

## 24-7 PRAYER WEEK – Friday pm & Saturday

### Morning:

- Time of praying using Ps 63; Your love is better than life
- Thread of HOPE was picked up throughout the hour
- Prayer that God would teach us to pray across the nations to see transformation
- Various Bible passages were brought to the hour:
  - Isaiah 32: 17
  - Rom 10:14-15
  - Rev 22:1-5
  - John 17:20-23
- Prefer one another
  
- We have been asked to share anything we feel the Lord may be saying to us during this week of prayer. One message shines through:

'I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.'

Paul was totally focused on exhorting the church to keep on sharing the gospel at every opportunity despite the cost - for to say that it is worth it is an understatement.

We need to take God at His word - that this is how He speaks to the hearts of men, whom He created and not be distracted by trying to make ourselves popular. We need, as David Trim so often reminds us to introduce people to Christ. He alone can enable us to have the patient endurance we need to stand firm in the spiritual battle that the whole church is in. We must pay close attention to what he says.

Revelation 12: 10-12,17  
Romans 15: 4-6  
Daniel 9:13

We are the stones - may I be willing to let him use me to build his church, however He chooses – RACHEL
- Last night as I was praying, I felt God saying that although there is a lot of uncertainty, we can rest assured in his love and that he has a plan.

God bless - Ruth
- It felt special getting up in the "Wee small hours" to pray, as it really did feel like it was just us and God - intimate, undivided attention. Our silent pauses were brief as we worried that we'd be tempted to fall asleep as the disciples did in the Garden of Gethsemane. But the time really did fly by and we continued beyond the hour as the Holy Spirit guided us to interweave the prayer guide for the day with other readings, hymns and songs.

We were inspired by the Majesty of God and his creation as we worshiped with the song "Taste and See". The images that accompanied the song prompted Ian to turn to Psalm 121, "I lift up my eyes to the mountains - where does my help come from?" It's a beautiful reminder of God's constant help, protection and watchfulness over us. God really does know

us, and which words speak deep into our souls. He knows how comforted I (Esther) am by knowing that He sees and knows all things at a very personal, individual level, even though He is Almighty God who holds everything in the palm of His hand. From this sense of God's infinite compassion, we prayed for people and situations that were still on our hearts from the previous day's news. We dwelt on the friendship of Jesus, remembering the Hymn "What a friend we have in Jesus" from our childhoods, and prayed for those who do not know Him yet to seek Him, to hear from Him during this time of crisis.

Finally, we ended our time of prayer with a YouTube version of Robin Mark's song, "All for Jesus, I surrender" - a love song surrendering our very lives to Jesus so that we can be filled with his love and power. It's also our promise to love and trust Him, because He is our dependable Saviour.

God's tender heart and compassion for a suffering world and His longing for a personal friendship or Father/child relationship with everyone was His loud whisper in the middle of the night. AMEN - Ian and Esther

- The verses I shared towards the end of this evening's Celebratory hour were from Isaiah 43. At v8 we're reminded that God made a way through the sea and at v19 that he makes a way through the desert - nothing is impossible for him, and he isn't fazed by Covid-19. At v18 God tells us to forget the former things and at v19 he says: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"

This isn't the first time these verses have been brought to bear on a challenging situation, but the Covid-19 pandemic is making us rethink our lives and our priorities in ways the world hasn't faced for generations. What is God doing through the crisis? Do we perceive it? Can we understand it? How shall we join in? Perhaps it's as simple as this - Love God with all you've got and love your neighbour as never before! God grant us grace to follow where he leads. - Lee

A brief summary of our joint sessions today -

AFTERNOON:

- Ps 46:10 - Be still and KNOW that I am God
- Josh 5:13-6:5 - God wanted Joshua's time NOT agenda
- Eph 1:11-23
- Threads of hope, endurance and unity
- Other Bible passages highlighted were Rom 15:4 and Phil 1:9

EVENING:

- Number of Bible passages highlighted: Jer 29:11-14, Matt 28:18-20, Isa 61:1-3, Rev 21:2-4
- Several people highlighted Isaiah 43:19
- Strong sense of joy from the hour
- Shared desire for prophetic words for our neighbours, our country and our world

For me personally, as we spent some time this afternoon asking the Lord what He wanted to say to us, the Lord reminded me again of just how much He loves me,

and that from that place of security I have nothing to prove but everything to give. I also saw on a deeper level how prayer leads to action, leads to prayer, leads to action etc. etc. - Rachel