

THE GRAPEVINE – Issue 34:5th Nov 2020

Dear Friends,

I've had a lot on my mind this week. As I write this letter to you it is the anniversary of my mother's death in 2011. She is still very much loved and missed by all the family. It is also the start of another lockdown with predictions of the rising death toll from the second wave of Covid-19 all over the news. In addition, I have been thinking about all those who have lost loved ones over the years through war and violence as I have been preparing our worship for Remembrance Sunday.

To add to all of that I have had the USA's elections playing heavily on my mind. I worry about who is in the White House over the next 4 years because it has implications for us all, especially on the issue of Climate Change and the future of the Paris Agreement. Very early on Wednesday I awoke and switched on the radio to hear that it looked as though the present incumbent might have secured another 4 years. I had that horrible sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach and struggled to get back to sleep. By the morning as more ballot papers had been counted the outlook had started to change, and from my perspective the future was looking a little more hopeful.

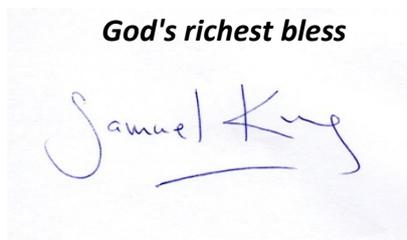
That morning as I listened to the news with my breakfast in hand I prayed. So many things on my mind, so many anxieties, so many things to lay before God. After a time in prayer I picked up my Bible and read the next psalm in the series I have been reading. I read it in one translation and my perspective on things was suddenly changed. I then read the same well-known verses, but from a paraphrase of the Bible, The Message, and it hit me right between the eyes. I have to admit I was a little choked up as I read from Psalm 46:

***"Attention, all!
See the marvels of God!
He plants flowers and trees all over the earth,
bans war from pole to pole,
breaks all the weapons across his knee.
Step out of the traffic!
Take a long, loving look at me, your High God,
above politics, above everything.
Jacob-wrestling God fights for us.
God-of-Angel-Armies protects us."***

Well now I thought - Thanks be to God! Amen.

- **Lebanon:** At our Church Meeting online the other week I mentioned that we had had a request from the General Secretary of the European Baptist Federation to ask if we might be able to help The Lebanese Society for Education and Social Development by supporting the wages of one employee for a year. I asked for pledges to be sent to me. I am very grateful for those that have done so. If anyone else would like to give monthly to support this request please let me know asap.
- **For your prayers:** Please remember Rosemary George and family this week. Tom's funeral is 11th Nov at Semington.

God's richest bless



Samuel King