

Last Ever Soul Survivor

Early on Friday 23rd August, a group of us left Battle in a coach, van and a car, having packed the large van the day before. We made our way to Peterborough where we experienced wonderfully hot camping conditions for the last ever Soul Survivor camp.

Many people have questioned why Mike Pilavachi, Andy Croft, Ali Martin and the team would choose to end this amazing ministry when it seems to be going so well and the youth are still meeting Jesus in a powerful way. The simple answer is that after 27 years, they feel that God is asking them to stop. On Day 2, we listened to an interesting talk in the main meeting from Tim Alford who talked about Peter stepping out of the boat and how we often look at that story and say that Peter didn't have enough faith. Actually, Peter was the one who stepped out and although he started to sink, Jesus was there immediately and through that amazing experience he walked closely with Jesus on the water. Often God has so much more for us when we are obedient to those things that seem to go against what we expect in our small world. He talked about how God sometimes asks us to stop things because He has so much more planned that can't happen until something stops or dies and leaves the space for other things to grow. Tim described how when a rocket is launched into space, the fire chargers that actually have the power to launch it, have to be detached and thrown off in space to allow the rocket to fly towards its target. He feels that the SS team has launched something massive that now needs to take off.

The young people all had a great time even though it was very hot! Amongst many other things, they heard Andy Croft talk about how we are knocking on an open door when we ask the Holy Spirit to fill us. Anna and Joy had a good time in the breakout sessions where Anna leaned about the Armour of God and played with the giant lego. Two of the young people went forward for commitment/re-commitment prayers, Praise God! The worship was powerful and we sang a couple of great new songs (coming soon to a 6pm encounter near you!). There are not enough words to describe being part of a group of 8,500 mostly teenagers all praising God. Becca made us brilliant pizza costumes for the food fancy dress on the last night! Many thanks to those who made/ donated cakes, helped pack/unpack and dry out wet tents, you are much appreciated!

The personal highlight for me was seeing some of the young people praying for each other in such a Spirit filled way as they started to realise some of the things the Holy Spirit can do. Very emotional.

We left with mixed emotions. Happy to have had such a great and Spirit-filled time; sad it was the last one (there are other camps that are already being planned and advertised); and generally exhausted! Thanks to the amazing team of leaders who made it possible.

Yours in Christ,

Jenny