



Testimony

“As for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more. My mouth will tell of your righteous deeds, of your saving acts all day long—though I know not how to relate them all. I will come and proclaim your mighty acts, Sovereign Lord; I will proclaim your righteous deeds, yours alone”

Psalms 71: 14—16

Even through a year of Covid restrictions God has still been present, spoken to, guided and blessed his people. The world may have been through one of the most difficult of years full of restrictions, separation, fear and pain but there have been some beautiful moments too. We have learnt to appreciate those around us more, we have learnt to be more resilient, we have had a chance to re-evaluate our lives and relationships and make positive changes, and we have been reminded that God is the constant through whatever we face.

Here are some stories of what God has done over the past year of lockdown...



A testimony from Liz ...

My faith is quite a simple, straightforward one so don't expect anything profound! The last 12 months have been a challenge for everyone, add into the mix the death of 2 aunts and my beloved mum (in the space of 3 months) – none from covid but all needing lockdown funerals.

Scott then spent 3 weeks in hospital during which I couldn't visit, Daisy our 13yr old border terrier died, then dad (92) went into hospital at the start of December – he then went into a care home so haven't seen him for 3 months other than through the window.

Alongside this I have worked in AGE experiencing all the highs and lows of the NHS. I tell you these things not for sympathy, many of you have had similar issues but to set the scene.

I now have time to look back and try to regain some perspective.

I can testify to the overwhelming love of God shown in so many ways. My church family have become so precious to me – the love, prayers, flowers, cards, phone calls, letters, and text messages.

Probably my darkest point was when Scott was in hospital – I really didn't know whether he would make it home. Someone had a picture of me sitting on God's lap – that night I couldn't sleep. I woke at 01.30 in a state of anxiety – I put on some worship music (no idea what) and basked in the love of my Father – he was holding me, it was very real and my anxiety faded. From that point on I knew I could leave everything up to God and whatever happened He had me.

My go to psalm for 2020 has been psalm 27 – I have taken great comfort from it but also been challenged.

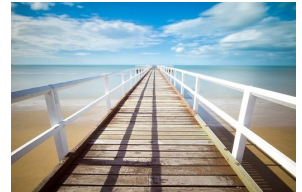
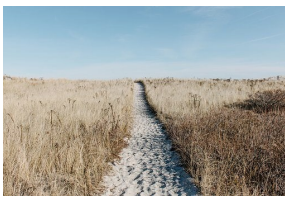
It was evident that dad wasn't going to manage at home anymore but God had already sorted a place for him – timing was perfect and dad is now a resident at Manor Court Care home. God even had him admitted to George Eliot for 24hrs so that we could be together for a brief time.

God hasn't left it there – He knows what I am like and that I need something to focus on – onto the next challenge – the possibility of becoming a foster mum – we are at the very start of the process but I know God is in this. I look forward to all that He has planned for me – Our God is amazing.

“The Lord is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid” Psalm 27

A testimony from Lynne ...

I'm so grateful to God that during Lockdown I have had to learn to leave so many situations to Him that I was separated from. It has been liberating to trust Him for family and friends and know that He would do 'immeasurably more than' anything I could plan, do or even pray for them. Sometimes I've been aware of what He has done but at others I haven't. I've still been able to rejoice rather than worry because He knows and is on the case, working for their good. He is such a kind Heavenly Father.

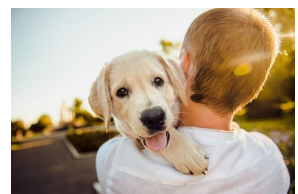


A testimony from Greg ...

I would like to share my testimony what God has provided to me and how he answered mine and my friends prayers. I met (online) my wife during 2nd week of 1st lockdown. Proposed to her 3 months later and we got married almost 6 months since we text each other. Thanks to God we had blessed wedding at MCBC, reception at amazing Saints Nuneaton. Then we managed to enjoy adventurous and dreams come true honeymoon in Venice and Sicily. While we stopped dreaming to achieve seeing our families in France and Poland over Christmas because of travel restrictions God provided us ways and restrictions changes so we could see all of them at our families homes. Another miracle, we found a lovely puppy and decided to take her into our home.

While all of this has been so great God managed to keep me safe from Covid especially as I am identified as clinically extremely vulnerable person.

God is amazing! Keep smiling and believing MCBC.



A testimony from Rosie ...

We know we can trust God, we know we can take joy in all God does for us. We are constantly told that in the sermons and by other Christians and we know it...

However when you have clinical depression/anxiety knowing that in your head and being able to feel the comfort of it in your heart are two very different things. If you are not careful it ends up being just another thing to beat yourself up about... "I **know** I can trust God, so why am I still so anxious, why can't I feel that I can trust God!!" or "I **know** I have all these good things God has given me, so why do I still feel so cold and empty, unable to summon up happiness, let alone joy".

It's not that easy, you can **know** but not be able to feel it at the same time.

Years ago during counselling for anxiety I was given a personalised set of declarations that I say every day (still years after that episode of anxiety ended) to address my particular fears. A portion of that for example is "I reject the lie that I can't trust God" and later "I embrace the truth that my heavenly father will provide for all my needs".

When I first started saying them I **knew** they were true but they didn't change the way I was **feeling** at all. I was told to choose with my head to believe them and to say them anyway, maybe one day my heart would catch up. Eventually with further counselling help they became more real, almost so obvious it was strange to need to say them at all. It wasn't an easy road to get there, and in the beginning didn't feel like I ever would, but eventually...

So that was years ago, why mention it now... well because one of the prime triggers of my anxiety was just the word **pandemic**. Just that word made me go cold, the thought of a pandemic could lead to weeks/months of anxiety where I couldn't eat or sleep properly. So when a real pandemic came onto the horizon I really expected to fall back into being unable to function due to anxiety. In reality I've stayed pretty calm, yes I've been concerned, yes I started avoiding others as early as mid Feb 2020 (mainly to avoid conversations I thought might trigger anxiety), yes I've been more cautious than many people about avoiding contact... but I've still felt happiness, I've still been able to relax and enjoy the birds in the garden, and the funny stuff on TV and I have felt again the point of my daily declarations, I have needed to lean more heavily on them and God, but he has kept me out of the dark pit of anxiety that I kind of expected when I first heard about COVID.

God is Good!

A testimony from Tina ...

The past year has taught me to depend and trust in God and His Word more than ever before. I've really had to draw the line and think about what I believe and who I believe even more. When the world screamed 'Fear' I looked to God who said 'I haven't given you that spirit. I have given you a spirit of power of love and a sound mind. I have made you an overcomer.' It has made me realise even more who I serve and who I truly worship. I have realised even more that no earthly powers, leaders, science, humanistic reasoning or any other ideology is a substitute for my God. He is my Shepherd and the One who leads me through this life. As in the past when I have gone through trials I have physically felt the presence of God, like His hand upon my shoulder or my head. When my Dad was nearing the end of his life the presence of God increased and I had the strength to go into the Covid ward and sit with him and be a support to my Mum as well. I know in my own strength I couldn't have done this. But I know the prayers of Gods people were a strength and great help too. I know also as I took His Word, His Name and His Blood and declared them over my life that I had the power I needed to see me through. We have amazing gifts from God and many times in the past I feel that God has taught me about them through lots of different people and how to use them. I have increased in my knowledge in how to use them even more this past year and how to stand during the storms that I have gone through. It's funny that we never want to go through bad times but these are the times when we grow the most in our faith. I hope I haven't sounded religious because this is not about religion but faith in our God who is compassionate and kind yet strong and all powerful. Thank you Lord for being there for me. And thank you also Jonathan, Catherine and all the Saints at MCBC for your prayers and support.



A testimony from Rosemary ...

"Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses"

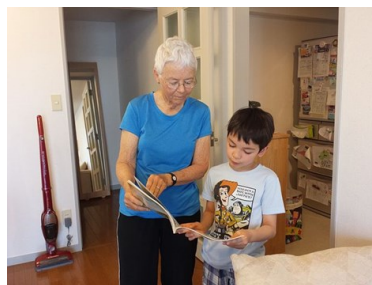
Hebrews 12:1

Nothing in our circumstances has changed but I realize that I am in fact surrounded by those of my family before me, and present family of Christian folk who have been and are examples to me.

I grew up in a Christian family, my Dad read bible stories to me each night when I was a child. We lived on a council estate in Tile Hill Coventry and saw the stone laid for our Church Limbrick Wood. My parents were ordinary but helpful to anyone in any need, if one of my play mates had got a bit scruffy Dad would polish their shoes Mum would mend a tear so that that child would go home tidy.

My Dad's uncle used to preach in Oldham My Dad was sometimes known as "The Billy Graham of the Standard" where he worked. My sister in law's parents were a great help and example to me also. So all of these people and many more have been are a good example to me, and the memory of them helps me to cope with this situation. My Grand daughter used to sometimes visit us when we lived in Attleborough and I'd walk with her to Riversely Park she'd walk there fine, but coming back she'd say "I can't walk, I'm too tired Grandma" so I'd say, "Yes you can, it's easy just put one foot in front of the other." It's a difficult journey, but I remember those who have put one foot in front of the other, knowing that they've all made this journey before me & been good witnesses to me of God's love & faithfulness.

Love & God continue to bless and amaze you.



A testimony from Mandy in Foodbank...

A lady came for a parcel and she asked if we had any gloves. We hadn't but we had got scarves, which she took & also there was a Coat. She tried it on and it fit like a glove! She was so made up & said its 'Awesome!' I said if you are happy that makes us happy, I called her by her name & she said "you remembered my name, it's nice to be remembered".

It really touched me & made me think it's small things in life that can make a difference in someone's life.

I feel so blessed & humbled to serve God in this ministry. What an 'AWESOME GOD' we serve. Give Him All the Glory!!



So these are just a few of the stories for the MCBC family we have heard that tell of Gods goodness in the big and the small. He is interested in every part of our lives and wants us to come to him with our joy, pain, hopes & fears. As we tell these stories of Gods goodness through COVID to our children, family, friend, neighbours... let's build up each other's faith (and our own) to keep pressing in to seeking Jesus face and hearing his voice.