



Christian
Veterinary
Mission

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CVM Director's Office

As 2020 comes to a close, it is certainly not difficult to call to mind major events of this past year!

Worldwide, the presence, impact, and persistence of COVID 19 has been a phenomenon of a lifetime. Racial and social unrest, riots, violence, and conflict have been a heartbreaking part of the year. Even the campaign for the Presidential election has been an unprecedented experience!

2020 will hold varying recollections of isolation from family and social gatherings, working from home, being laid off from work, having kids at home instead of in school, having important life events such as graduations, weddings, and funerals being held via Zoom instead of in person. Sadly, some will remember this as a year when a loved one died of COVID or from another cause. Indeed, this has been a very difficult year for many!

The Book of Daniel gives details of a very dark time for Israel. Because of their unrepentant national sin, many of God's people had been taken captive and exiled to Babylon. Both the temple and Jerusalem were in ruins. Things appeared hopeless. Yet in the midst of this desolation, God spoke words of hope in the promise of His future kingdom which would fill the earth and would never come to an end. (Daniel 2:44-45)

Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, a medical doctor, was the minister of Westminster Chapel in London for almost 30 years. He was influential in the Reformed wing of the British evangelical movement in the 20th century. This quote was excerpted from *A Light Has Dawned*, a collection of articles from the archives of Christianity Today magazine.

Dr. Lloyd-Jones comments that this hope and life appearing in hopeless situations is a theme that runs throughout the whole Bible. Lloyd-Jones states clearly and powerfully, that this...

...“has always been God's method, and it is an essential part of the message of the Christian faith, illustrated most perfectly of all in the coming of the Son of God into the world. When the Lord Jesus was born into this world, once more the situation was completely hopeless. Since the prophet Malachi there had been no word from God, as it were; for 400 long years, there had been no true prophet in Israel. God seemed to be silent. The children of Israel seemed to be abandoned, and their country conquered by Rome. It was into that kind of situation, when it was least expected, that God did the greatest thing of all—he sent his only begotten Son into the world to rescue and redeem men.

Now that is the great thing that stands out in the whole history of the Christian Church; and that is why this message is of such comfort and strength to Christian people at present. How often the Christian Church has seemed to be at the very end of its tether—lifeless, helpless, and hopeless. Her enemies had become loud, proud, and arrogant, convinced that Christianity was finished; the doors of the churches seemed about to be shut for the last time. A bleak midwinter had settled upon the Church, and then suddenly and quite unexpectedly God sent a mighty and glorious revival. That message stands out on the very surface, and it is quite clear in this prophecy. The prophecy was fulfilled literally and it has continued to be fulfilled in principle ever since. Therefore as we look at ourselves today and see the Christian church as but a dwindling remnant in this sinful, arrogant world, and many begin to feel hopeless and anxious about the future—here is the message of God. It has been God's custom

Over, please!

throughout the centuries to come and visit his people when they least expect it. Who knows but that round the corner there may be waiting for us a mighty and glorious revival of religion! Let us take hold of this great principle.”

Wishing you each a joyous Christmas as we put our hope and trust in the One Who has come to visit His people.

Blessings, Jan & Kit