



WORSHIP FOR THE WORLD

A CBOQ Worship Symposium

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When my brother-in-law lost his cell phone, he said he hadn't lost it—he had misplaced it. Forgetting where you left your cell phone is no small matter because they are so much more than they used to be; we use them to shop, check the weather, socialise, navigate our way, to bank, book holidays and we even take it to bed at night. Occa-

sionally, we use them to talk to people! Naturally, I was surprised that my brother was so calm about it.

Our minds are amazing. The fact is that we do not forget anything—we simply struggle to recall information and that is called amnesia. I believe this is true today when we think about the story of Pentecost. It is not that we have forgotten to celebrate it but we do have amnesia when it comes to the implications of what we celebrate.

Let's take a quick look at the scriptures and see some of the things we can understand together about what happened at Pentecost. In Acts 2:1-14 we see that "they were all together" and that people "began to speak in other languages as the Holy Spirit enabled them." Secondly, we are told there was a sound as people speaking in other languages bewildered the hearers and they heard their own native tongue (note here that there were people there from Africa, Asia, Europe, and so on). What they heard was people declaring the wonders of God. In this context of corporate worship people were not driven apart, rather everyone's voice was heard

and people were brought together. The result of this was that people put their faith in God and formed an assembly (or church) of believers who fellowshipped, worshipped and served the Lord together.

The Worship for the World Symposium seeks to remind us of what it means to embrace a Pentecost perspective that includes and recovers worship in which a diversity of expressions is heard in one accord. This can be achieved through the multifaceted forms of worship incorporating our cultural differences.

The vision is simple but the task is not. Even so I believe that together we can winsomely work towards that which best reflects the kingdom of God. We may not be there yet but as we "press on" (Philippians 3:14) we may just glimpse something of that heavenward goal in our worship today.

We hope you can join us at Worship for the World Symposium October 5.

Together, we will explore!