

'A Beacon of Hope'

Reading, Jeremiah 29: 11-13 NKJV

11- For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

12- Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

13- And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

A beacon of hope. There can be no doubt that the vaccine now being rolled out is a beacon of hope for millions, a beacon which we all hope will finally see us come out of this long tunnel we are in.

There are quite a number of definitions for the word beacon, but the one we like best is, Beacon- a source of guidance or inspiration, a person or thing that warns, guides or offers support. Some examples of this are, a lighthouse- which warns of danger, the runway lights on an airfield- which give an indication of the path to safety, or a friend who offers direction and guidance is an example of a beacon for someone in need. Brethren, we're sure you will agree that we have many within our organisation we would class as beacons and this pandemic has shown us many more who by their acts of selflessness and kindness have helped many people at this time and will, we are sure, continue to do so.

Brethren, we would like to share a prayer with you which is in this month's Life and Work.

We stand at that place, betwixt and between the old and the new.

Looking back to a year now past, and forward to what is yet to be.

But this is not a normal transition between old and new.

We look back on a year in which

the normal patterns of daily life have been disrupted.

Where so much has been put on hold, postponed, cancelled.

We look to the new year with dread and anxiety

with its continued uncertainty.

Lives still on hold.

So much we would want to do, would plan to do,

need to do, but afraid to look too far forward for

fear of disappointment.

In all our uncertainty

we come to you, Lord, for you are constant.

In the midst of uncertainty your love is sure.

In the darkness of disappointment, you never fail.

In heartbreak and anguish your loving arms enfold us.

We see your constancy and love not only in our lives

But in the world around us.

As year succeeds to year,
As day follows night,
As the seasons change,
From the new life of spring,
to summers rosy glow,
then autumn's harvest hew
to winter's sleepy rest.
Lord, we long for the world to awaken
not only from winter's rest
but also from the shutdown we have endured
for so many months.

As we wait expectantly for the brighter days of spring,
and for the world to live again
so we turn to you.

Continue to walk with us through these dark days,
assure us of your light which
no darkness can ever overcome
and of your love
by which we are constantly surrounded.

Amen.

Romans 15:13 NKJV

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Till the next time Brethren,

Stay safe.