

PRESS RELEASE – IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 9 APRIL 2007

MINEHEAD WEEK 2

ARE WE FRIGHTENED OF FEEDBACK?

Speaking at this year's Spring Harvest, Phil Wall, founder of Hope HIV and a leadership coach and consultant, said 'Lack of feedback in the church is shameful. I know so few churches that have ever done any kind of 360 degree feedback to the pastor or elders. We're frightened of what it might say but it's not as though people don't have those opinions anyway and aren't saying them around dinner tables. We might as well be strong enough and big enough to hear them for ourselves.'

Phil Wall was giving a seminar on power and personality, and he stressed the need for leaders to understand themselves. 'Self-awareness is one of the most valuable tools a leader needs. Lots of us don't know ourselves because we have taken any feedback as criticism and rejected it out of hand. We often lack quality feedback that we need to become the leader we could become.'



Phil Wall
Photo: Simon Warner

Phil was clear on the nature of Christian leadership: 'Jesus made all sorts of statements that frankly were quite confusing but when He talks about leadership He is crystal clear – the leader is there to serve. '

Finally, Phil warned against pushing people into leadership too young. 'We have rewarded talent too soon' he said. 'We need to have frameworks to bring people through, to give them opportunities, but in strong accountable environments.' And he pleaded with women to take power and men to relinquish it. 'Women – when you are given an opportunity, please take it. There are two challenges I often confront – men who won't give up power and women who won't take it.'

ENDS

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