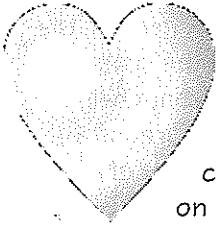


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We are at the heart of God's faith, hope and love, in and for the world.

We can be overwhelmed by the constant, unrelenting reporting on Covid here and overseas. Lockdowns, restrictions, limitation can bring us to depression, anger, reaction. ENOUGH! There is much good going on as we help each other, reach out to others, find new ways to live, work, play and be. Now is a time to reassert our key Christian virtues of FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE. We can do this because God has faith in us, has hope for us and our future, and loves us without limit or reserve, always and in everything.

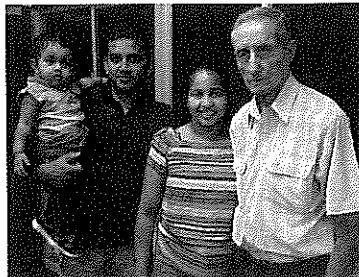
God has faith in us!!? Yes, God believes in us; believes we can be what we are called to be and to become. God made us, sustains us and calls us to be the person we were born to be, with the gifts, talents and opportunity we are given. In this pandemic situation God believes in the human race. We have been given the whole world of science and medicine, healthcare and hospitals, government and business, research and study; to manage, organize, make and produce vaccines and medicines, to distribute and monitor. We have a whole array of human resources, talents, intelligence, perseverance and ability, love and care for each other; all God given. We also know that this all carries the flaws and limitation of human failing and frailty. Despite our shortcomings we can and will get through this and God has faith that we can.

God has hope for us!!? In creating the world and each one of us God had a vision and a plan. Our Creator has great hope that this will come about, and we can all be contributors and participants in this great, evolving world. In all of this the pandemic is a

passing event that challenges us to be better and greater, to see deeper and higher, to understand in a new way. Together we can see a better future for our families and communities, for our society and culture. We do have a vision and a plan, even if we do not see it all clearly yet. Again, all full of human frailty and failings as is our nature and also our calling to know this, to live with it and go beyond it. Let us hope in ourselves and in each other, in our world and humanity, because God hopes in us.

God loves me/us!! Believe this if you believe nothing else! God's love for us has no limits or restrictions, no conditions or rules. God forgives us immediately and completely without our asking. Jesus only commandment to us was "love one another, as I have loved you". He never asked anyone to recite the Creed or Commandments, simply cured, healed and forgave. The Old Testament command to the Hebrews was to "love the Lord your God And your neighbour as yourself." God's life and law is that of love, which is given to us, hard-wired into our very nature, part of our DNA. Our love of others is a natural response and behaviour because God loves us first, here and now, in this difficult situation with all its challenges.

The whole work of the Mission Office rest on God's faith in the donors to be generous, our staff and personnel overseas to make the operation work; God's hope is to see us create a better world for all; and God's love for us sustains our every effort.



Roger Purcell msc
Director

