

Movement

Ezra 1

January 11, 2015

May 2015 be a year of movement in each of our lives and for us as a church. We all enjoy movement in many different ways, with the most important being that which is from the Lord. We see Him moving hearts in the book of Ezra and may we be a people who allow Him to be a work in our lives.

MOVEMENT...

Of the people of Judah

To Babylon as captives as per prophecies

Isaiah 39:5-7 to be taken captive

605 BC Nebuchadnezzar deployed royal family to Babylon

586 Destroyed Jerusalem and temple took all but very poor

For 40 years the prophet Jeremiah warned the people to repent and surrender to save the city and temple but they would not listen

Jeremiah 25:11, 29:10 length of captivity 70 years

All of this is orchestrated by our God who keeps His Word, who knows the future, and is always in control. How strong is your belief in these truths?

Of King Cyrus Ezra 1:1-2

538 BC Cyrus the Great, King of Persia who had conquered Babylon issues a decree enabling Jews to return to Jerusalem and to rebuild the temple as well as provide provisions for them through their neighbors

Verse one identifies who moved in his heart to bring about this decree:

God can work in anyone's heart

Of Jews to return to rebuild the temple

Those who decide to make the 700 mile trek through the desert are identified as ones whose hearts have been moved by _____

Of Cyrus to return temple items Ezra 1:7-11

Only a movement of God could explain all these actions of Cyrus

Movement for us in 2015...

1. How open are you to be moved by God? What are your hesitations? What do your hesitations tell you about what you believe about God?
2. Will you commit to begin praying asking God to move in your heart and the body here at FBC?
3. As you think about it can you see how movement by God in our hearts is what brings life, vibrancy and genuineness in our relationship with Him?

Movement is a sign of life!