**The Goodness of God in My Life 15th Sept 2024**

**How I was saved**

* Childhood, Sunday School, Harry Worsley, confirmation
* Uni, Jack Webb, CU being challenged to step up and out and trust Him. I learned most when out on a limb!

**Key Scriptures**

* Psalm 139. I think the first section of the bible that God led me too as a young teen - meant so much to me that God knows me personally and intimately.
* John 8 v31 ‘If you obey my teaching, you are really my disciples and you shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (Note the ‘if’ – the need for consistent following and obedience - I missed that for many years!)
* Matt 6 v 25, 31-34 ‘Seek first his kingdom and everything else will be added’… (as a young adult making choices about my life).
* I John 4v18 ‘Love casts out fear’. If we truly understand and accept God’s immense love for us, we will trust him, and if we trust God, what have we to fear? In my adult life as everything gets more complicated, and so much more meaningful once I had children myself.
* Malachi 3v10 – giving being the door to accessing the promises of God’s provision for my life.
* Prov 3 v 5 recently - Not leaning on own understanding

**Some key times of his goodness to me – all in everyday Life** …….

* Engagement, OM, time apart, delayed wedding …then provision of home and job.
* Work – always Gods timing and provision of the right job when we needed it. Prayed for exact salary to meet bills – it did! Prayed for exact timing of a job offer to meet a complicated set of circumstances, and it did. Careers that were fulfilling and challenging but flexible, left time for church and kingdom.
* 3 year experience of infertility after having David (big low) – then unplanned journey into adoption – and a wonderful daughter who was so meant to be ours. Then a job in adoption which became my passion, and taught me so much about God’s adoption of me as his child.
* Everyday family crises, the sickness and death of loved ones, challenges with teenage children - every time God carried us.
* Timing, it’s always in His spot on timing and attention to detail that I have most experienced God’s love for me, his provision and his power. Often you only realise with hindsight why something happened when it did. He always knew what was ahead and had made a way for us.
* God gave us discernment and wisdom beyond what we were capable of, not usually as a BIG WORD, more nudges and hunches.

**Examples of specific moments of Gods intervention**

* The neighbour who offered us a lift when C was ill.
* Miracle of cloaking at a funeral
* Our car breaking down and a perfect new one provided.
* My mother being having serious brain damage after a stroke and needing 24 hr care for 2 years. ‘The nearest suitable facility is the other side of London’ – she ended up in Pitsea (I was based in Basildon)! ‘You won’t get funding’ (we did). I had an all consuming professional job working late most days and never having a lunch break. The govt changed adoption practice and for that exact period during a necessary restructure my work was quieter than it had ever been and I was able to stick to my contracted hours and visit mum almost every day.
* And so many others!

**What I have learned**

* You don’t have to learn by making mistakes, that’s painful and inefficient. Be teachable by other believers (alive and dead!) Seek them out, read their testimonies, learn from their mistakes as well as their faith. Paul had a dramatic testimony – but it was one that included his involvement in the murder of Stephen; I think he would have given anything not to have been involved in that. Some of the damage we inflict on ourselves and others before we meet Jesus cannot be undone in this life….
* Jesus is always right, and always good. You can trust him absolutely. Joy, peace freedom fulfilment are all found by following Him.
* He does not expect a lot, the tiniest move in obedience to Him and he scoops us up and multiplies our intentions and efforts thousandfold. (Like power steering). You can never give (time, obedience, loyalty) to God and not get back with interest.
* Take the Bible more literally and don’t overthink. Don’t trust your own understanding and feelings, assume it will not make sense, seek God for wisdom.
* You can’t know what will happen next. Following Jesus as Glenda graphically said a week or 2 ago means we are behind him, so we can’t see ahead. Actually I don’t think he wants us to, he is protecting us.
* Every choice and decision you make *every single day* impacts on your overall course in life. Nothing is wasted , like grains of sand in an hour glass they all add up in the end.
* His timing is perfect so if he seems to delay – it’s not time yet!
* Trusting God for the future gets easier as you build a history of experiencing his goodness.

**My vision for the future**

Nothing grand – to follow Jesus wherever he leads me and to serve my brothers and sisters as we together help to build his church and establish his kingdom on earth. I am passionate about his body, us, you guys and others across the world. I know from experience that this will be challenging and exciting and incredibly fulfilling, but I really do not know exactly what it will look like, but my part will be

* Making time for my relationship with Jesus every day.
* Being obedient to what he has already shown me. To daily say ‘yes’ to his plans for me, then believe he has heard and act on promptings, and take any opportunities that come up.
* To be brave –if I feel out of my depth he is never out of his depth. Faith feels like taking a risk then afterwards it feels obvious!

There is so much to look forward to. Almost every aspect of my life so far has been challenged, then reshaped and ultimately blessed by Him.

My life may look very ordinary from the outside, but it has been so exciting and fulfilling, thanks to the goodness of God, and I know that he will not stop now!