

Easter Sunday, 12.4.2020

Carol Hunter writes:

The impact of COVID-19 and its associated restrictions is being experienced across nations and communities, impacting on everyone young and old. It is a time when anxiety levels are high around us and the future seems uncertain. This is often compounded by daily changes to guidance from the government which have an immediate effect, with little time to plan and adjust. Arrangements for home schooling and working from home may mean that it is difficult to find a sense of structure and purpose. As such, there is an increasing risk for some to become quickly overwhelmed resulting in low levels of motivation and engagement with services and sources of support. People of all ages are being faced with large amounts of (changing) information leading to confusion and uncertainty with regards to both the current situation and the future.

From a world perspective, this crisis has meant for some that everything they thought they knew about the world around them has changed and they are now faced with the possibility of having to reconstruct a worldview that takes into account fear and uncertainty. Many will no longer feel safe, they will be on high-alert, anxious and frightened as they begin the process of adjusting to a different way of life.

From a Christian perspective though, things look a little different ~ read this promise from Isaiah chapter 43 (note; Jacob and Israel is a name for God's people ~ if you are a follower of Jesus then you are Jacob and Israel)

**But now, this is what the LORD says –
he who created you, Jacob,
he who formed you, Israel:
'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
² When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.
³ For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.**

Isaiah 43:1-3

These challenging times may have taken us by surprise ~ but not God. He is still on the throne and very much in control. And He is a God who arranged many years ago to write this in order to reassure us that there's nothing we will ever face that His grace won't cover. And notice that He is not standing at a distance, but promises to be in our situations with us ~ strengthening us by His Spirit, providing the courage and resilience needed in these trying times to keep our eyes on Him and not on the shifting sands around us.

For God's people nothing has changed ~ we still follow One Lord, with One Faith, through One Church. So let us with One Voice show the world just who we trust, standing secure in the hope we were called to holding fast to the promises of God that are Yes in Jesus.

Amen.