

❖ HOME CHURCH
Piney Grove Baptist Church
P.O. Box 737
Trenton, GA 30752
(706) 657-6362

The Forbes family
your missionaries to
GREAT BRITAIN



May 2020

Dear Loved Ones,

May we just consider for a moment that the events of the last few months just may be the best thing God has allowed to happen to us? A bugle call, an alarm bell, one more warning that there is a God in Heaven and He is coming back soon? No matter who we are or where we are, we have all been affected. But remember that all that we have experienced and all that we are going through is nothing compared to the time of trouble spoken of in Daniel 12. I am truly thankful for the hope we have in Christ.

I want to thank you all for your faithfulness during this difficult time. We are moved by your compassion, friendship and care in what is a very difficult time for all. A special word about our home church, Piney Grove Baptist, who are in a time of pastoral vacancy and has also been the victim of a tornado. Yet faithfulness abounds and we gain strength from seeing followers of Christ rising up in difficult times.

Here in the UK we have been in lockdown for seven weeks now and, like many, have taken to online platform to preach and to teach. It is difficult but we must remember that we are but tools for the Master's hand and our best ability is our availability – even if that means ministering in a way that is out of our comfort zone. As well as online teaching, we have been doing shopping for the elderly “at risk” people in our congregation and connecting more with our neighbours. Both our daughter and son-in-law continuing working on the frontline – Hannah as a nurse with her hospice patients and Niels in his teaching position. Please continue to pray for their safety.

Let me share something that happened in Italy at the height of their worst period in this epidemic. It truly is inspiring and reminds us all how God can use the worst situation for good.

A 38-year-old doctor in Italy said as a doctor he was taught that because of science there was no need for God he and his colleagues were atheists. But three weeks ago, all of that changed. He said never in the darkest nightmare had he imagined what he would see and experience what was going on in their hospital. At the beginning of April, a 75-year-old pastor was sent to them. They said he was a kind man and he had severe respiratory problems. He had a Bible with him and they were impressed that he read it to the dying and held them by the hand.

They realized that in the midst of all that is going on, as humans we need God. They began to ask the pastor for his help whenever they had a few minutes free. They began to talk to each other and could not believe that as fierce atheists they were looking every day for peace, asking the Lord to help them resist the virus so they could care for the sick.

The 75-year-old pastor died. The doctor said, “The shepherd went to be with the Lord and soon we will follow him if it continues like this.” They had not been home for days but they have said they want to use their last breath to help others. They have all now found peace with God and want to give their last breadth surrounded with death and suffering of their fellow men serving God.

I truly find it amazing that God can use the worst situation for good. As Christ-followers living in a falling world, we may have to accept that we may well be asked to die a death not of our choosing. We, however, do not fear or sorrow as those who have no hope. The Lord certainly has our full attention now, may we all take full advantage of the time He has given us all.

Serving Him with you all,

Graham & Melinda Forbes

NEHEMIAH 2:18 “...LET US RISE UP AND BUILD...”

BIMI
PO Box 9
Harrison, TN 37341