

*“O Lord... I will give thanks to your name  
For your unfailing love and faithfulness”  
Psalm 138:2*

13 March 2011

Opportunity in the midst of Frustration:

Pete took some young people to **IX<sup>th</sup> Hour** recently. During the evening, when the kids were mucking around & not paying much attention, Peter became frustrated & wondered why he had bothered going at all. Towards the end of the service, Pete took the opportunity to pray for a couple of the young people that they would know how to live out their faith – how amazing to see God at work in these lives. Pete was reminded of a scripture, which says *“Don’t grumble about each other or you will be judged; and the judge is right outside the door”* (James 5:9). He was encouraged to be more patient & kind with others.

Job success:

A couple of weeks ago received prayer for breakthrough in finding a job. He has just had an interview & been offered a job in Northampton! Praise You, Lord! Mark is trusting in God to guide him in this move.

God’s Faithfulness & a Transforming Miracle:

25yrs ago Patty was faced with a huge decision: her young nephew had been abandoned by his parents, & Patty had to choose whether to take him in or allow him be taken into care. She felt she couldn’t do it, she already had a 5yr old son & was too tired. At the time, God spoke to her through a Bible verse... *“Let us not become weary in doing good... especially to the family of believers”* (Gal 6:9-10). So, Patty agreed to give her nephew a home, but could only do it if God would help her. He stayed with Patty for several years before going back to his mum. This lad had a difficult life. A couple of yrs ago Patty dreamt he had fallen into a horrible, deep pit, but that he would get out. Shortly after that he made several suicide attempts – he had lost everything in life, & no longer believed in God. Last November Patty phoned him; he had no money, no food, no electricity. Patty went to meet him & prayed for him right in the street; she cried out to the Lord to end this spiral of events. At the turn of the new year an opportunity to work for Nissan arose for him. He got through the interview & training course, & only needed to pass the final exam. This week, he phoned Patty, sobbing his heart out... he’d been successful in securing a trial at Nissan. Praise You, Lord for this transforming miracle!

Back pain healed:

For several months Ros has been suffering with severe back pain, requiring lots of painkillers. Since receiving prayer a couple of weeks ago she hasn’t taken any medication! YAY God!

#### The Impact of Encouragement:

A few weeks ago John received a call from his friend, Tom, whose Grandfather had been knocked down & wasn't expected to survive. John prayed & he recovered! (The gentleman has since died).

John also testified to the tremendous impact that Jenny Steiner had on his life. Thanks to God for her encouragement & the legacy she leaves behind.

#### Jesus in Strangeways:

Alex testified to the encouragement & support of his church family. Praise to God for those who give their time & energy. At the moment, Alex is working at Strangeways Prison. The prison world often requires prisoners & staff alike to put on a brave face & reveal no weakness or personality. One of Alex's new colleagues (head of security) revealed that he is a committed Christian & leads an Alpha group. Alex is SO grateful to God that in this extremely hostile environment he has found a brother in Christ.

#### Neighbour accepts Christ:

Kimberley is quick to help others, but often struggles to ask for help for herself – God has been challenging her to be herself more with others. A while ago, when her vacuum cleaner broke, she took the opportunity to approach her neighbours for help. She has since forged good friendships with these neighbours, spending more & more time with them, openly sharing the gospel with them. Her neighbour has opened up to Kimberley & allowed her to pray with her in a time of real struggle. The prayers were answered. God helped this lady through her tough situation. Recently Kimberley had the privilege to lead her to the Lord!

#### Peace & Protection:

Following the trauma of their house being burgled this week, the Dews family have had lots of prayer support. Praise the Lord, for His peace in their home, & protection over each of them; nothing was stolen, & the suspect has been arrested. The power of prayer!

#### Sharing Faith:

Matt has had a stressful time at work, preparing all the IT for a fashion show in the school. Afterwards, Matt had the chance to share with one of the team, Joe, how important his faith is & the difference it makes in his life. Although Joe is an atheist, he was interested in listening, and even suggested following up this discussion another time. This was a huge encouragement to Matt. Watch this space!

#### Faithfulness in the Long Haul:

Today is Mark's mum's 74<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mark has found that the faithfulness of God works over the long haul in families. He has been reminded of the night in 2000 when his dad died; while Mark & his mam were together she asked if they could sing together "*What a Friend we have in Jesus*". God is at work; often we see it best when we look back over the years.

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