

Hi everyone! Thank you for your continued prayers and support over the past weeks.

These are some of the words of an old, well-loved hymn, and they have been on my mind for the past few days:

*Great is thy faithfulness!*

*Great is thy faithfulness!*

*Morning by morning new mercies I see:*

*all I have needed thy hand hath provided--*

*Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

*Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,*

*sun, moon, and stars in their courses above*

*join with all nature in manifold witness*

*to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.*

Our world seems to be in a mess just now – Covid 19 has changed life for almost everyone on the planet – but it is wonderful to know that God does not change. He is the same yesterday, today and forever, and we know that we can trust Him with our lives and our world – fantastic!!

#### RECENT NEWS

As you will imagine, our lives are very different than usual just now, due to the Shelter in Place order which is in force here as in much of the world. Many of the things I do are at a temporary standstill, as probably most of my work involves meeting with people, be it for prayer, discussion, encouragement, and informing them of the work of Know Hope... all these meetings are not happening as usual, but of course I am staying in touch with many contacts, and, as a member of CCC's Pastoral Care team, I am in regular contact by phone or text with a section of the church membership, as well as several erstwhile visitors to the church before the lockdown. This is going well, and will continue in its present format at least until this strange phase of our lives is over – whenever that will be!

We are both involved in keeping contact with our small group, Closer to God, which began in early February. Of course, the physical meetings we were holding had to be curtailed, but we have kept in touch with our members by other means, and are starting this week to hold meetings via Zoom, to keep the group together and to encourage one another and pray. One member recently asked for prayer for his niece who had contracted Covid 19. Ellen is disabled, and we were praying for her and her mother. Thankfully, Ellen is now back home and has recovered.

Much of Ian's work has been centered on the house revamp. He has worked so hard to get the upstairs remodelled and, more importantly, dust-free, and we were able to move back into our home on April 8<sup>th</sup>!! How great it is to be back in our own space, although of course we are extremely grateful for the use of the apartment at John and Glenda's old home. I am completely recovered from the pneumonia caused by the dust raised at our home, and am fine now that we are ensconced once more! Ian thoroughly cleaned the house and we had the air ducts cleaned professionally before we moved back in, so hopefully the house is clear of the dust caused by our shenanigans, as well as years of muck which has probably built up since the ducts were fitted.

Now, we are both working on the upstairs, getting it finished and livable. We have already made good progress, and hope to be properly moved in fairly soon. Of course, part of our work involves reassembling the furniture we had to flat-pack three years ago. Most of this is done, and we are currently finishing

essential work to enable us to use the upstairs rooms.

## PERSONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Ian's cousin Gary who was suffering from oesophageal cancer, sadly died last week. Mercifully, he didn't suffer for long, but was only in his early fifties. Please pray for Auntie Joyce as she grieves for her son, and for wider family and friends, too.

Sarah, our sister-in-law, has recently been suffering from Covid 19, but is thankfully over the worst physically. Sarah's state of mind is not good, and the family will have to make some difficult decisions soon regarding accommodation, etc. Please pray for this whole situation.

## VISA NEWS

In May, we will start the process of applying for an extension of our current visas. Carrying on from that, probably towards the end of this year, we will be able to apply for a more permanent status.

## WE NEED YOUR PRAYERS!

This whole process is going to cost in the region of \$10,000, possibly more as things are changing here regarding visas, etc. This will be an ongoing process, and the monies will be payable at various stages over the next year or so. Currently, we have about half the first payment needed, which amounts to around \$2,500.

Apart from the financial issues, we are standing on God's promise to us many years ago:

That we will find favour with the authorities, and

That God will cut through the red tape

We have seen these two promises fulfilled time after time over many years – please pray with us that He will again supply our every need and that this process will be quick and efficient.

## CHURCH

All our church meetings are being held on line, of course, but it's good to be in contact with the church family during this difficult time.

Please pray for Nancy, a lady in our church whose husband Gene is very sick and has been given a very short time to live. As I write, Gene is at home with Nancy and his close family, having suffered for several years with kidney problems and other complications. Pray for them as they say their goodbyes and as Gene makes the step into his Father's house.

## BROCHURE

We have had a brochure with details of our ministry put together through Cup of Cold Water Ministries, and have sent a bundle to the UK to be included with the postal newsletters. Unfortunately, these have not reached their destination, so we are hoping to include the leaflet with the next issue. This will also apply to the on line letter – please watch out for this brochure soon!!!

## FUTURE PLANS

Like everyone else, plans for future ministry opportunities are temporarily shelved! Dinner Church we hope will be ongoing, Know Hope will be back up and running, church events and ministry will take up again, and PADS shelter will be back to normal (all the clients are currently in the sister shelter in a nearby town). Watch this space!!

## THANKS

Once again, we thank you for your prayers, financial help, support and friendship, and assure you all of our prayers for yourselves and your families at this difficult time.