

**“Be glad now & rejoice because the Lord has done great things.”
Joel 2:21**

3 April 2011

Anxiety gone:

Mark has been suffering from anxiety, but having received prayer in January, all the anxiety has now gone! Praise God!

God's presence in the midst of grief:

Mothers' Day this year may have been difficult for those who have lost their mum. Paula's day was one of mixed emotions; there was the enjoyment of sharing the day with her daughters, but it was impossible to ignore the sadness due to the absence of her own mother. When her mum was ill the Lord spoke to Paula from Isaiah 43, assuring her of His presence through the times of great trouble; a year & a half on, Paula can testify to the absolute truth of this promise. In the bleakest times, she has known her God walking her through the 'river of difficulty' and keeping her from drowning. Thank you, Lord!

Answers & encouragement:

John expressed thanks & appreciation for God's provision & protection, as we see many occurrences of natural disasters in various other parts of the world. He is very grateful for God's touch in his own life; in an effort to cope with depression, John received prayer a few days ago, & he testifies that his spirits have lifted somewhat.

John shared the following scriptures to encourage others...

“I know all the things you do, & I have opened a door for you, that no one can shut.”

Revelation 3:8

“Ask Me & I will tell you some remarkable secrets about what is going to happen here.”

Jeremiah 33:3

“Give all your worries & cares to God, for he cares about what happens to you.” 1Peter 5:7

“The Lord your God has arrived to live among you. He is a mighty saviour. He will rejoice over you with great gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will exult over you by singing a happy song.” Zephaniah 3:17

“The more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ.” 2Corinthians 1:5

“God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

Boldness from God:

Viv shared how John felt God's hand on him during a difficult time recently; John had the privilege of standing as 'father of the bride' at his niece's wedding – a role which John relished & took very seriously. While the ceremony was not at all religious, John took the opportunity during his speech at the reception to share God's Word boldly & pray openly. Many were touched.

Playing the long game:

Romans 8:18-28. In the midst of difficulties, our situation can seem desperate & pointless. Rachel observed that just as in the process of labour leading to childbirth, our struggles, though long & painful, will pay off – God ALWAYS works it for good. He promises to be with us even through the toughest times.