

Dear Friends,

Some of you might remember, or even have witnessed, what emerged from the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. You might remember the 26-year-old member of the British team, by the name of Derek Redmond who was favoured to win the 400 metres. Halfway into his semifinal heat he tore a hamstring which caused him to crumple to the track. As the medics came to his rescue, Derek scrambled to his feet hopping, pushing, in a crazed attempt to finish the race. That is when a big man pushed through the crowd toward the track. He wore a t-shirt with the question: "Have you hugged your kid today?" He wore a cap that said, "Just do it!" The man was Jim Redmond, Derek's dad. When he got to his son he said, "Derek, you don't have to do this." Derek replied, "Yes I do." That is when big Jim put his arm around Derek and said, "Then we'll do it together." That's exactly what they did.

As we enter into a new kind of Season for the world and for the church let us remember that our heavenly Father is willing always to come out of the stands into the midst of our need to assist us, to carry us and to let us lean on Him. The apostle Paul says in Hebrews 12:1-2: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. (2016). Crossway Bibles.

In this verse he is giving us a clarion call to continue to run the race no matter what difficulties or problems we might encounter. Why? Because we have the example of the Lord Jesus Christ, who endured something more painful than anything we will ever face, and who triumphed through his willingness to be obedient and to finish the race.

As we move along on our journey let us continue to run as a team, working together, to fulfill our calling, to share the good news of the gospel while leaning on Him. And as we do that pray and seek God's face because, as we seek Him, He will open His hand to bless, strengthen, encourage and help us accomplish what He has asked us all to do.

May the Lord truly bless all of you and your families this Easter,

Love in Christ

Richard and Margie