

Church **ALIVE!**



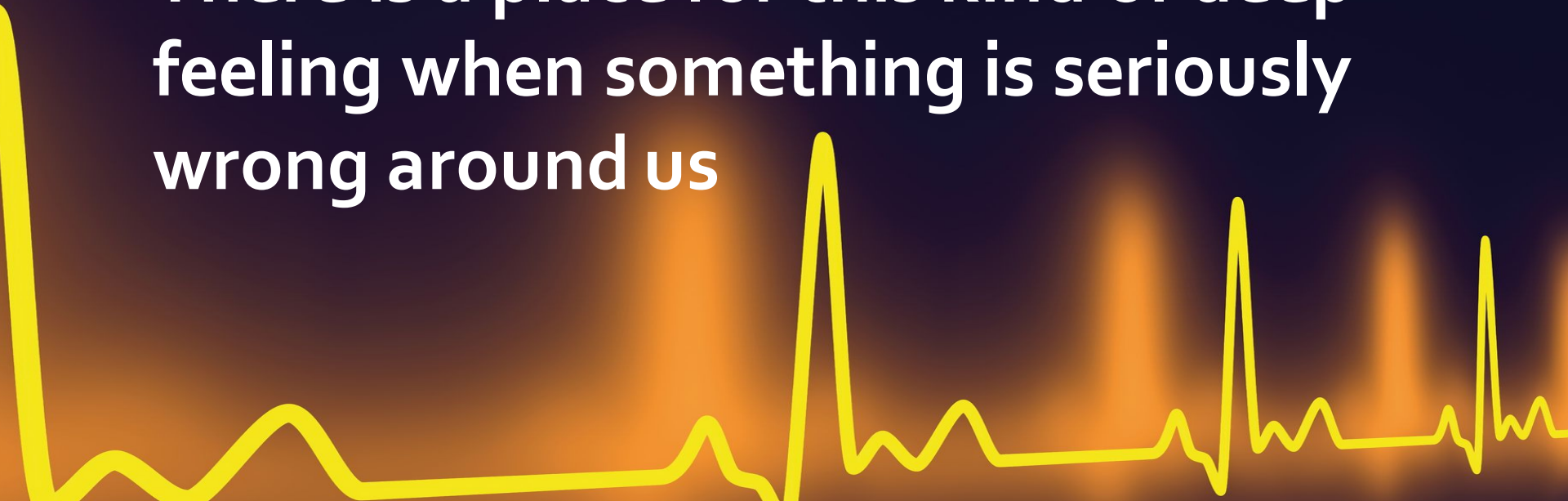
Alive in the community



Acts 17:16-34

How do you feel about the society in which we live?

- Paul was *greatly distressed* by a city full of idols (v.16)
- Anger at injustice and idolatry
- There is a place for this kind of deep feeling when something is seriously wrong around us



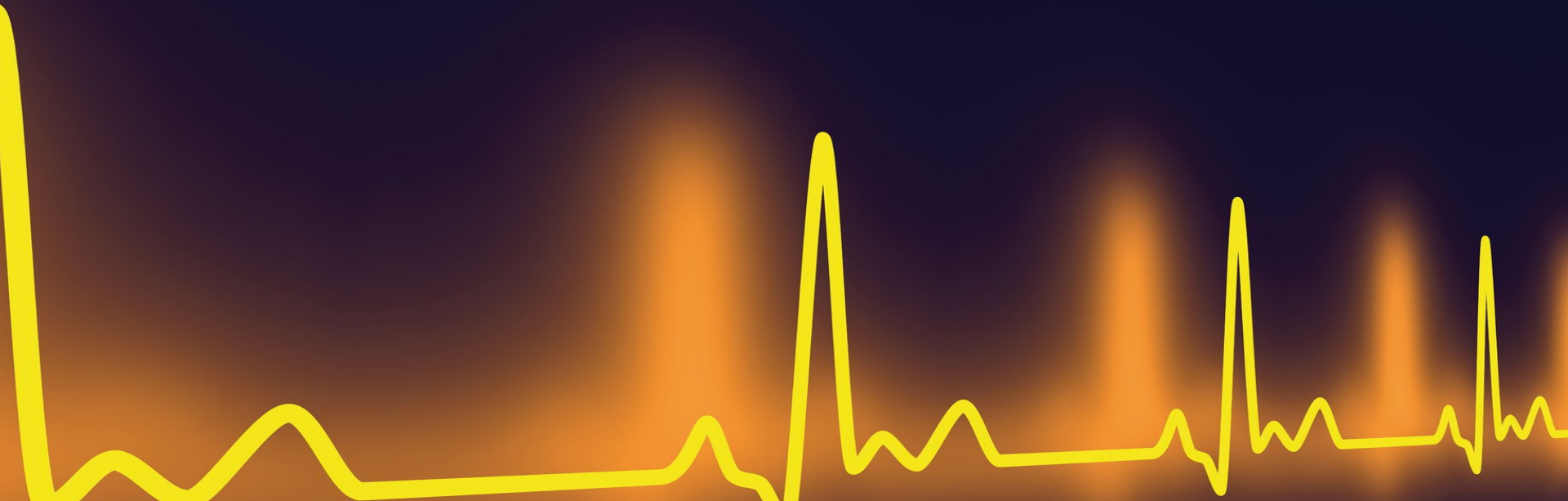
How do you feel about the society in which we live?

- Some elements of our society will stir deep feelings from us
- Anger
- Sharing in other people's pain
- Deep concern for those in difficult circumstances



How do you feel about the society in which we live?

- Having a heart for the neighbourhood where God has placed us is essential in being a community church.



Where are you able to engage in meaningful conversation?

- Paul debated in 3 public places
- Where are our public places today?
- The church building is a public place
- There are other important public spaces



Where are you able to engage in meaningful conversation?

- The most significant space for wider engagement with our society is now in social media
- Dr. Krish Kandiah describes social media as our modern day Areopagus



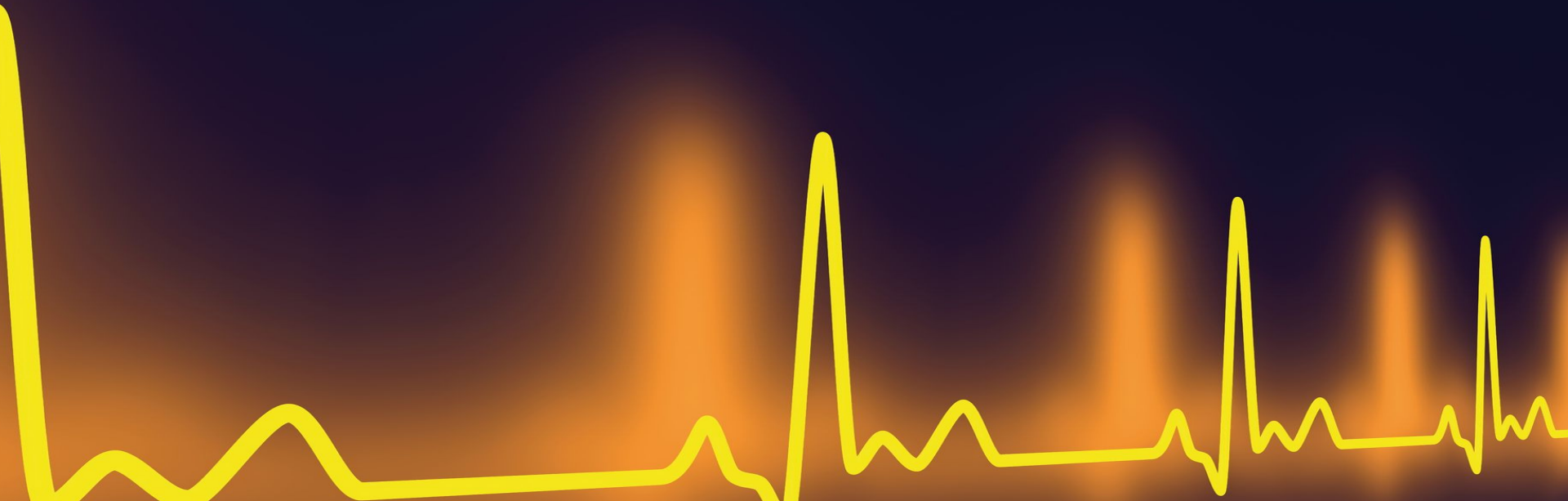
What can you notice from the places and the people around you?

- Paul noted that the people of Athens were very religious
- What have you noticed about Bewdley recently?
- What local issues are generating interest or frustration?



What can you notice from the places and the people around you?

- What are the bigger issues around us?
- Which festival is growing more than any other?



How do you bring the gospel message to our community today?

- Relationships
- Conversation
- Service
- Gospel truth
 - God's creation
 - God's nearness
 - God's judgement



Alive in the Community

- I long to engage with this community at all levels
- Our effectiveness in the community will emerge out of our depth of faith and our worship together

