

## There's a water lily in your pot

After an 'unprecedented year' in 2020, perhaps the start of 2021 has been a time for you to reflect on the year that was and consider what 2021 may bring. The words of promise from Jeremiah may be timely... *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.* (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV)

When we reflect on these words note **who** knows the plans, and **what** these plans are! Do you know why Jeremiah wrote those words?

The plans and the timing are God's, not ours. However, the plans are for good, even though we don't necessarily know what they are!

These words were written by the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah to the disobedient nation of Israel, who had just lost the Promised Land and been forcibly taken into exile. Even in Israel's darkest hour God did not give up on them. He did not abandon them. Rather, He promised that He would bring them out of exile and restore them.

God also has good plans for us. Even when our circumstances may not feel that good!

A few years ago we took care of a puppy. One day we came home to find a devoured fish pond— the liner chewed and punctured, the plants chewed and discarded - including my favourite water lily, and some very unhappy fish swimming in the remaining muddy sludge. We repaired and refilled the pond, replaced the plants to give the fish protection. One pot had a long trailing plant that later died, but I just left the empty pot in the pond. Surprisingly, eighteen months later the most beautiful pink water lily emerged in that empty pot!

If you are looking back at 2020 and you can't see anything but a 'destroyed pond' and an 'empty pot', remember God's promises! He can make 'water lilies' appear in your empty pots! Out of the sludge and brokenness can come something beautiful, fresh and new.

God promises you "hope and a future". It's not dependent on you or the circumstances you find yourself in. It's about Him and He is always faithful. God is good!

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[Adapted from Vicky Legge, His Heart Ministry Training, 2016. Used with permission.]