

A week has gone by and our lives taken on a new rhythm. We are forced into new patterns of being. Relationships continue but in different ways. People who we thought little about are now high in our list for thanksgiving - shop workers, delivery drivers, postal workers, carers.

Small kind acts and thoughts for neighbours are priority. On line shopping and next year's holidays seem rather less important.

I had a reply to last week's e-mail from Robert Macleod, who I am very pleased to listen to, and his message is:

"We are indeed blessed but must not be complacent." Thank you Robert for this check to our comfort and self assurance.

We are indeed blessed in our environment, in our relative prosperity, in our health services.

We have warm homes, clean water and flushing toilets, and in this area we have space, clean air and friendly neighbours.

We are indeed blessed.

But there is always a but..... how can we reach out from this place to the world around where millions of people are not so materially blessed as we are. Our news is limited in its cover of other countries and other crises but I ask that we spend time this week – as we move towards Easter week, looking outwards to seeing how we can share our resources with those who have little.

A very brief look through social media and news websites show us that The International Rescue Committee who work in refugee camps in over 35 countries have hundreds of thousands of people living in makeshift camps, with little sanitation and health care. How do they self isolate and hand wash effectively to reduce the spread of the Corona virus?

Tearfund reports of Corona Virus infection in the huge refugee camp for the displaced Rohingya people in Bangladesh, and Christian Aid is now working with the populations of Indonesia, Bangladesh, Kenya and Iraq to limit the spread.

Nearer home we also think of the Homeless and rough sleepers. Glasgow city mission is continuing its vital work in Glasgow and around to care for those without homes to self isolate in or neighbours to care for them.

This year, our normal expenditure on holidays, on travel, on meals out, on many luxuries, will all be less than expected. Is this a time to think of sharing our abundance with our neighbours - both far and wide, both locally and internationally, to bring comfort and relief?

And also, be aware - our God reigns, we are a people who live in Jesus victory over suffering and death, let us draw our world into God's hands. Jesus taught us how to pray – take that prayer and ask God to bring recovery to all of our world - that His kingdom come, His will be done.

Let us pray:

Our Father, Who is in heaven

Hallowed be your name.

Your Kingdom Come. Your will be done

On earth as in heaven.

Give us each day our daily bread

And forgive us our sins

As we forgive those who sin against us

Save us from the time of trial

And deliver us from evil.

For the Kingdom, and the power and the glory are yours

Now and forever.

Amen.

Last week I suggested we identify five people we know and pray daily for them during our time of isolation.

Can I ask also now, that we each identify one country, and find out about what is happening there, and pray daily for that situation too?

Thanks
David