14th November

Daily Prayer & Encouragement – Patches Chabala

(*Psalm 90:12*)

“***Lord, teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.***”

That is the prayer of the Psalmist who in difficult times exhorts the pursuit of wisdom and perspective, which involves honest reflections about life and its currently harsh circumstances, and also pleads for the Lord his God to rescue him and his people.

All of us are troubled by the circumstances around us and, as the Psalmist reminds us, we too need perspective. The pressure of unusual circumstances, sudden changes in our daily routines, and the necessity of developing new skills—all these things require reflection and the faithful (re)alignment of our thinking and work toward both the realities around us and the purposes of the God we serve.

To gain a wise perspective, we have to face our fears. Fears can be healthy or exaggerated—and sometimes paralyzing. It takes wisdom to admit that there are dangers around us that need to be properly, fearfully and respected. We need to admit to certain specific fears—fears that relate to life and death. The virus that plagues the world is real. For many people it is life-threatening today, and for others it is a life-threatening prospect.

There’s also a legitimate financial fear that goes with this crisis. It has already begun to produce financial challenge that has not only hit the stock markets but will have an impact on the underlying economy for months and months to come. We can be thankful that we’ve had a strong underlying economy, but it’s certainly going to suffer some shockwaves .

We must face these days of fear and testing—not passively accept them or capitulate to them. These can and should be days of renewed worship, rededicated service, care, friendship, work, and love. We must be alert to the stranger among us, and we must love one another and be kind to one another as God in Christ has been merciful to us (Ephesians 4:32-5:2).

To follow Christ is to be a people of hope. And our hope is not in vain, “ ***But on Jesus blood and righteousness , we dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly lean on Jesus ' name”***. He is worthy of our trust, and He can aid us in conquering our fears.“ Be of good cheer,” our Lord said, just before his own horrific death on our behalf, “I have overcome the world” ( John 16:33).

One of my great privileges every day is praying for all of you.

May the Lord grant you strength and his sustaining grace in these challenging times. No matter what happens, purpose in your heart to Keep the Faith.

Rev'd Patches Chabala (Team Vicar)