

### Monthly Devotional by Karen Huang - Numbers 11:1-2, 4-11

The elderly man carefully chose a pink rucksack covered in cartoon characters for his granddaughter's birthday, smiling with hopeful anticipation. Later, as she opened the gift in a restaurant with her parents, her face fell. "I don't like this character," she complained. "And I hate pink!" Despite her parents' prompting, she refused to apologise. The hurt in the grandfather's eyes was unmistakable.

The moment lingered as a reminder of how often people respond to God's gifts in the same way - wanting something different and missing the miracle before them.

God lovingly gives what He knows is best.

The Israelites did this too. God promised, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you" (Exodus 16:4), and each day His provision never failed. Yet they complained, "We never see anything but this manna!" (Numbers 11:6), resenting the very gift that sustained them.

The grandfather's expression invites us to consider how our heavenly Father feels when His children grumble about His gracious provision. May we learn to recognise His love and respond with gratitude rather than complaint.

### Missionary News - from Christine

Please continue to pray for Jonathan and Matty, who have been home from Central Asia since just before Christmas. They are earnestly seeking God as to whether it is His will for them to return to the area where they have been working, or whether He has other work for them here or in another country where He wants them to serve Him. As you know, Central Asia is a very difficult area of the world to be working in.

Please also continue to pray for Wit and Helen in North Thailand as they serve God there. Pray that all the Christmas events and outreach they arranged went well, and that many responded to God's call on their lives. Please also pray for Wit's health, as he was in hospital towards the end of last year and is still becoming quite tired.

Please pray for permanent new premises for the Food Bank, as their current location is only temporary. This is an urgent need.

### Sunday Morning Services @ 10.30am

**1 Feb** - Leading: Patricia | Speaking: Tim

**8 Feb** - Leading: Ali | Speaking: Alastair

**15 Feb** - Leading: Tim | Speaking: Pete

**22 Feb** - Leading: Patricia | Speaking: Josh Waldock

### Ladies' Prayer Chain

For any prayer requests, whether general or confidential, please contact Christine at 01252 659249 or 07957 568545

### Upcoming Events

**Pancake & Games (CBC)** - Tues 17 Feb @ 5.30pm

**Bible Study (Church & Zoom)** - Thurs 5 & 19 Feb @ 8pm

**Prayer Meeting (Zoom)** - Thurs 12 & 26 Feb @ 8pm

**Lavender Lodge Service** - Sun 22 Feb @ 3pm