

Dear members and friends of SEC

Tumult and turbulence are stirring in several countries, especially in the Arab world. As I write, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi is still in place as the Libyan leader, publicly confident of the affection in which his people hold him. By the time these words are read, he might well have gone. Tunisia, Bahrain and most notably Egypt have all undergone similar convulsions, and there is no knowing how far this unrest might spread. The year 1848 was known as the 'Year of Revolutions' in Europe, and it may well be that 2011 will go down as a similar 'Year of Revolutions' in North Africa and the Middle East.

The television (or undercover mobile phone) pictures beamed around the world illustrate the fanatical determination of these protestors to force a change in government. They seem genuinely convinced that an Egypt without Mubarak, or a Libya without Gaddafi, will present a much brighter future for the citizens of the respective countries. Perhaps they will be proved right – but what real confidence can they have? The words of Psalm 146:3 come readily to mind: 'Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.' History teaches us that revolutions generally breed more unrest and upheaval rather than greater peace and stability.

But keep on reading to the end of that 146th Psalm. Christians should not simply conclude, with a cynical shrug of the shoulders, that there is ultimately no hope whatsoever and we should grimly bear with corrupt or tyrannical rule indefinitely. Our true help comes from the 'God of Jacob', who 'executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food for the hungry'. We have been thinking recently about the theme of unjust suffering in 1 Peter 2:18-23. The Lord Jesus endured the most appalling injustice as he was being sentenced to death by his enemies. But he entrusted the entire situation to the one who judges justly, knowing that in the end God's own character and glory would be vindicated.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the ruler of the kings of the earth. One day the rantings of dictators and the intrigues of corrupt politicians will come to an end. Bowing their knees to the Lord Jesus Christ, they will never harm or destroy ever again, and every injustice ever perpetrated will be righted. 'Behold, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule in justice' (Isaiah 32:1).

The Lord keep us all in his mercy and peace at this time.

Your brother in Christ,

Paul Yeulett