



The Spotlight - October 2020



Sitting here in Fiji many miles away from our beloved second home, Hong Kong, where today, everyone is celebrating the mid autumn festival, we simply enjoy our memories. Thankfully, most of them are good and bring much joy, but of course, there is a sadness too, for Hong Kong has changed so much from the day we first arrived! The vibrant optimism that we found there in the 80s has been replaced by sadness and some despair, for so many feel hope for its future is lost.

Perhaps they're right, in the sense that life will never be the same again, but what does that mean? Maybe we can all answer that question in some way, for it's unlikely that any of us have escaped suffering, loss and or drastic changes in life. Can we really ever move on from losing a loved one, or from some painful suffering or huge disappointment? How many of us have simply wished we could turn the clock back and relive a few years so that specific outcomes could be different - we certainly have! Perhaps it's the human condition, but the futility of such focus was certainly understood back in the 17th century when the phrase 'If wishes were horses, beggars would ride.' was coined!

Of course, we all have our individual ways of coping, or not, for there are certainly those who don't cope, but is coping good enough? Is anything that we can achieve from personal strength of character sufficient? We think not and believe it will always be less than the best, for it's the supernatural gift that Jesus brings to bear at such times that allows us not to just cope but to actually thrive!

This year will surely go down in history as one of the toughest, for the pandemic has presented challenges for most every family in one way or another, and of course, life's regular challenges continue regardless. For us, it will go down as our year of waiting. Now, we realise that 'waiting' would not exactly be found on anyone's top ten list of ways to suffer, but it's been a challenge for us at times, for we've had to put our hopes and fears at His feet repeatedly because we've been in the habit of picking them up and mulling over them time and again. Still, despite this not being recommended, the Lord has chosen to use our weaknesses to bless us, for He has delivered constant reminders that not only will this time of waiting come to an end but because of His love, it will also end well. If you're a Christian, we hope you know and live this truth, but if not and you're having challenges of any kind, we're always on hand to chat and pray in confidence.

We leave you, as always now, with links to last month's messages:

- [1. Issues that Challenge the Faith: I'm not a Sinner!](#)
- [2. Issues that Challenge the Faith: Why are there Natural Disasters in the World?](#)
- [3. Man's Greatest Fears: Death](#)
- [4. The Fear of Physical Disability](#)

Blessings always, Jim & Elaine

The LORD is my strength and my shield: my heart trusts in him. (Psalm 28:7)

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