

## Ouse Valley Filling Station

Dear Friends

### **Blessings from the Ouse Valley Filling Station Team!**

We do hope that you are keeping in good health. Here are some further reflections for your perusal during our time in isolation. May these inspire you to seek the Lord with a passion and renewed zeal.

#### **A Divine Quarantine** (in the wilderness)

*‘Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.*

*14 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. 15 He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.’ Luke 4: 1-2, 14-15*

It seems to me that the Lord our God is giving the world a divine pause. Ultimately, this reset, however difficult and troubling, declares God’s sovereignty. See Romans 11:36. There is a divine purpose behind it.

The etymological root of quarantine is ‘quaranta’ = 40, ‘quarantina’ = 40 days. A dictionary definition of ‘quarantine’ also includes Jesus’ time in the wilderness. A time of sovereign quarantine!

Recently, I have been struck by Jesus’ fast in the wilderness. He was led by (driven by) the Spirit into the desert ... AND he came out in the power of the Spirit. He overcame ... and was never perturbed.

In our isolation, we have moved into a divine quarantine ourselves. As His church in the British Isles, we must allow the Lord to do His work in us at this time. Maybe some things have to die on the altar of sacrifice.

It seems to me that we need to spend these days of isolation well ... in making time to draw close to God and allow him to do the refining and purifying work ... like a spiritual

quarantine. If we come out the same ... we will be like the Israelites who did not learn their lessons from 40 years in the wilderness. It was the next generation that entered the promised land.

### **A Divine Winnowing** (at the threshing floor)

*John answered them all, 'I baptise you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.'* Luke 3:16-18

In this season, it seems that the Lord is separating the wheat from the chaff at His threshing floor. May this be a winnowing time ...

### **A Divine Awakening** (with ears to hear)

*These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. 15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth. 17 You say, "I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing." But you do not realise that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so that you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so that you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so that you can see. 19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. 20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. 21 To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. 22 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'* Revelation 3:14-22

With some exceptions, the church in the West has fallen asleep and become lukewarm ... reminding me of Jesus' words to the churches in the book of Revelation. We have not recognised the true poverty and depth of our piteous plight. BUT Jesus wants His bride back ... radically different and beautified by the divine quarantine. A bride who has made herself ready for the return of the bridegroom.

A Christian leader said recently, that Christians have become bored with church. We need to return to our first love. Let's allow God to put to death everything in the church (and in Christian ministries) that are not of His Holy Spirit. So that NEW LIFE can come through a purified, set apart, passionate bride who loves Jesus MORE than anything else ... and seeks His Kingdom first.

### **A Divine Reset** (with His perfect timing)

*Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk the city. 13 When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. 14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. Acts 1:12-14*

It seems to be no coincidence that we are now between the feasts of Passover and Pentecost. In the book of Acts, the new church waited, fasted, worshipped and prayed. They were in lock-down. In our lock-down, may we wait on the Lord and his timings ...

I feel excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. A revived church can declare the good news of Jesus with a renewed passion and holiness. This is a wonderful concept. Are we listening?

**Let us have ears to hear what the Holy Spirit has to say to the (seven) churches.**

(Seven = perfect/complete number; seven churches representing the complete church of Christ.)

### **Future Meetings**

We will keep you posted with regard to future meetings. Please check the website by clicking on the button below, or you are welcome to email us.

With love and many blessings

Stella Hart