

Pastor's Patch: The Way



Last weekend Church Leadership Teams gathered from across the Torbay cluster of Baptist churches for a day of encouragement and sharing.

We met at the beautiful Sheldon Retreat Centre on a sunny day. It was certainly an enriching and precious time, helping everyone present to recover the Baptist practice of "associating together", where we look beyond our own congregation to see what the Lord is doing around the Bay. We named the joys and challenges of church leadership and found a surprising amount of shared experiences. In this way we were drawn much closer to each other and to God.

After lunch I walked the labyrinth in the extensive grounds there. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth takes you on a journey where you can't get lost or take wrong turns. Used widely by Christians it can be a tool for prayerful reflection. As I walked the narrow path, I often stopped to look at the centre section, which gave me different perspectives on it. The route sometimes took me closer but then further away before eventually leading me to the centre. Once there, I was able to retrace my steps and marvel at the complex route that I had taken.

As part of the whole day with leadership teams, I felt the Holy Spirit was confirming that He seeks to lead us along a varied journey planned for us in life which will inevitably take us through times of joy and pain: that is also true for an individual or a church. Then I recalled these words, *Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.'* (Isaiah ch30 v21)

TO PONDER

Early Christians were known as "the Way". Reflect on "the way" the Lord has led you and our congregation over the years. Do you observe times of joy and challenge, progress and obstacle?
Just maybe there is a plan of God in all of this.

Darrell Holmes



An open space
to
unpack
life's
big
questions

For anyone
who's

curious

about the
Christian faith

Try Alpha.


My name is Rev Mehrdad. I'm an Iranian national, a church minister and a leader within BMS World Mission's partner Quest Academy. Ordinarily, my role is focused on equipping the Persian diaspora in Europe to reach others with the good news of Jesus Christ, including asylum seekers and refugees. Today, I am reaching out with deep urgency and a heavy heart to ask for your focused prayers for Iran and the Iranian people.

Pray for Iran and the Middle East

- Pray for the protection of civilians amid instability and violence.
- Ask God for wisdom, restraint and accountability among all those involved.
- Pray for the underground and diaspora church – that they would embody courage, discernment and pastoral sensitivity in a time of public trauma.
- Ask the Lord for a decisive end to the current oppressive and violent regime ruling Iran, and for the emergence of a democratic, peaceful and just system of governance in its place.
- Pray for a future marked not by revenge, but by justice, reconciliation and genuine freedom.

Thank you for your solidarity and your prayers. It truly means a great deal.

With gratitude and hope,

Rev Mehrdad Sajadi
Persian Ministry Leader
BMS World Mission partner
Quest Academy