**Reflection September 19th 2021 : Not a Jeremiad.**

**The prophet Jeremiah’s vision is of disaster overtaking disaster, the mountains quaking, the birds all gone and a fruitful land made desert. But we are living out this prophecy on a global scale, aren’t we?** **I think the only difference between Jeremiah and us is that his vision comes from an angry God who is prepared to make the whole land desolate; with the saving grace that he will not “make a full end”. For us it is the IPCC report dubbed “code red for humanity ” . There is no saving grace for us in that report unless we adopt a decarbonisation scenario at a scale and speed that very few of us can imagine yet.**

**We are the first generation to know that the scale of massive floods, fires and hurricanes isn’t really an “act of God”. Yet we resist the knowledge. Like Jeremiah’s people “we do not know how to do good” . We are so skilled in getting away with murder. Even in Glasgow we will claim we are doing our bit while wrecking global efforts. We Australians are among the worst. And we are not a small player internationally, being high in the club of coal and gas exporters.**

**When Rev Josephine asked us to consider what would Jesus do in the current climate crisis. I was thrown into a paroxysm of dismay. I have lived all my life in this Judeo Christian culture but I had no ideas about Jesus. I guess he would do miracles. He walked on water once, so could he stop the melting of glaciers and permafrost , just to buy us time to stop emissions? He overturned the money lenders’ tables back in Jerusalem, so could he expose or disable the fossil fuel money that is corrupting democracy and unleashing environmental chaos?**

**If so, then I think I am meeting Jesus every day. There are people working at miracles every day. By interviewing the people who are taking climate action our radio programme is in the avant guard. Rich society tells the polls they want something to be done and hope government will save us. In some cases government is stepping up, but their hearts are not “ beating wildly”, they do not “writhe in pain” like Jeremiah at the hell on earth they are creating…. as they approve new gas and coal projects and give out subsidies for gas pipelines. The people I meet are like Jeremiah. They cannot keep silent. Here are some examples:**

**Adrian Burruguba, Murruwah Johnson and Coedie Mc Evoi are right now practising ceremony on their traditional land. They say they will be there for as long as it takes, until Adani’s mega mine is disallowed. I spoke to Coedie when he organised the Tour de Carmichael. His idea was to bring city people up with their bikes to block the roads and see what the Adani coal mine is destroying including their sacred springs. Over 100 came. The Wangan and Jagalingou say “ we are not at the frontline, we are the frontline” They are literally inviting us in to their connectedness with the land.**

**From Bangla Desh I interviewed Dr Saleemul Huq and Runa Khan. He is a devout Moslem and director of The International Centre for climate change and development in Dhaka. She founded the Friendship floating hospitals. The compassion and resourcefulness they exuded made me dance around the kitchen after the zoom. It gives me energy to meet people like this. They know the worst but they cultivate courage and co operation. Dr Huq will be at Glasgow defending the right of vulnerable nations to the massive transfer of money and help from the rich world which has been promised…. $100billion per year from 2020. Like Jesus, his focus is on those who cannot afford the adaptation and restoration which the big emitters usually can.**

**In France I spoke to Emmanuel Cappelin. His film “Once you know”, is a young man’s evolution from being apolitical to being engaged. He was worried about the path we are on, anxious about having children and like Jeremiah in deep anguish. In the film he meets many people and communities who are changing their relationship with each other and the earth. In the end he comes back to his village in France , he has a child and he commits to local agricultural restoration, citizens assemblies and last of to Extinction Rebellion.**

**The Australian Extinction Rebellion people are diverse. When our environment minister was told by the court that she did have a duty of care to protect children and future generations she appealed. As a result Extinction Rebellion Canberra dramatized what Duty of Care really means. One retired CSIRO environmental scientist stood at Susan Ley’s office counter and refused to move. His hand was stuck on. Also a grandmother Lesley Mosbey wrote Duty of Care on the office wall and stuck herself to the floor. Until then she had been an armchair activist but the thought of the destruction our future children will face got her moving. She went to prison for 7 days because as she says she had lots of privilege. Being educated, white, elderly... She said “I can do this.” Then there was Violet CoCo who is 30. It pains her to let her dream of children go , but sees that we are pushing the biosphere to a point of no return .So she is devoting her reproductive years to turning the extinction juggernaut around. It was painful to see her burning a baby’s pram outside the parliament while others wrote Duty of Care on the walls but talking to her I could see the integrity shining out. In prison one of the guards told her he’d been with his children to the school strikes for climate and wanted to know more about her ideas.**

**There is a proud history behind non violent action. It requires strategy and a profound sort of co operation yet it is effective. The Extinction rebellion people told me that for every one in prison there was a team of 40 outside to support their families, to get legal help, to amplify their message in the media and to give them hugs and reassurance when they came out. This is not a maverick movement . In London this last fortnight, many medical professionals were filmed lying on the ground in the financial district, hoping to disarm social licence of the banks.**

**Imagine that,… people in scrubs with signs on their chest “ I am an anaesthetist”. “I am a registered nurse,” “ I am a surgeon.” What they said to the camera was not that dramatic, but to know these are the people who save lives carried a lot of weight. They have plenty to do but they are wanting to prevent harm on a much larger scale than usual . So it comes down to that. Once we know, as Violet said to me “ We all must do whatever it takes.**