of encouragement from God. The scripture 2 Corinthians 12v9 rang so true – My power is made perfect in weakness. Then all of a sudden I felt broken and very tearful with this huge feeling of inadequacy and on how unworthy I felt to do what I knew

lay ahead. What right did I have to be representing Jesus at such a big occasion for the Macedonian church. God encouraged me – [Get up, be bold, stand in my truth, lift your head up and see my hand at work.](#)

We were all up for an early team meeting. There was nervousness combined with excitement, This was it. A flood of promises came through as we listened to God that morning. In my notebook I scrawled down what I heard that morning.

'For each of us, this is the most significant spiritual day of our lives so far. Listen to faint impressions and go for it, if you are wrong you are wrong but go for it anyway. I have more than you can take, but take as much as you can. Keep your head looking up and be filled with joy, for your joy will be your strength.

We took our two minibuses to Veles, and prayer walked the building, as the coaches arrived from all over central and eastern Macedonia. Stewards were on duty, free water ready to be distributed, shares all set up, worship group practicing, it really felt like a proper conference, this was New Hope Veles 2017.

Probably around 500 came, half of which were not yet Christians, but had presumably come to experience or witness the healings.

Jimmy welcomed all the 27 churches one by one, made them stand up and prayed a blessing over each. We had half hour of worship then Our youngest adult team member Emma kicked off with her incredibly sad life story of rejection, abuse, and depression, but on how she had met Jesus and was transformed. People were riveted- you could see the impact it was having. Then the smallest children shared and said prayers, before we went into our time preaching. The two passages we had months ago for Veles and Delchevo became key passages in our preaching that day. I kicked it off with 15 minutes on the Easter story from Gethsemane to the Resurrection weaving in the phrase though there is pain in the night, joy comes in the morning, then having led down what Jesus had achieved he cross, Richard took the baton with Jesus is alive today, he wants to give you life today. The three of us tag preached with translators for 80 minutes, then Jimmy gave an appeal for salvations. Who wanted to have their life transformed by Jesus today. I had put on my Dictaphone to record the talks, but forgot to turn it off so it stayed on all afternoon, and picked up my response when I say all the people who wanted to be saved raise their hands. It was 'Wow – look at that'. It seemed to me perhaps 50+, including lots of big Macedonian men and teenage boys.

Then Jimmy said, ministry now – what do you want to call out for us. I thought back to our prayer times where I heard first that there would be some-one with complete deafness in their left ear, so I told Jimmy to call out ears, anybody with hearing problems or ear pains.

More than a dozen people lined up shoulder to shoulder facing us at the front. Other team members joined us three speakers, we were split up and given a translator each. I thought okay this its it, I'll go the lady on the end of the line and start there. I asked her what was wrong, the translator came back to me she has no hearing at all in her left ear.! I thought – okay this is it, It's that moment when as a child you climb the steps to the highest diving board, you walk along it and look down. It's the point at which you go back or you jump. I jumped in. I blessed her, then commanded the ear to be healed in Jesus name, after a few minutes of praying , I clicked my finger gently by her ear, and checked in with her. Her hearing had been fully restored. I told Jimmy who was waiting with the microphone, he asked her what had happened and she confirmed her deafness had gone. I moved on to the next person, then the next, whilst all the others were praying for others too. Jimmy is capturing all the testimonies on the microphone. Mario is quietly filming everything. The more that were healed the more that came down, for every time of physical illnesses, addictions, tragic life situations etc. Queues of people appeared in front of everyone of us. Some of the team had never prayed on their own before for healing, but they had to now with a translator because there were so many people wanted healing. Some people pushing in, others trying to thrust children at us. Some prayers were getting pushed back in the rush to get blessed by God. We prayed for the best part of 2 hours, with a short break for communion. The conference goers fed with the food are finances had provided, all except for the team who kept going and going until the

last coach had gone back to the villages, and we were left exhausted, having emptied ourselves for the Macedonian people. Of the many that I prayed for that morning there were just two where there seemed to be no instant healing, a partially blind lady, and one young man Aaron, who was completely deaf in both ears. I poured everything into his prayers, and wept as I prayed when there was no change, but had to just bless him, and move on to all the others waiting. Such was the outpouring of Gods power that day we estimate that 100 to 150 people were healed in some way, and testimonies are still coming through of transformed lives from those that were at the conference.

The next day we visited an institution and two more churches and saw more miracles, but we had all had a life-changing experience on Easter Monday.

Isaiah 61v1 – the verse we got for Veles rang so true that day. **The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.** He can break every chain.

What we had heard God say in our minds, through scriptures and through each other had come true in some dramatic fashion. One very moving artwork that Sally had drawn before the conference was of giant angels with large brooms sweeping the sports arena from the centre out to the sides. These warrior janitors were in the words of Sally, sweeping away all the broken chains. I kept that image in my head as I was preaching and as I was experiencing Gods healing power flowing through me.

Conclusions.

So what of each one of us today. Let's remind ourselves again about what the bible says:-

Jesus says "my sheep hear my voice. "Those who are led by Gods spirit are Gods children". " We have been created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Jesus wants us to listen to him, as the Spirit prompts us and leads us, then we can understand what plans and purposes he has for our lives. We were born to have this relationship with our God. And since we have chosen this path as follower of Jesus, and accepted him in to our lives, then we live in union with him (in relationship with him), draw our strength from him by rooting ourselves in his ways, and day by day build our lives in him, so we become more like him. He loves you, and will give you what you need for your journey.

Are you listening to Jesus? What has he got planned for you and your life. What does he want you to pray in to and support. How should you spend your time and your finances. What has he got to say to you today.

Make the time... and Listen.

Amen.