

## 24-7 PRAYER WEEK – Tuesday pm & Wednesday

- This is part of my prayer life that I've found difficult in the past but the guide through this section on Tuesday with soft music in the background made it easier for me. Thank you. I can recommend this to anyone in the same position. God Bless
- The Marlton Small Group spent over an hour in prayer from 7 - 8 pm plus on Tuesday night. This was a special time and the prayers were so poignant and heartfelt as we prayed for the medical profession, carers and others that are keeping our lives on track at this time. These are special times and we thank and praise God that we can meet in this way and be part of the 24-7 project. Would just like to say thank you for the whole group who took part and for such a lovely time of prayer, Sally
- Often God doesn't speak to me when I expect him to, or during prayer times when I'm asking him to! It's often after that I "hear" what I believe he is saying to me. So today, as I was out cycling, it felt like lots of loose connections all came together:

- First the image from Psalm 91 of the fortress:  
Currently we are in this fortress with the rampart up for our own safety (and for other people's protection too). It's not necessarily where we want to be, but right now it's what we need to do. For some of us it may feel ok and that's good, but how can God then use us to encourage others? For some it is a very lonely and isolated place – remember Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane and the pain and loneliness he felt when even his close friends couldn't stay awake to pray with him. Jesus has felt all you felt and more and right now he is with you. How can we stand in the gap and "be with" others during this time?  
Some of us (this includes health and social care workers, but others also) have to leave the safety of the fortress some days during this time and it can feel frightening and uncertain. When you come back to the safety of the fort maybe God just wants you to delight in his presence and to just rest, recuperate and prepare to go out again. It's so good to be held up by the prayers of those in the fortress too.

-V4 of Psalm 91 talks of being 'under his wings' – I once heard someone say that when we feel we are in darkness it is because we are being protected "under the shadow of His wings". What a comforting thought. While we are in this safe fortress, I feel that the challenge is to spend our time well. How does God want us to use this time in preparation for when that rampart comes down and we need to go out into the world again?

Then, as I cycled this morning and looked over a field of sheep, I was reminded of Peter who, after denying Christ 3 times (what a failure he must have felt), was then asked by Jesus, "do you love me?" Each time Peter said yes, he was told "then feed my sheep". How is Jesus asking me (and as a church) to feed his sheep both now and then once we are out of this

lockdown?

- Finally, the feelings I've had during this lockdown have been similar to what I experienced a few years ago when I was told that I needed treatment for cancer. At that time, the hardest lesson I learnt (when my life seemed to be put on hold) was that my times are in God's hands and that my plans aren't always God's, and I needed to submit to what God had for me. There was a need to live each day as it came and to allow God to take charge of what came next. I've been reminded of these lessons during this time of uncertainty and sometimes anxiety, sadness and questioning. It's so good to remember that at all times God is Sovereign. Looking back at my journal during that time, this is what I wrote: "I have been so aware of how God has been present in every detail of my life and how it has been possible to experience His peace, hope and joy even in a situation that I wouldn't have actually chosen." - Becky

Morning Reflections:

Prayed out of Ps 18:1-19 (to the God who is both 'infinite and personal')

Deut 33:26 was shared (praying for that desire to be in His presence)

Number of threads came out of our time together:

- Prayers for endurance, patience and encouragements
  - Boldness and creativity to share God's love
  - Recognising God as 'the one who restores the soul... ..'
- I had a really good prayer hour just now. Here are a few things that came up in my prayer time:  
The song Be Still for the Presence of the Lord, especially the third verse:

Be still for the POWER of the Lord  
Is moving in this place  
He comes to CLEANSE and HEAL  
To minister his grace  
NO WORK TOO HARD FOR HIM  
In FAITH receive from him  
Be still for the POWER of the Lord  
Is MOVING IN THIS PLACE

The vulnerable people I thought I need to mention, are the Drug Dependent and Homeless. Also, the name 'Richard' kept coming to me. I don't know anyone of this name who may be ill or vulnerable, but I felt compelled to prayer for Richard. That he will be protected and feel God's presence on him at this time. God Bless you all at this time - Sue

- Please pray for the family, who have a crucial appointment at the hospital on Monday, regarding nutrition for an infant. Last week the machine didn't work, meaning the child (and family) were in the hospital for hours unnecessarily, and this appointment has been postponed already. Please pray for the machine to work and the child to get the nourishment they need, normally, very soon.

- Please pray for others, who are feeling the strain of lockdown, especially single parents and those who suffer with mental health issues, those who are lonely or feeling purposeless, and those with loved ones with dementia.
- The main message we have received this week is "Trust in the Lord" (in his word, hymns and other's prayers)  
Psalms have been very encouraging  
The variation of 3 zoom prays times a blessing  
The 1-hour prayer slots  
Lots of good information, fantastic amount of work must have gone into them.  
Seeing folded names open in dish of water wonderful  
We ran out of time - so many prayer needs  
God bless all the 24-7 prayer team - Angela and Nigel
- As we prayed for the ill, the isolated, and the vulnerable, especially our B2gether Group, we found our hearts uplifted as we sensed God with us. One chorus we felt prompted to sing was a favourite of Dena, 'He's got the whole world in His hands'. It is so appropriate for us to remember this with the present world situation. God knows the end from the beginning. We need to release our prayers to Him and trust in His unfailing love. Psalm 100:5 and Psalm 121:8 also came to mind – John
- Just wanted to share something that happened during my prayer session yesterday morning. For some reason the link to the song "My guardian/ Do not be afraid" did not work (possibly because I did something wrong), so I went onto YouTube music to try to find it. I listened to "My guardian" first then looked up "Do not be afraid" and listened to a rather old but familiar song, not, I might add the song that was on the link. Maybe this was not an accident as the words really confirmed that God listens even if we do not always sense his presence. These words from the chorus definitely resonated with me and I pray that they will with you also: "Do not be afraid for I have redeemed you, I have called you by your name, you are mine". It is an old song but definitely worth a listen as the words are very relevant during this current crisis - Jill
- Both today and yesterday we've felt prompted to pray for the global situation, and particularly for China - the source of the pandemic and a nation where human rights seem often to be abused.  
We've been praying for a greater spirit of understanding and cooperation between nations, and for a new respect for the world we live in. Covid-19 itself is, at least in part, a result of humankind's abuse of God's creation. We pray that we'll not only see healing and a cure (a vaccine) for the coronavirus, but also that we'll learn how to treasure more deeply and to care for the world and all we hold in trust. We've prayed for global institutions - the UN, the WHO, the EU, NATO and many others, including sporting bodies - that they'll be renewed from within and that their values and principles will be good and honourable.  
We're praying for God's particular blessings on China, that it will emerge into the light of the Gospel and that persecuted Christians there will

experience growing freedom and confidence (rooted in the verse we were given from Matthew 5:12) - Lee and Dot

- Just spent my hour in prayer. Felt led to pray quite a lot for the work in local prisons, this is particularly close to my heart and especially for Father Anthony, Chaplain at Channingswood, who is currently having to carry out his work without the normal group of volunteers, and for those prisoners who were on courses such as Alpha who have had to stop for now. Prayed for those who may be released early from prison because of Covid-19; for wisdom in those administering this. Also reminded that as God used a random bunch of disciples (ordinary people like us) to turn the world upside down - so he wants to use us through the power of the Holy Spirit, to be at work in his world today. Be it caring for our children, our neighbours, work colleagues; random acts of kindness. The unfathomable potential of God at work in and through us by His grace. Thanks Sue
- Prayer is like rebar.  
If you want to build a really strong structure with concrete that will not fail when it is stressed in a storm, then you need to use steel reinforcing bars. Prayer is a bit like those reinforcing bars, it takes a while to build it into the structure, but it adds a huge amount of strength. When the structure is complete you can't see the steel reinforcement, but it is essential. In a similar way we don't see prayer, but it is an essential part of building the Kingdom with God.  
Diversity of Devotion  
I've enjoyed the diversity and new experiences of prayer, music and devotions that the different brothers and sisters who have put together the daily devotionals and community prayer hours, have produced. It is a bit like walking through a well-established garden, tended for many decades by those devoted to its upkeep, and discovering old and new trees and plants as one meanders along the paths. In the same way we have and continue to be offered many diverse ways of prayer, meditation and worship as we progress through the week of 24-7 focus on God - Ken

#### Afternoon

- Strong sense of needing to pray protection over the use of media by those who are mentally vulnerable
- Prays asking for us to be brave and bold in sharing God's love
- Be still my soul

#### Evening

- Very positive time of recognising who God is, and remains, despite these uncertain times
- Prayed from four Bible passages: Rev 15:3b-4, 2 Cor 12:8-10, Is 40:28-31 and Ex 14:14
- A number prayed for God to use conversations with neighbours, and for boldness again

- The no Covid19 positive status lasted a day. I think a calm before the next storm as people in institutions are become infected. We are getting more supplies and are learning to be more resourceful. Prayers for protection of staff from the virus, resilience and endurance. Thank you 🙏❤️ - Maria