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There is always hope

One of the most famous images created by street artist Banksy is of a little girl with a heart-shaped red balloon, entitled: 'There is always hope'. But as the balloon string has slipped out of her hand and the balloon floats away, we are left feeling that hope is elusive, out of our reach. Hope often seems like wishful thinking that something good might happen - like winning the lottery. In times of conflict or starvation, we hear that those who give up on hope are less likely to survive than those who continue to hope.

In contrast, hope in the Bible is a confident expectation, based on who we know God to be although sometimes the immediate outcome isn't what we expect or want. When my husband was diagnosed with cancer last April, I continued to hope that he would be healed but sadly he died in September. The balloon string in our lives had been released. Paul wrote to the persecuted Christians in Rome telling them that life would not always be easy and there would have to be times of endurance, even death, but the one certainty in their lives was Jesus had died to reconcile them to God - their hope was secured.

Is there something in your life that needs healing or mending? Jesus makes this offer to all of us: 'I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with them, and they with me.'