

Urban Expression Blessings

One snowy day we headed down to Birmingham for the Urban Expression Associates' Day. We had been asked to lead a workshop on worship in an urban context, based upon Crumbs of Hope. Rather than simply read some of our prayers, we decided to introduce the group to our 'experience-based' method.

We asked the groups to reflect on their journeys to Birmingham, then to make connections with Bible passages, music, literature or anything else which came to mind. After this, came the hard part - asking what this said about God, or about our ideas of God. Finally, we asked them to write these thoughts up into a blessing.

These were the results.

Sadly, folk did not write their names on the blessings, so if you do want to use them, please attribute the copyright to ©Urban Expression, 2010

Christ, where do we meet you?
We expect you in the breaking of bread around our prepared tables.
But what about sharing a carton of screen wash with a stranger at the bleak motorway garage?
Bright light which breaks into our self-contained concrete motorway stop?
May you see Jesus today.
May you find him round the corner, on the way, in the distraction, in the awkward encounter.

Father dispel our panic
When we feel lost
travelling through places we don't know,
with the hope of our certain destination.

Jesus still our frustration
when we feel like we are not making progress,
with peace to live in the moment.

Holy Spirit whisper words of friendly encouragement
when we least expect,
but most need them.

The Sun still glares through the car windscreen, despite the dirt from the gritting lorries trying to block it out. May the light of Christ get through to you this week, despite the dirt in the world.

Screenwash & Starbucks blessing

May the God who sprinkles the motorway with winter beauty
Awaken us to the possibilities of our journeys.

May the Son who meets us at the point of our need,
Encounter us through the people who serve us screen wash and coffee.

May the Spirit who moves and flows and makes connections
Network us together and bless us as we go our separate ways.

Far too early we start the journey
with squabbles over seats and heat and... what should be on the radio.

We nearly crashed, our vision was blurred — by windscreen wiper fluid too frozen to work.

But we were on our journey—together.

One body with many parts
Needing you to be in control

God be our guide
Jesus journey with us through the wrong turnings we make
Spirit open our eyes to see where you are leading

And bless those who've travelled before us and with us and are in our rear view mirror.

How long is the road ahead?
How deep does the rabbit hole go?

How clear are the signs in front?
How muddy do the waters get?

Show me the way, O Lord
Guide me to your path

Lead me onto your narrow way
Steer me in the right direction

Though I know not the destination
The journey is more than enough.

The I shall know fully

Taking time to pause and look back...

Along the way I see your hand
Preventing danger
Through blurry screen
and frozen water.

Narrow escape from car transporter
I reflect on Moses and his escaping rabble
with crashing waves behind.
Did the driver know how close he came?
He will keep you safe from hidden dangers

Then I shall know fully

The God of the last minute
The Ever-present
and everlasting
Be with you on your journey.

As the Beautiful Brilliance of the sun shines on to the smear splashed screen, the radiance and glory of the light is refracted, blinding and not prepared to allow the mess to defeat it. May the Beauty, Radiance and glory of the light of God shine through the smears of life and reflect the overwhelming refraction of love.

We're going on a journey
We've packed our toys, our snacks, our books and blankets
We're excited about the journey, where are we going? who will we meet? what will it be like? what will happen on the way?

We're going on a journey
God you're into going on journeys, nearly to the Promised Land, round the desert, into the Promised Land, in and out of exile.

We're going on a journey
on our journey home now.

