

Bible Chat week starting 3 4 22

Consider these words from Isaiah chapter 43:

16 This is what the Lord says.

He is the one who made a road through the sea.

Even through rough waters he made a path for his people.

17 He is the one who defeated the chariots and horses.

He defeated the mighty armies.

They fell together, and they will never rise again.

They were destroyed as a flame is put out.

18 The Lord says, "Forget what happened before.

Do not think about the past.

19 Look at the new thing I am going to do.

It is already happening. Don't you see it?

I will make a road in the desert.

I will make rivers in the dry land.

20 Even the wild animals will be thankful to me.

The wild dogs and owls will honour me.

They will honour me when I put water in the desert.

They will honour me when I make rivers in the dry land.

I will do this to give water to my people, the ones I chose.

21 These are the people I made.

And they will sing songs to praise me.

1. In what ways are God's people being asked to 'forget' what has been before?
Is it possible to know something and also forget it? Why did God's people need to forget what happened before?
2. What good things does the church need to 'forget' in this sense?
3. Reflect on why it can be so hard to let go of what happened in the past. What helps us to 'forget' and move on?
4. Why not dream of something new? How would you complete this sentence about our church? "**Why not...**"? If you like, share several WHY NOT thoughts.
5. The current Festival of Hope came about because Orane persisted with a *Why Not* idea that arose in a Hearsall Bible study. Try to select one or two key ideas and hone them into the beginnings of a viable plan. Why not propose them to the church meeting?