

THE GRAPEVINE – Issue 36:19th Nov 2020

Dear Friends,

Barack Obama was interviewed this week by the BBC. In the interview he talked about 'truth decay' in America. He said that there is no longer a set of facts that people can congregate around. This has had huge implications during the recent elections and an impact on the scientific world working like never before to find a vaccine for Covid 19.

Dr Francis Collins, who is heading up medical research on Covid in the US, recently expressed his faith and his hope in God to help us through this pandemic. He expressed the grief that so many are experiencing, and its impact on health workers. He also described an intensity of scientific work that he has never experienced before in his career, and his conviction that he is in exactly the right place just now – serving God with his science. He is holding on tight to the words of Paul in 2 Timothy 1:7:

"for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."

In 2 Timothy the apostle Paul encourages his friend to "fan into flame the gift of God" that is in him. I am thankful that scientists are using their own particular talents to understand this virus, and help prevent or treat infection. The things they discover are not just useful, but at times they can also display the beauty and wonder of God's creation. Dr Harvey McMahon works at the Medical Research Council Laboratory for Molecular Biology in Cambridge wrote recently:

"I have a deep love and appreciation for science and count it a privilege to study God's creation. For me science and faith are intertwined, and together are part of a more holistic view. I study God's fingerprints in his creation to learn more of him and the world he placed us in and to learn how we should take care of it and each other. I am awed by my heavenly Father's glory displayed in creation (and I get to investigate this day after day!) I pray for inspiration and insight into how his creation works, and that he would reveal what he wants me to know, and that he provides the opportunities to give the glory to him."

Some suggested prayer points.

Please pray:

For all the scientists around the world who are working on Covid-19.

For those who want to work out their faith in loving ways through their science.

For generosity and kindness in sharing resources and expertise.

That decisions on the application of scientific knowledge would benefit the most vulnerable.

For clinical trials – whether of drugs or vaccines – are well designed and conducted and provide conclusive unambiguous results.

That scientific integrity, quality and rigour would be maintained.

That safety of trial subjects would be paramount and maintained at all times.

That decision makers in companies, academia and government would work well together.

Our ultimate hope is that one day all creation will be renewed. We can also have hope in the here and now, that God is with us in this time of suffering. When we respond in positive ways to painful events, that is evidence that Jesus is alive and working in our lives. We thank God for all those serving in the sciences across the globe who are standing with us in love, hope and faith.

God's richest blessing



Samuel King