

Thankfulness for what God has done in Lockdown/Praise in Hard Times.

Whilst we recognise that there has been much trauma during this pandemic, it is also important to recognise God has not been dormant. He has been working in this time. Lets recognise and praise Him for this.

We know from research done by the Church and Tearfund that many people have tuned into church services during lockdown who would not normally attend church. Young adults(18-24years) have been found to be turning to prayer and seeking alpha courses online more than ever before. A church survey in Ireland found across all ages 18 % of people are praying more than usual. 85% believed family would be valued more after lockdown ends, 75% thought elderly will be valued more and 31% believed people would be more spiritual.

Could this be start of Revival in our nation?

Praising God in times of trial can be hard, but powerful. Think of Paul and Silas, 2 disciples of Jesus, who after being arrested and beaten and thrown in prison spent the night praying and praising God. Suddenly an earthquake happened and the prison doors opened, resulting in salvation of the jailer and his family and release of Paul and Silas. They were even escorted out publicly by the big guys in charge! Read Acts 16:16-end and let it encourage you to trust even when things are tough.

Praise in hard times is powerful and can unlock doors for us in ways we'd never imagine. Below is some feedback from our previous 24/7 prayer-time which also helps us reflect on this . Perhaps take a few minutes to pray and thank God in each area mentioned. Are there other things you could thank God for over this last difficult year? If you struggle to praise, ask Jesus to help you. He loves you. Tell Him what's on your heart.

“Thinking of story of Jesus calming the storm whilst the disciples cry out to him .During this storm (Covid) when we thought Jesus/God was asleep in the boat, God was still working and we have many things that we have to Thank God for-

Creation of a Vaccination in an amazingly short time

Heard the cry of climate change - planes being grounded - return of nature in amazing places - canals in Venice being clear - less smog / CO2 emissions in other countries - Hope for the future

Creation of neighbourhoods - people talking to neighbours / local people

Churches reaching out in new ways - online / social media - Creating New Fellowships. Churches working together

Changing priorities - Turning priorities upside down i.e. putting Keyworkers first.

Changes in people - to thank God He is moving and opening people's eyes / awakening people to injustice (BLM)

Changes in people - to thank God about the changes towards mental health & Wellbeing' “

Thank you Lord for all you are doing in our nation.
YOUR kingdom come, YOUR will be done. Come Lord Jesus.
Amen

