

# UOFN UNIQUIP EUROPE

RESTENAS, SWEDEN







We began with worship and the Lord began to speak around the room His heart for YWAM Restenäs, Europe, and the Uniquip Restenäs.





The Lord spoke of comfort in times of difficulties (Isaiah 40), and His desire to heal and restore (healing balm of Gilead – Jer. 8). The Lord spoke of breathing new life into the dry bones, making streams in the desert and doing a “new thing” (Ez. 37; Is. 43:19). The Lord presented humility as a key for the work He was doing (Phil. 2:3-5).



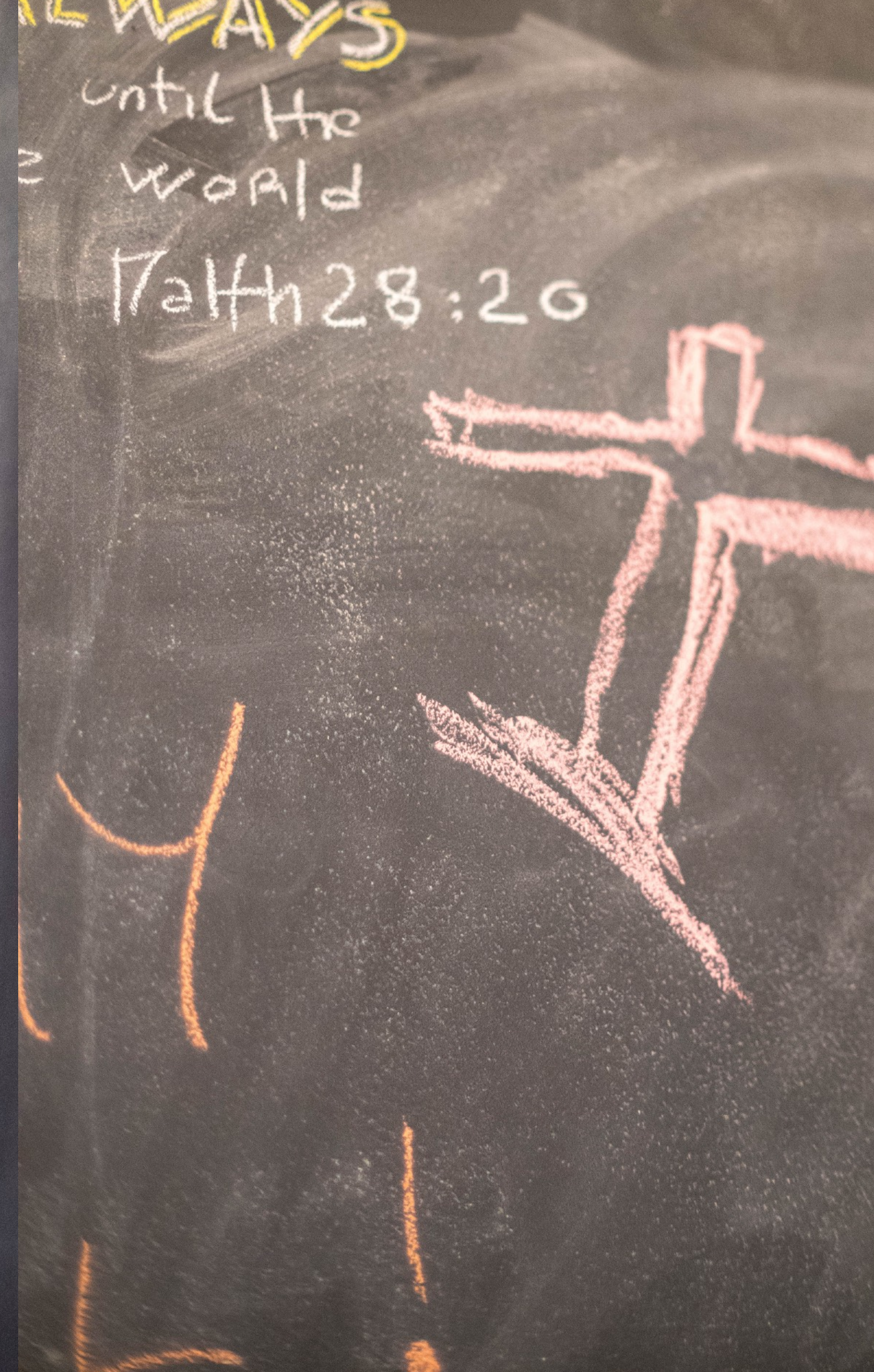
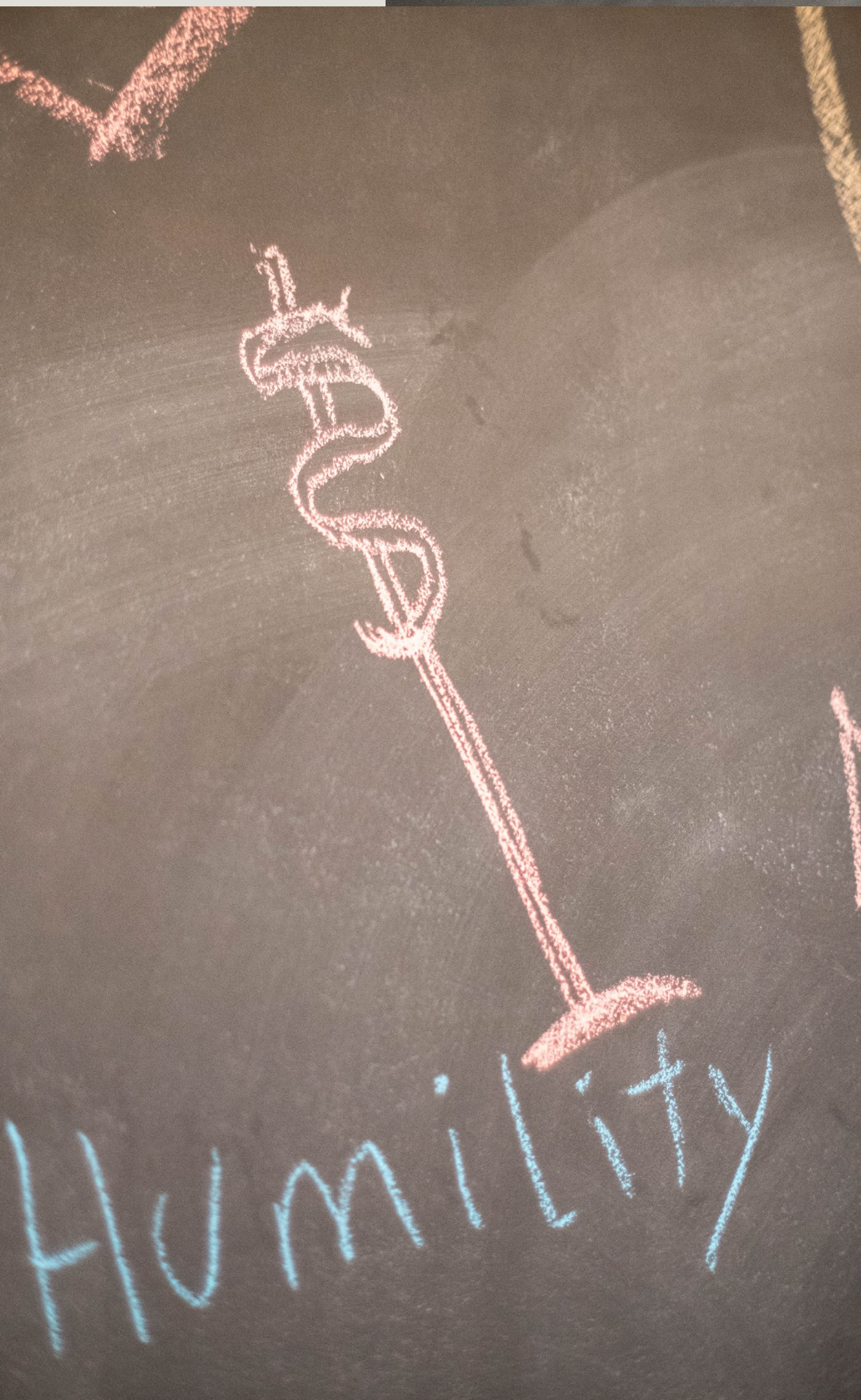






After an amazing Fika, all the participants and conveners introduced ourselves, presented areas of interest in the University of the Nations, and general expectations for the conference.





Aleck Cartwright, Dean of the College of Communications, led in a Scripture comparison between Exodus 2 (Moses at the burning bush) and Acts 10 (Peter's vision of the unclean animals). How do we respond when God invites us to join Him in the great works that are on His heart? What hinders us from believing His invitation and walking in immediate obedience?



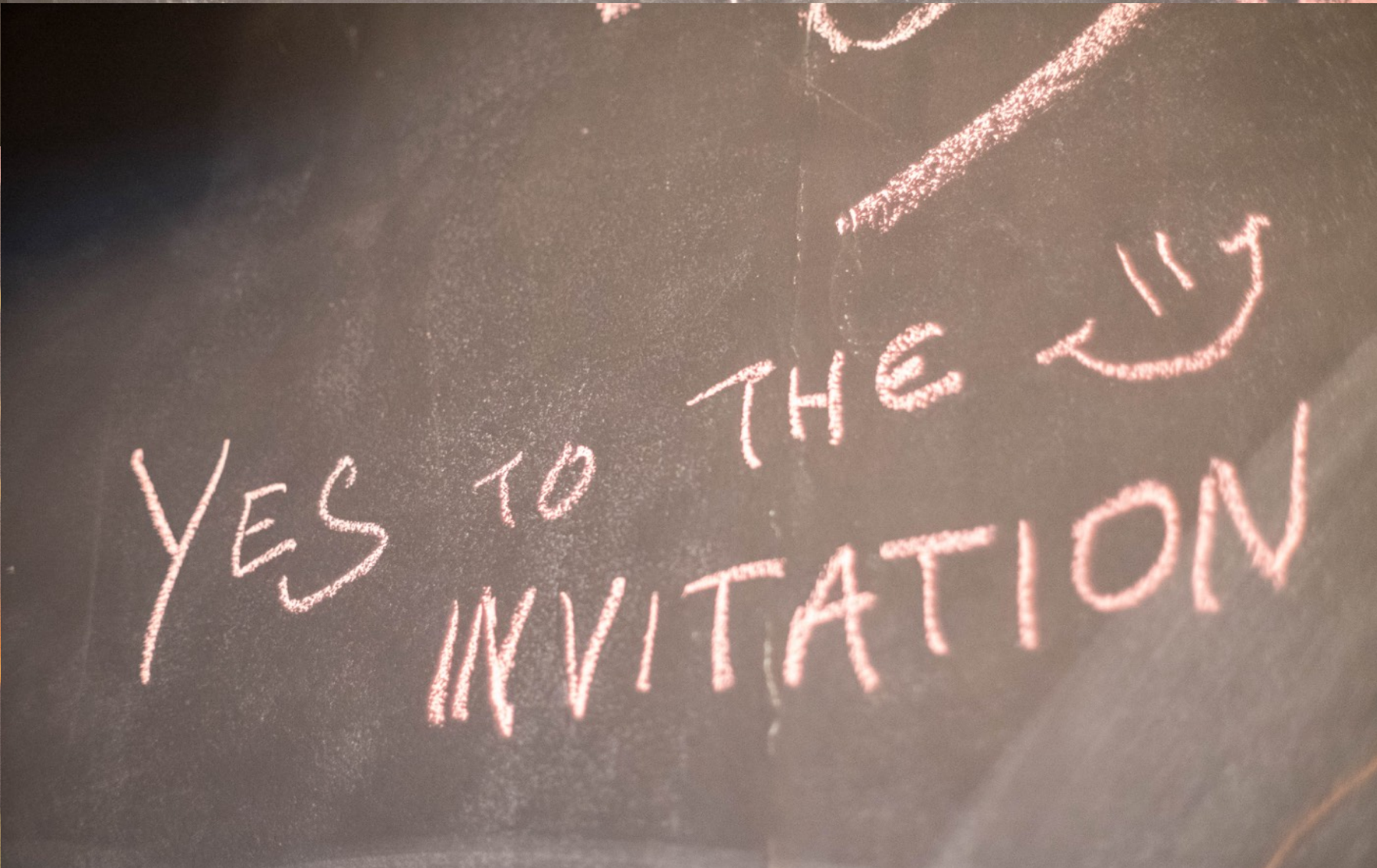
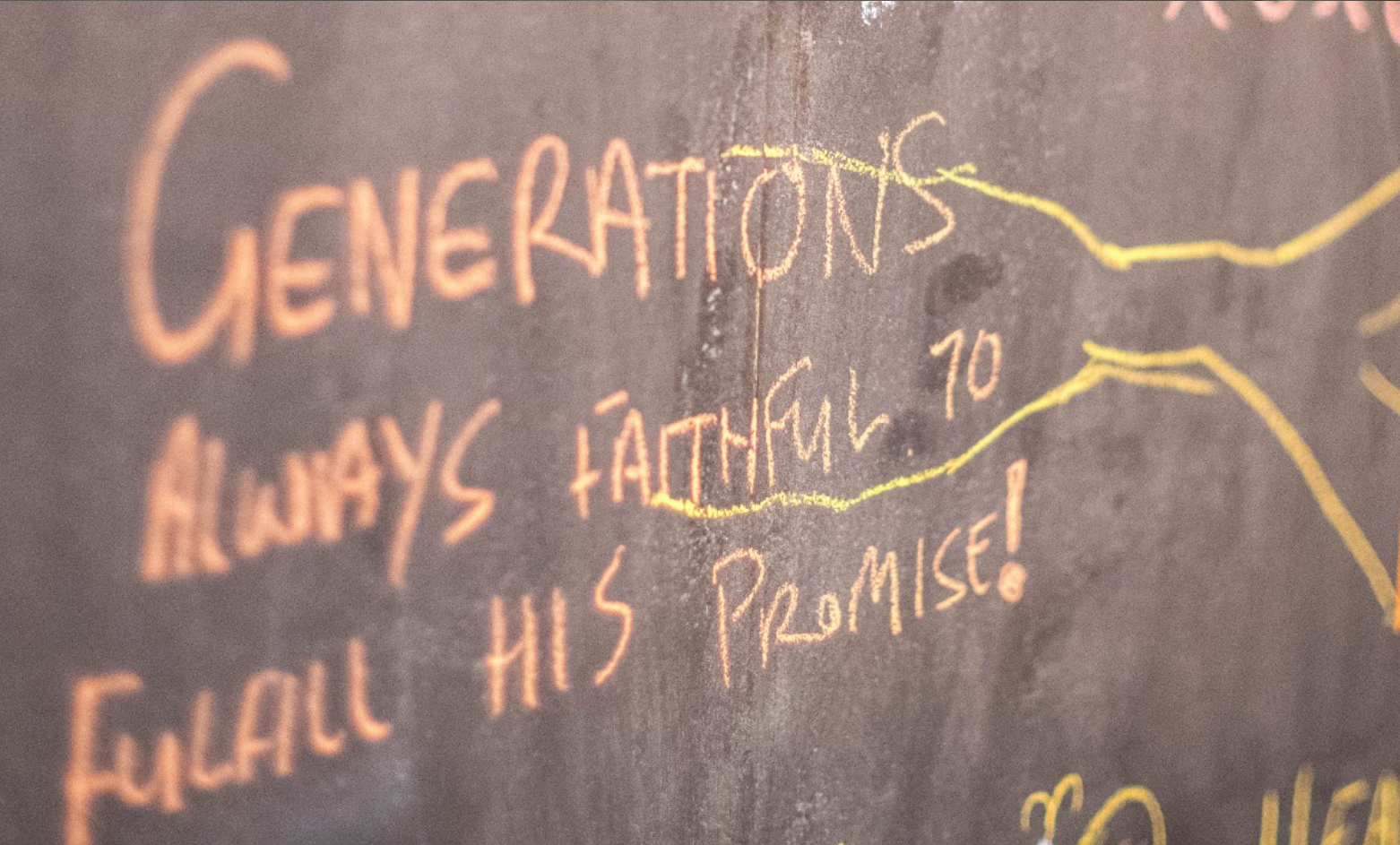
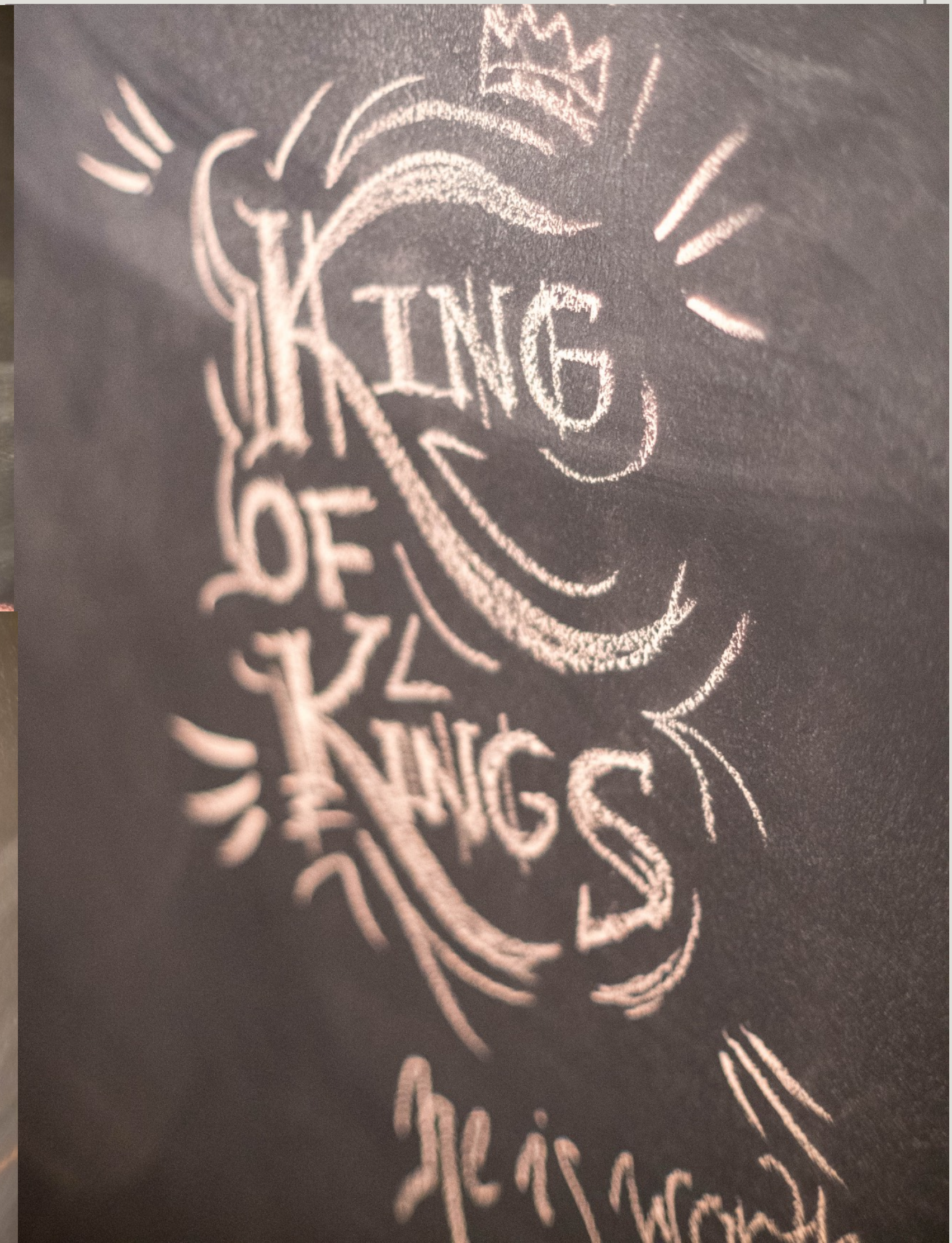
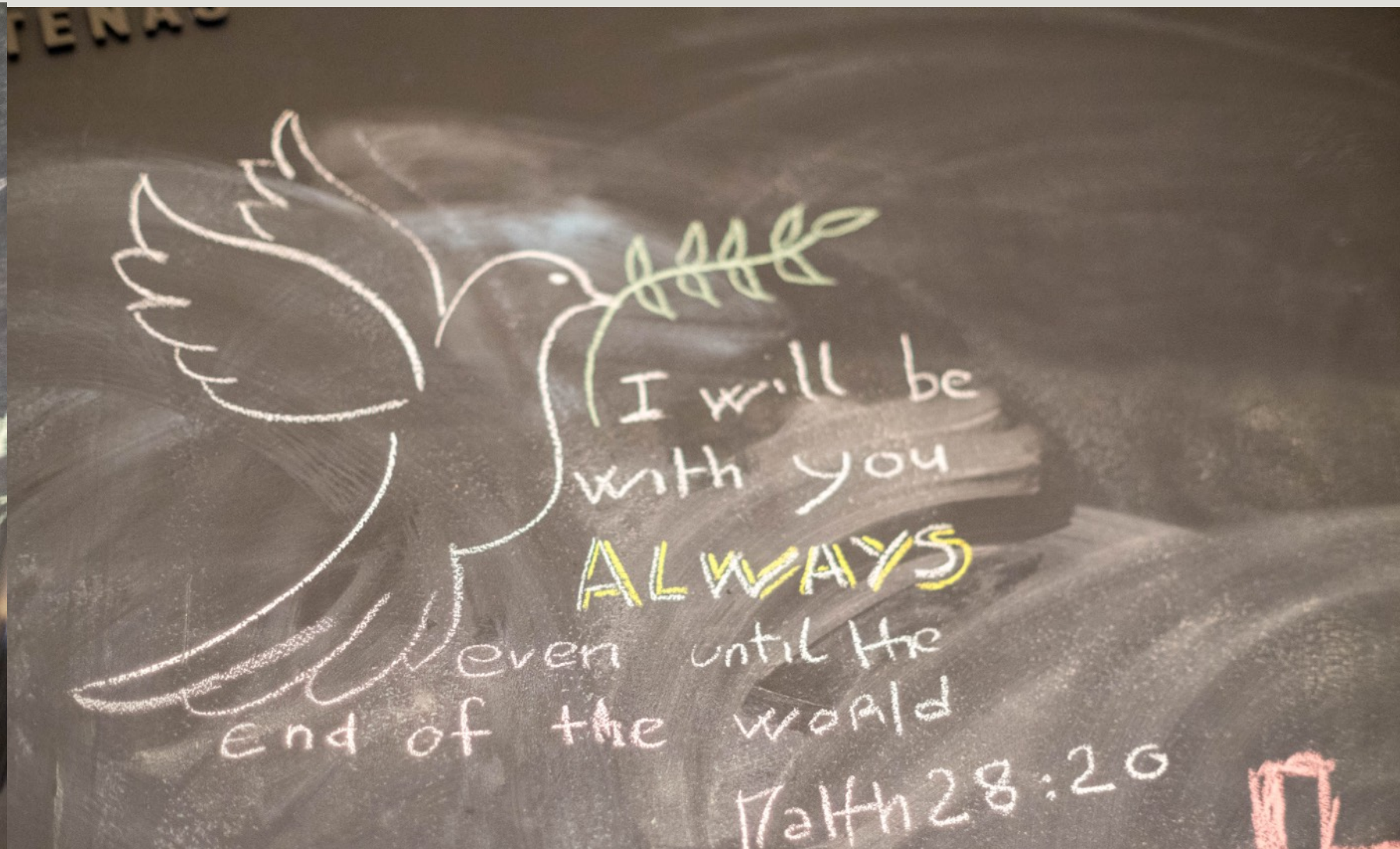
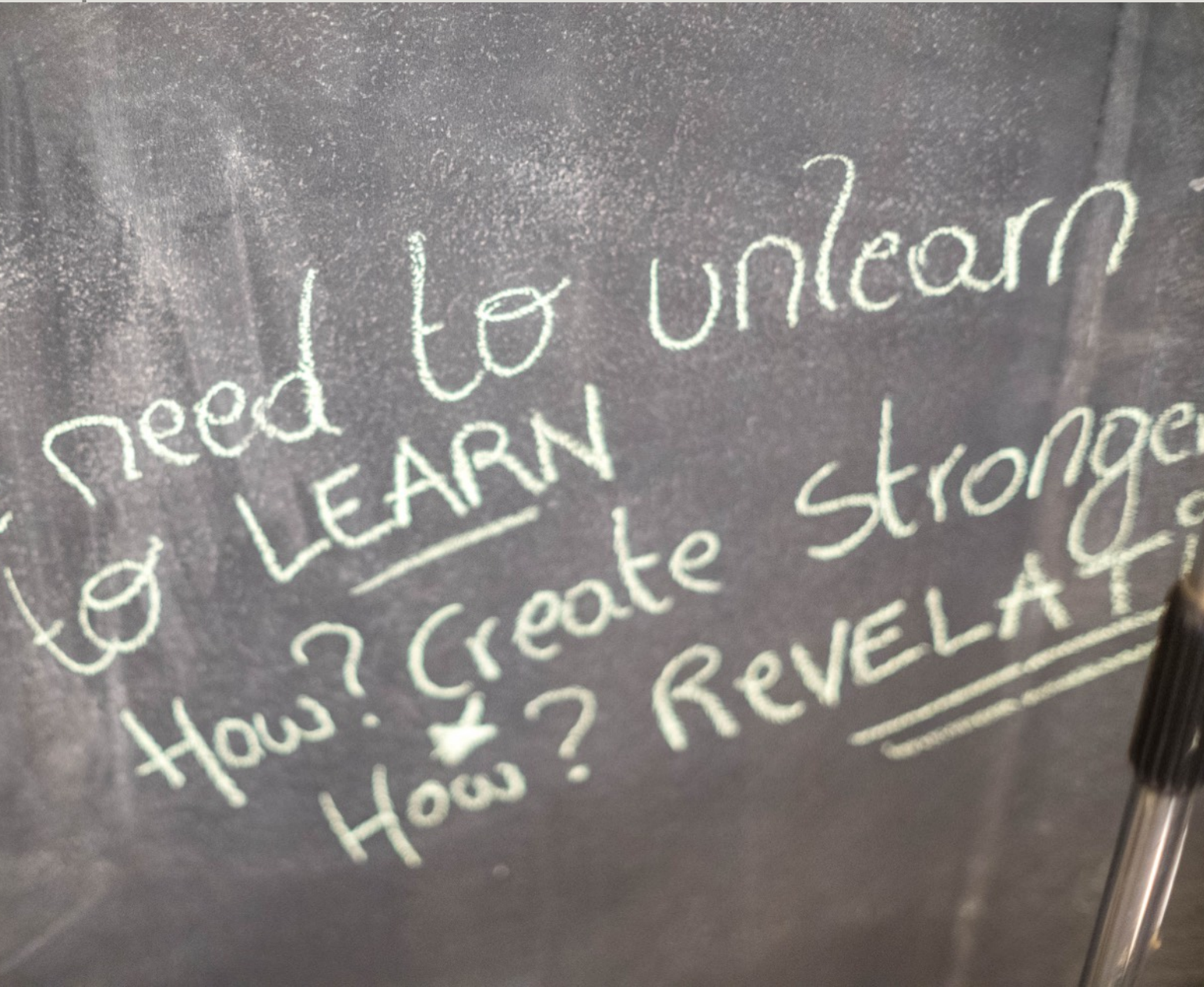
Aleck continued by sharing the humble origins of the University of the Nations. He placed two chairs representing the seats that Loren Cunningham and Howard Malmstadt sat in on that day in 1978 when sharing with one another the word of the Lord regarding starting the university. A small glass of water was placed between the two seats representing the one brought by Darlene for their “meeting”. All three founders of the University of the Nations brought an integral core value to from the mission into the foundations of the university: Howard represented training; Loren represented evangelism; while Darlene brought in the heart of mercy ministries. Such a humble beginning but clearly illustrating that when God is the One creating and driving a vision and He invites us into that creative process, then even the most modest origin can be used to bring the Kingdom of God.





In considering this origin story, we submitted ourselves to the Lord, and He began to reveal areas to realign us with His perspective and vision. We responded by writing and drawing His words to us on the wall painted to create a blackboard:

- Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin (Zech. 4:10).
- He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8).
- Depend on Him in every way, shape, and form.
- Slow down, listen, and know that He is God!
- Don't make light of few numbers.
- A three-fold cord is not easily broken (Ecc. 4:12).
- You need to be unlearn in order to learn.





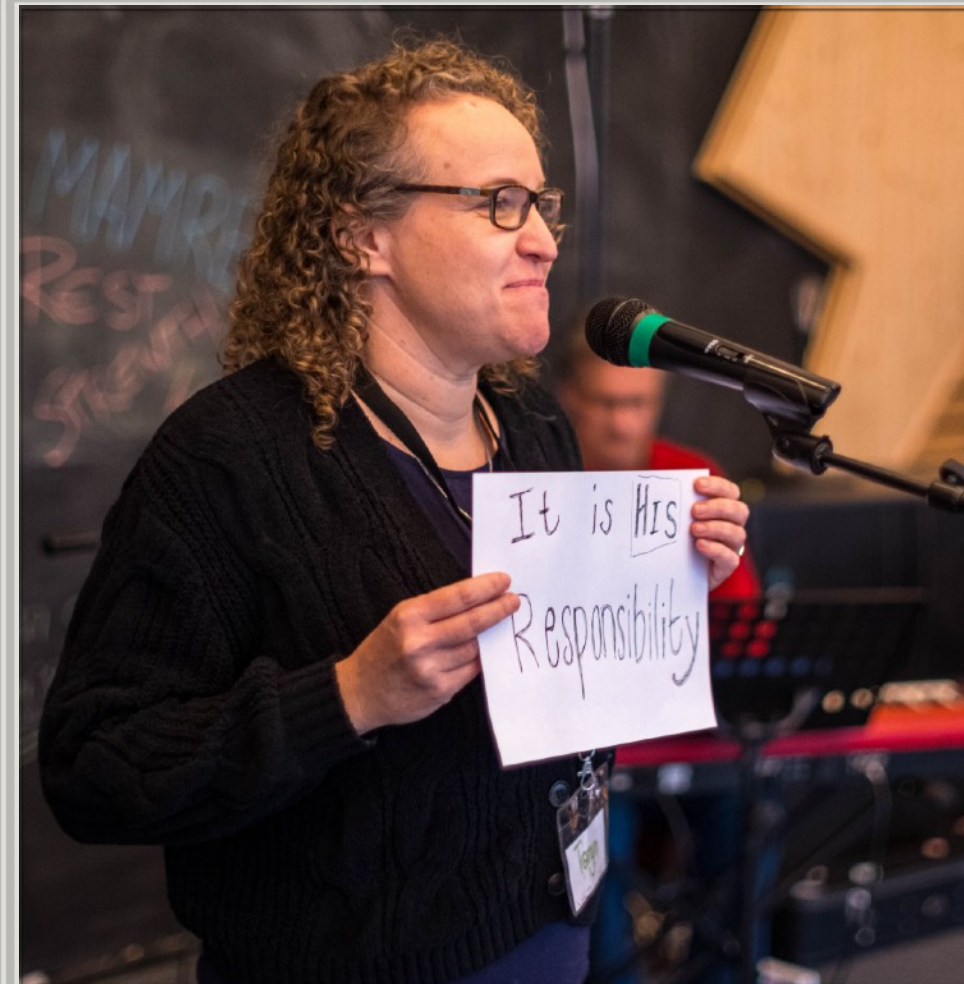


Tuesday's session began with Francis Obaika sharing "Jesus as the Master Teacher". Frances presented Jesus as One who asked questions, stimulated people to listen to Him, and modeled the content He taught. Francis identified and emphasized different learning styles and the importance of authority stemming from a place of prayer and shared a powerful testimony of God healing him from dyslexia.

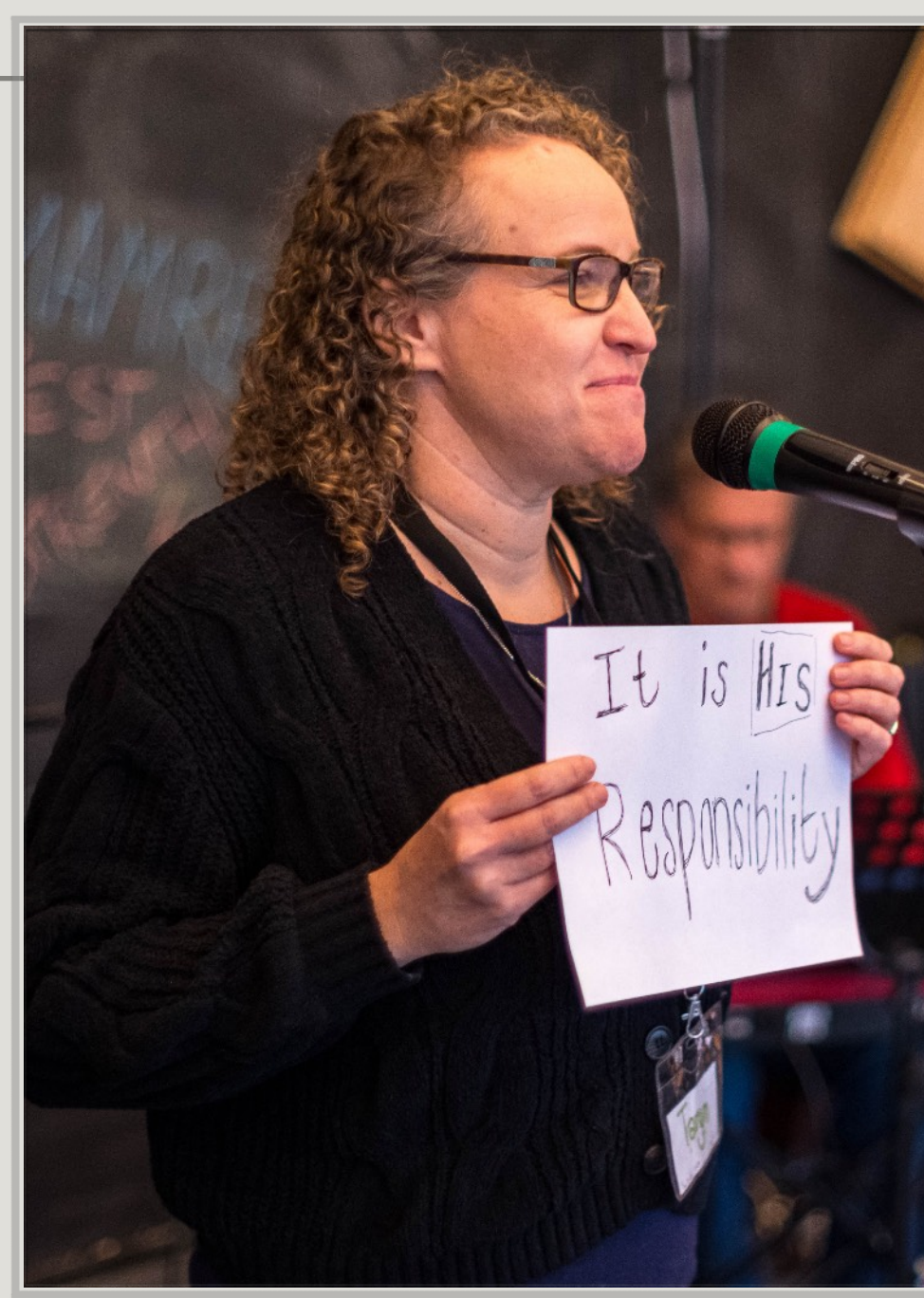


After Frances' presentation, Aleck deepened the example of "Jesus as the Master Teacher" by contrasting it with his own testimony and then expanding the application to consider examples of teachers and educational experiences in each one's personal life.

To address the areas in our lives where education deviated from Jesus' approach and created educational wounding, Aleck brought back the two chairs and a cup of cold water from the origin story of the University of the Nations representing "excellence crucified" (Howard's chair), "challenge or risk and sacrifice" (Loren's chair), and "mercy, comfort, and care" (Darlene's cup). Time was spent listening to the Lord, responding to His perspective on education, and allowing God to heal areas of brokenness in our own hearts. We wrote statements on paper of these areas that the Lord was speaking into and taped it to the ground as a statement of faith to align with God's word for us rather than our personal experiences of brokenness.















Tom Bloomer shared a word he felt for Europe and a challenge for us that the Lord gave the UofN years ago. He began with when we image how we love God and express our love to Him that first thing that comes to mind is words and music, but that Jesus said we shall love the Lord with your mind. Tom began to unpack what it means to love the Lord with all you mind. As what Tom considered to be the last frontier, we in YWAM are not loving the Lord Jesus with all our mind well. Subsequently, we are divided and ineffective in comparison what we should look like in the authority of Jesus at the ascension.



Tom shared how the Lord had brought him to this understanding. He had realized that we were up against some major principalities in the French world and Europe north of the Alps.

“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” (2 Cor 10:3-5 emphasis added.)





Tom posited that with this verse in mind some of the ways we think are actual disobedience and sin. In context of the history of Europe. He compared it to a fortified castle, building greater and bigger over time and a place of discipling the nations through the strength of the European universities. This discipleship has left a fortress in our thinking about the secular and sacred split.

The key to getting victory as presented in 2 Corinthians is that we are to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. It is a discipline that we can do. Tom holds his thought until he knows where it came from. At the time he was learning this discipline, we were having a lot of teaching on balance in YWAM.

Jesus said truth is profoundly relationship. It is not abstract, cognitive, statement of portion of reality. Truth is relational; it is a person – Jesus.

Tom presented an example from Luke 1 of when we make our obedience based upon our understanding.

In Luke 1:5-6, Zechariah and Elizabeth are introduced as “righteous in the sight of God observing all the Lord’s commands and decrees blamelessly.” Even in this, Zechariah had a hard time believing the word of the Lord, even though there was an angel standing there giving him the message. When we make our obedience upon understanding. In contrast, we see Joseph and Mary whose lives and the baby’s life depended on instant obedience to God.





On this principle of balance, now we think that truth is always found in the middle of 2 extremes. It is not. When Jesus sent the Holy Spirit it was not to be balanced. There was no balance on the day of the cross. In the history of the church, anyone who has made a difference was NOT balanced. Generally, they were thought to be crazy.



Tom presented two ways of operating from James 3, wisdom of God versus marks of demonic wisdom. Wisdom from Heaven which is pure, peace-loving, full of mercy and good fruits, partial and sincere. Being a disciple of Jesus is becoming more and more human – who we were created to be. We were created in the image of God. We can communicate who God is uniquely in our abilities, brokenness, gifts, culture. It is not giving up who you are.







Facing my fears  
and conquering them



God is in control! One of the conditions for national healing was to turn from their wicked ways. We do the possible, God does the impossible – turn from our wicked ways! This comes down to bowing in worship before the Lord in our minds. Not just with our bodies and in our heads but submitting our minds and submitting to His Word. We cannot make our acceptance on the word of God our understanding. We will be defenseless to our fortress. He wants a people who will start on this journey of loving him with our minds -making detailed obedience the mark.





After Tom's powerful challenge to us, we had the privilege of diving into the details of how the University of the Nations functions. Phil Leage presented "UofN 101".

The UofN is a non-traditional university that is embedded in missions' movement, built around the modular approach to education, with guest lecturers, school leaders, and school staff. It has 50 hours of learning to equal a "full learning week" or "FLW" and has a live-learn model of education that includes formal, non-formal, and informal.

The gateway to the UofN is the Discipleship Training School, or "DTS", that focuses on 2 Peter 1:5 building from faith to character to knowledge. The UofN awards degrees at an associate, bachelor, and master level. We reach out to the larger body of Christ through extension studies and 1–6 week seminars. The UofN has Colleges and Centres and a Reference Guide to bring clarity. Phil examined grading and assessment within the UofN that has the goal of renewing our minds and showing students where they are growing and uncovers weaknesses that can be addressed.

Phil discussed the importance of honoring our students through our teaching, grading, and assessments. Additionally, Phil presented how we are to model humility by receiving feedback and correction through evaluations within our courses. He also discussed some of the nuances being faced through AI as it relates to plagiarism and the importance of citation.













On Thursday, Tom Bloomer shared once again but this time on “Transaction versus Transformational Leadership”. Aleck then discussed the significance of tension as well as honoring and seeing people. Leadership must be a manifestation of love; it can be the greatest source of hurt or blessing. What was different of those leaders who were a blessing than those who were not. We lead out of our cultural model of leadership.





## Transactional Leadership Model

The Transactional Leadership Model is based on power, “Dunamis”, and is the historical view of leadership. It works by forcing people to do things they do not want to do with directions to follow. An example is a factory. The leader is the engineer. The only difference is machines are better cared for because they are expensive. It includes a social status and money, reciprocal concessions, and contracted guarantees. You must be there a certain number of hours each week for a certain time.

Transaction leadership is an authoritarian model. Transformational leadership is based on authority (versus power) and works through influence.

There are two different views of human beings:

1. Human beings as a machine
2. Fellow Human have the same value I have.

The Transactional model has many rules, compliance is required, there is little tolerance for diversity, emphasis on hierarchy, lower downs treated differently than higher ups, information is held by leadership, decisions are announced rather than processed, and loyalty overcomes truth. It has a “it’s not my job” attitude.

Truth tellers are prophets.

## Transformational Leadership Model

In contrast, Transformational leadership encourages personal initiative, is liberating, trust at all levels, fulfills each workers stated goal, promotes creativity, diversity, and young people, and applies principles. Transformational leaders are not “superior” and make information available to all., Transformational leadership has mutual accountability and truth-telling is encouraged. All are encouraged to participate in decision-making; it maintains a flexible structure, respects the individual, and is visionary.

Jesus talked about two types of leaders in Matt 20:25-28:

Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

If you are not doing biblical leadership, then you need to change. How does God tell us “No”? He does it in a way that we still know we are loved and accepted. He has a low control model of leadership because there is no control in love.

The two roles hardest to change in leadership are:

1. Women in leadership;
2. Transformational over transactional.

Even if we are moving in transformational leadership, when stress comes up, many revert to the transactional leadership.







What do I do if I have a transactional leader?

Answer: Leave.

- A) It is very hard to leave a transactional leadership.
- B) Pray
- C) Apply principles of Matthew 18
- D) If does not work – just leave.

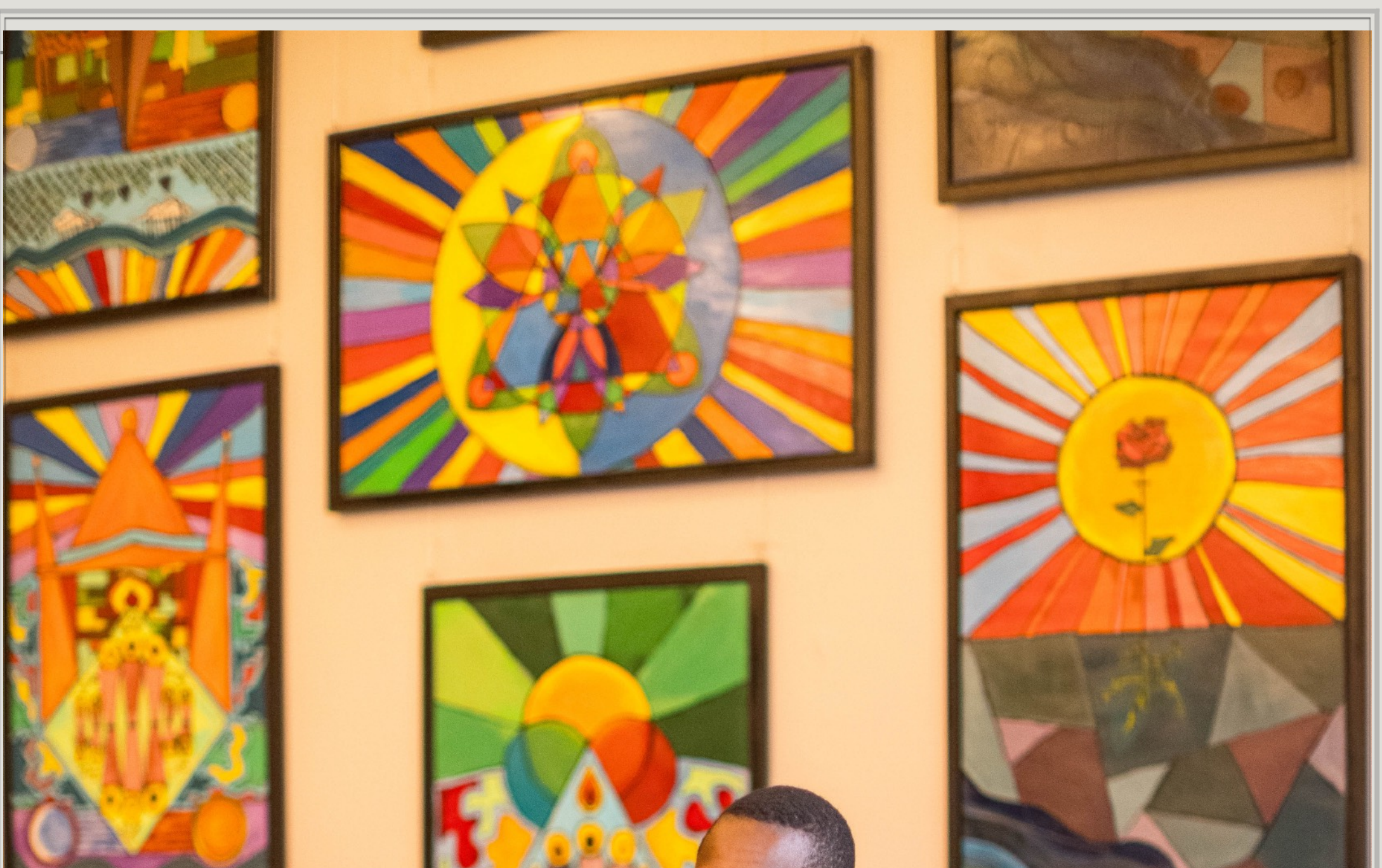
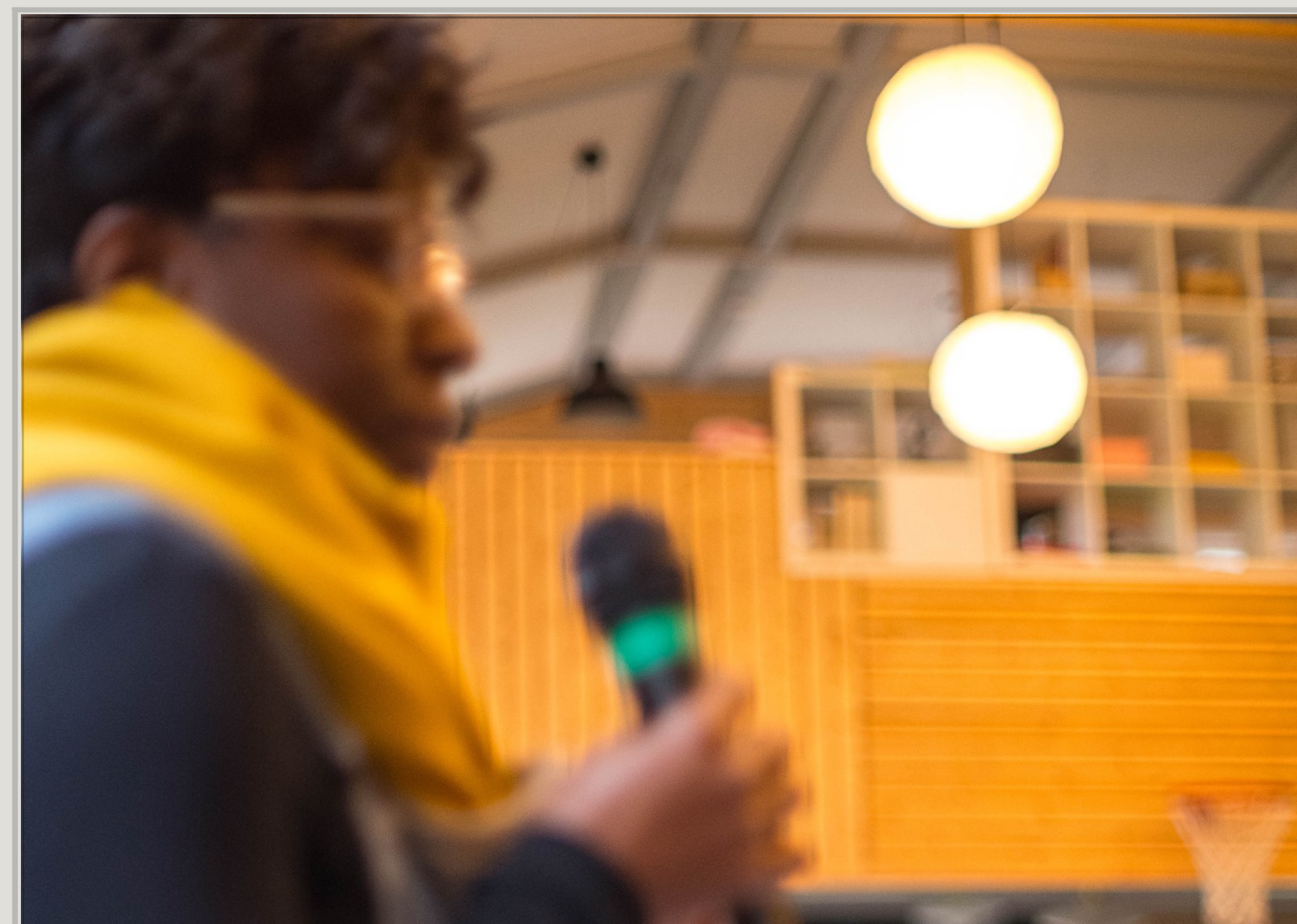
Original transactional leader was the Devil. In Europe, we call it selling your soul to the Devil. We get confused because we see God working in a transactional style with Israel in Deut. 28. With immature people you have to be transactional and with small children you have to be transactional – there have to be consequences.

When you get to DTS people should be doing the right thing, not because it's the rule, but because it's the right thing! God's goal was always to lead them through love!

Leadership is a manifestation of love! Or it should be.











Humility Required for Cooperation

WORTHY of it ALL!

MAMRE

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After Tom presented this powerful message regarding leadership, Aleck applied this a step further by discussing the opposite of balance – tension. He differentiated between apathy, the lack of tension, and excessive tension, stress. At the center of tension is reconciliation. So, we need to put tension back into our communication. We need to show equal value for all because we need all. Aleck drew our attention to Acts 6 which is the story of the Jewish widows being overlooked in the daily food distribution. He pointed out how we also need to respond to others in a manner that shows honor and value.









Mariam shared in our evening session about how to use business as mission. She shared about a business that she and her husband started and operate in Nepal for vulnerable women. The business provides job opportunities for the women by teaching them a skill and then paying a living wage for their work. Having a mechanism of income minimizes their vulnerability in their society and thereby likelihood of become victims of trafficking or other abuse.











On Friday, David Lawrence introduced the Academic Affairs Team of the University of the Nations. The Academic Affairs Team assists the Deans, Chairs, and Directors, and committee members in academic matters and the colleges in the development of degrees. The team also manages assessment appeals and exceptions including degree requirements for individual students.

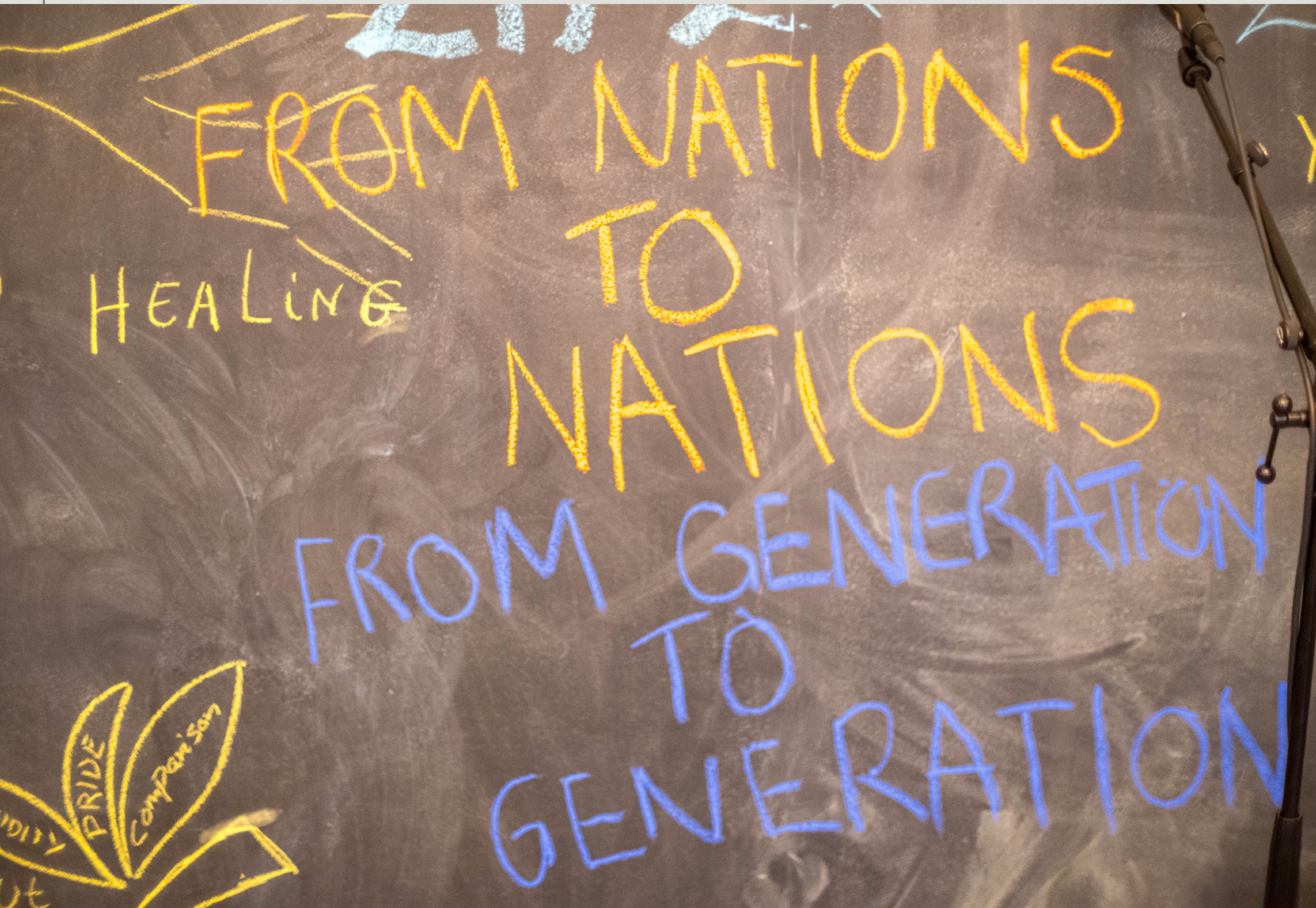






Aleck returned to the story of the widows in Act 6. Barbara shared a story that sometimes we may feel “too old” to serve in the mission. There is no place for those who are not considered “young” or an “elder”. Kiana shared how important is to her generation to learn from those who have gone before and that the young people need the older generation. The young generation needs father and mother figures, especially considering that many have not had godly examples in their lives.

We need to be careful about the unintentional injuring of others as we try to “champion young people”. It should not be at the detriment of other generations. We need every generation to accomplish God’s purpose for this time.











During the next session, in groups, we discussed what we observed about the manifestation of the Holy Spirit during the Uniquip week. Participants remembered words the Lord spoke at the beginning of the week during worship and times of listening to His voice like “Healing & Restoration” and wisdom and how He had fulfilled these words to us during the week. One participant reflected, “We wanted knowledge, but we got wisdom.”







The last session was a Dreaming Session where we separated into groups according to our base or nation and sought the Lord together to ask Him what He wanted us to take away and implement from the week. Some shared about joining with other bases to create degree tracks. Many shared the individual responses for their nation; others shared ways that we can serve our bases and nations better by supporting one another.







Phil led us in a time of commissioning back into our nations and bases. We prayed for one another and remembered the word that Loren left us with to take the mantel on. We must carry the mantel left by Howard and Loren to disciple the nations through our obedience, commitment, academic excellence, and service. Now, it is in our hands.







