



15th November 2015 – Sermon notes and prayer prompts.

Hannah, for the **first time in many years, now knew God's peace**; received a miracle child.

A greater miracle may be to know God's peace without the miracle child or the miracle thing that you most desire, that you have prayed for and not [YET] received. .

I pray that some today will know a peace that defies your circumstances that you'll know the sufficiency of God without, or with, the answer you most desire.

As Christians we bring, our cries, our prayers to the foot of the cross. Although the outcome might not be what we always long for or imagine. The way to and from the cross of Christ always open up the possibility of resurrection and life. Will let God have our problems.

The challenges we face rob us of life and a GOD BIRTHED future?

Hannah's **prayerful lament opens up new God birthed** possibilities however in her negotiation with God she commits her longed-for child to God. Any life, any child, any experience of peace, personally and nationally, is a temporary gift that we best place **back in God's hands; not to be taken for granted**.

Hannah's commitment was to be no ordinary offering, it was to be much greater than the double offering she has made previously to Yahweh (1 Sam 1:5).

God had a plan for her son Samuel. Hannah vowed to cooperate with this plan.

A supreme act of faith and service - a gift from God..., offered back to God. It will be a different faith response for all of us or all.

It took Hannah to be real with God, to pour out her heart in intercession.

SAMUEL WAS BORN OUT OF PRAYER

Why not bring your cries... your tears... to God in intercession...?

Some questions to ponder and pray...

If we all engage it multiplies the prayers considerably.

WHAT DO YOU, WHAT DO WE WANT GOD TO BIRTH OUT OF THE PARIS TRAGEDY ...?

Just a thought... Just a prayer ...

Thinking God's thoughts after him...

WHAT DO YOU, WHAT DO WE WANT GOD TO BIRTH IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES...?

WHAT DO YOU WANT GOD TO BIRTH AS RESULT OF PRAYER, BORN IN PRAYER, IN HIS CHURCH...?

He needs us as part of the solution. Very often we are walking wounded and carrying worlds for too long. Wounds that we don't need to carry. So...

LAST BUT NOT LEAST WHAT DO WE WANT GOD TO BIRTH AS RESULT OF PRAYER IN YOUR OWN LIFE...?

To echo the prayer and blessings of Eli (1 Sam 1:17)

'Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him.'

Revd Patrick Bateman.

November 2015.

