

REPORT ON THE JUNE MEETING OF DOVE NORTHLAND TAI TOKERAU

“Come as you are; that’s how I want you. You are serving Me in obedience, My children, just come as you are.” This Word from the Lord set the tone for this gathering of Northland Dove women, many of whom arrived a little late, looking stressed or tired.

The Focus Table was set with a Pentecost theme with beautiful flame-coloured drapes and flowers surrounding a picture Bernice had painted depicting the Holy Spirit, along with the outstretched hands of our Father God reaching out to the people standing in the shadow of the Cross.



Fr John Mori opened the meeting with some thoughts on Pentecost and receiving the power of the Holy Spirit into our lives. The healing presence of the Lord was moving during a beautiful time of praise and worship, and His invitation to *“Come, and let Me love you just as you are”* came through very clearly in the prophesies received.



This gentle and relaxed atmosphere was a perfect lead-in for our guest speaker; Jovita Parker to share some of the highlights of her own walk with God –
“Lord Jesus of You I will Sing as I Journey.”



Jovita has an impressive CV and is well known for her work as the Walk By Faith Co-ordinator for the Auckland Diocese, and a member of the Association of Christian Spiritual Directors of Aotearoa NZ. However, it was Jovita’s humble and gentle manner which really touched the women as she shared how God had led her, step by step over the years, through His unique plan for her life. Like all of us, Jovita has had times of uncertainty, but a verse from Zephaniah (3:17) always led her on: *“The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing”*. We are all ‘precious vessels’ in the Lord’s hands (not cracked pots as we sometimes believe), and Jovita urged us to accept and use the gifts God offers, allowing Him to use us for His glory and the good of those He brings into our lives.

To finish, Jovita read a prayer she had printed out for the women to take home. It was from The Missionaries of God’s Love, entitled:

A Prayer to the Heart of Jesus

Lord Jesus, send the fire of Your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
Enflame us with a deep hunger for prayer,
An enduring desire to the Father’s will,
A burning zeal to speak the good news of the Kingdom
And a thirst for the salvation of all men and women.
Draw us into the fire of love in Your heart,
So that, embracing Your Cross,
We may be truly missionaries of Your Love
To all whom we meet, now and always.
Amen.

We were all blessed and encouraged by Jovita’s talk and our women left the meeting looking much more relaxed and refreshed than when they arrived. All praise and glory to God.