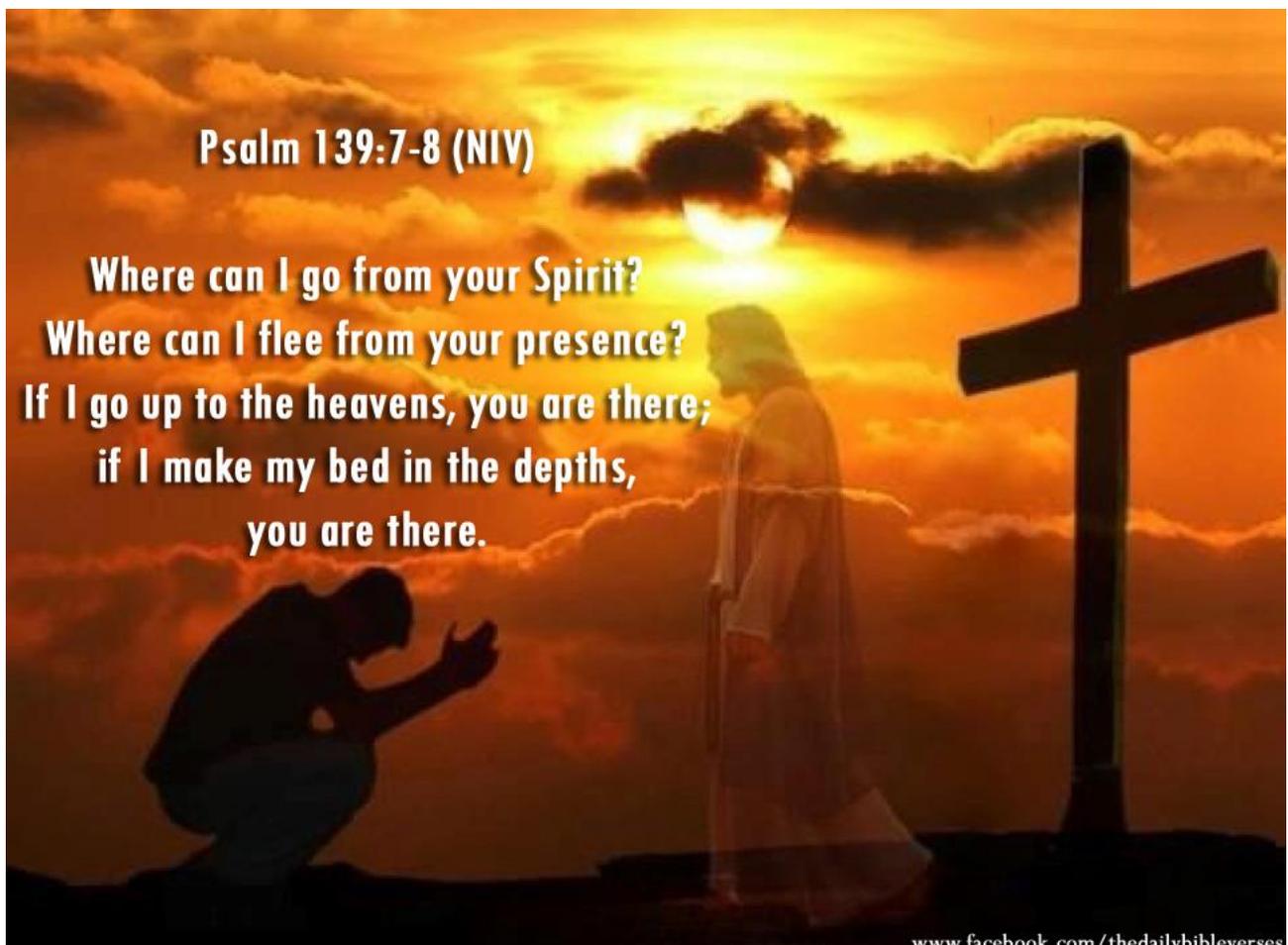


The Lamp Newsletter

Here is a special heartfelt message from Sandra Hickman in Australia. She shares her heart and feelings with you concerning some of the major things that have happened in her life this year.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!



FROM AUSTRALIA



From
Ms. Sandra Hickman
Australian Ministry
Leader and Lamp
Staff Writer...



Psalm 139...

God's Promise Has Kept Me

In the past six months, I've endured nonstop sickness with my ear, nose and throat problems. Laryngitis has been my constant unwanted companion. I lost my voice for nearly 10 weeks, that's about 70 days! I can't tell you how incapacitating this was.

I had infections of bronchitis, sinusitis, laryngitis, conjunctivitis.... every "-itis" all at once. During that time, my Mum was gravely ill in the nursing home. Because of the high risk of infecting her, I was not allowed to visit her for a few weeks. This distressed both Mum and me very much. When I was finally allowed to visit her again, I still couldn't speak... so I used a small white board to convey my words and special messages to her.

Here is a special memory photo of me with my dear Mum, Mrs. Shirley Hickman.



Mum's health deteriorated. I knew her time to leave was coming. I prayed earnestly for my voice to return while Mum was still here. God graciously answered my prayers. How grateful I was for this precious and short time spent with my Mum. This allowed me to have our usual heart to heart chats about Jesus and heaven. She found true peace and joy in these conversations. This is because Mum was ready to be with her Savior. Also, she knew that she would see my dear Dad again, who went to be with the Lord in 2016.

When Mum passed, she was alone in her room. The doctor had examined her and said *"She won't be leaving any time soon."* Before I left Mum that morning, planning to return in the afternoon, I played beautiful Christian worship music entitled "Quiet Worship". It continuously played on my CD player. It was so lovely, even heavenly; the lyrics were gentle and beautiful. I consoled myself knowing, even though Mum was alone; she was in the fullness of the presence of the Lord. I believe her spirit rejoiced, as that sweet worship music resounded in the deepest part of her soul.

The funeral was very beautiful; a loving tribute to this amazing woman who was like a lioness when facing death. She made vital choices, which she never would've known she could make. It was acknowledged with so much love on her special Homegoing Celebration. I was grateful to still have my voice to give my eulogy speech celebrating my beloved mother's life.

LIFE GOES ON...

One short week later was the 25th birthday celebration of my grandson Eligh. Life goes on. Just three weeks after that, was my daughter Bindi's wedding day. Oh, how Mum wanted to be there! It hurt so much without her. But there was little time to spend grieving with so much to do, and I was still recovering from my illnesses. I praised God that my voice was strong enough to make a speech at my daughter's wedding.

God is So Good!

My daughter Bindi married Steve, a wonderful, kind man. They both had known the pain of failed marriages. Now God had truly given them a match made in heaven! Collectively, they have seven daughters between the ages of 11 and 17. Quite a full quiver I'd say!

The Lord led them to each other through their daughters who all attended the same Christian College. Oh, how my Mum would've adored seeing the seven gorgeous girls in their lovely bridesmaids' gowns. Mum would had been excited to see Bindi looking so beautiful and elegant in her dream wedding gown standing alongside her new husband.

Bindi and Steve were married overlooking the serene water of the Marina. They stood upon a carpet of lush green grass overlooking the bay of blue ocean waters. It was all so lovely. The sky looked even bluer with soft plump white clouds and a golden sun overhead. There was red carpet and elegant white chairs tied with big silver bows at the back that completed the scene.

Nevertheless, perhaps the most poignant moment was when my eldest grandson Jordan, Bindi's beloved nephew, walked her down the aisle on that red carpet. Jordan was born with Cerebral Palsy 27 years ago. It was very special and emotional to see him escorting his Aunt Bindi the bride and then presenting her to her new husband.

It was" picture perfect!" A true storybook wedding!

Alas.... soon after the wedding the hideous cycle began again, another head cold, sore throat and complete laryngitis. It was so soon. I couldn't believe it! I felt like my sinuses would explode!

I was sent for a CT scan, to hopefully find the root cause of this cycle. The scan results indicated a suspicious "fullness" in a cavity behind my cheekbone, which needed to be checked for cancer. An appointment was made with an Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist for a Nasendoscopy. Whilst waiting for my appointment, everything worsened. The chronic sinusitis became worse than ever! There I was with another head cold, throat infection and laryngitis!

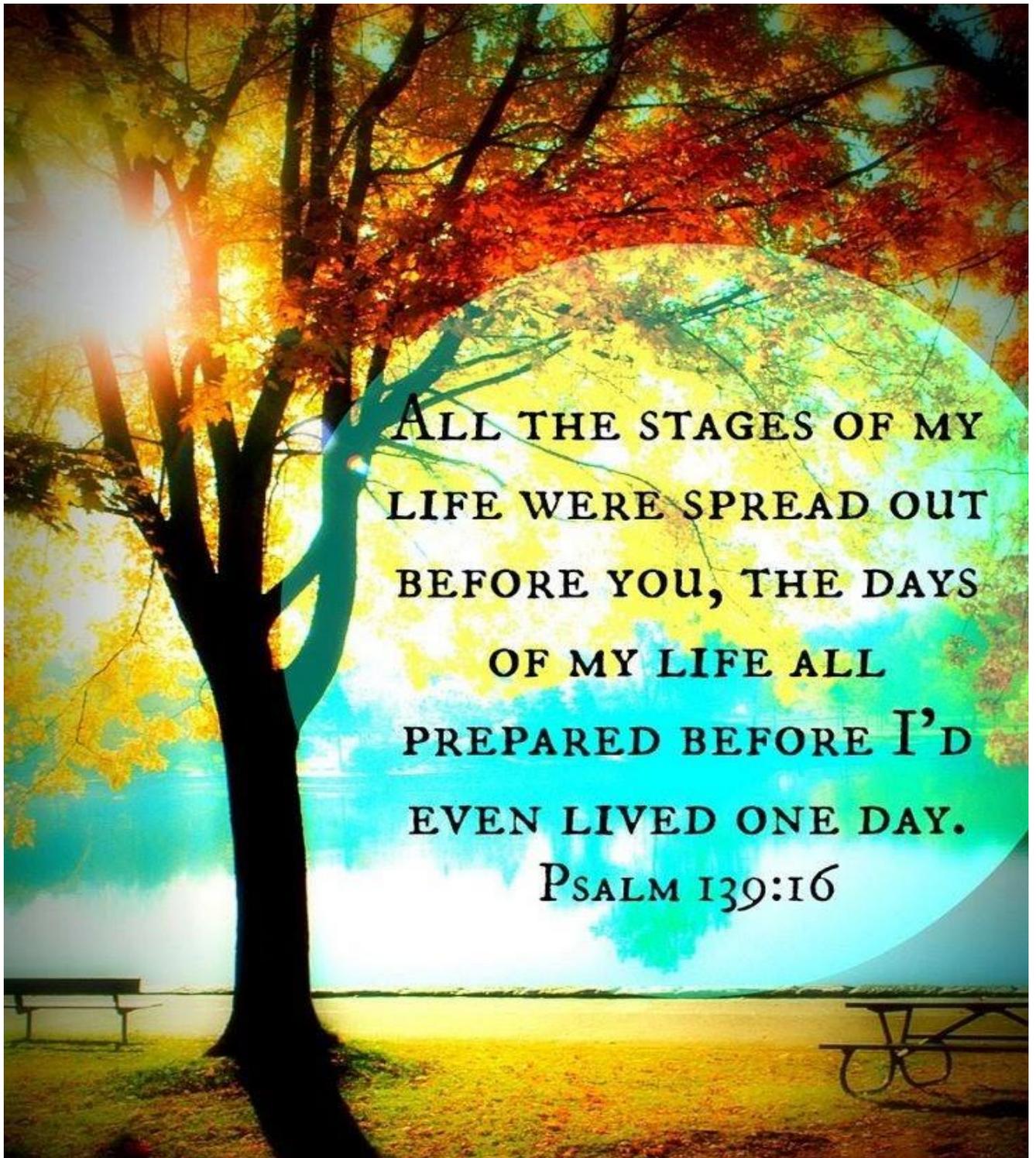
However, on Friday October 4, I got the all clear, there was no cancer! Praise almighty God! Nevertheless, this still didn't provide an answer about the Chronic Sinusitis and Laryngitis conditions. I'm now booked to have an MRI to investigate my sinuses further and hopefully and prayerfully find an answer. In the meantime, I am kept by the King!

These are just the headlines of my life during this time. It's so much deeper than the surface shows. To some, the surface often looks okay. It can even look glossy and mirror like, as a body of calm water looks in the sunlight. It can be quite deceptive.

We pull it together, put on a smile, yet we all have our moments don't we! There are the moments which reflect: the good and the bad, the glad and the sad. Incredibly, through the tears, God brought laughter and stories of a lifetime lived with my mother. And new memories made of a holy union of marriage.

Through pain, came joy, emerging triumphantly. Through death, came appreciation for life! Trials of illness were turned to hope for the future. God promises a legacy of hope in Christ and a legacy of love left behind by those who've gone to be with Him. My God has kept me in the palm of His hand.

The one thought that never leaves me is that God thinks of me in ways I couldn't even imagine. Psalm 139 says that God has so many thoughts about me!



ALL THE STAGES OF MY
LIFE WERE SPREAD OUT
BEFORE YOU, THE DAYS
OF MY LIFE ALL
PREPARED BEFORE I'D
EVEN LIVED ONE DAY.
PSALM 139:16

His thoughts are higher than mine.... so much higher! (Isaiah 55:8-9) He thinks in another paradigm. I am confined to my human mind. My spirit is tuned to the thoughts of God; however, I cannot even compare my thoughts to the vastness of His. The depth of the unimaginable and innumerable thoughts He has about me!

Beloved readers, so it is with you!

You are the “thought” that He thinks. Your Heavenly Father wants you to know the many thoughts He has about you. In Psalm 139, YOU are there! He is speaking to you. Every treasure worth more than any king’s ransom is right there in the words of this more-than-awesome psalm.

Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate the Word, to gain His bright-light-insight into the ways God thinks about you. Oh.... the blessings you will receive are numbered more than the grains of sand on a beach! This is a promise God made which cannot be broken. Amen.



*you are always on
God's mind.*

How precious are Your thoughts about me, O God.
They cannot be numbered! They outnumber the
grains of sand! And when I wake up, You are still with me.

Psalm 139:17-18



**Wanda J. Burnside
Founder and Publisher**

Because **GOD** is
with us; We need
not fear what is
ahead of **us.**

Dear Readers,

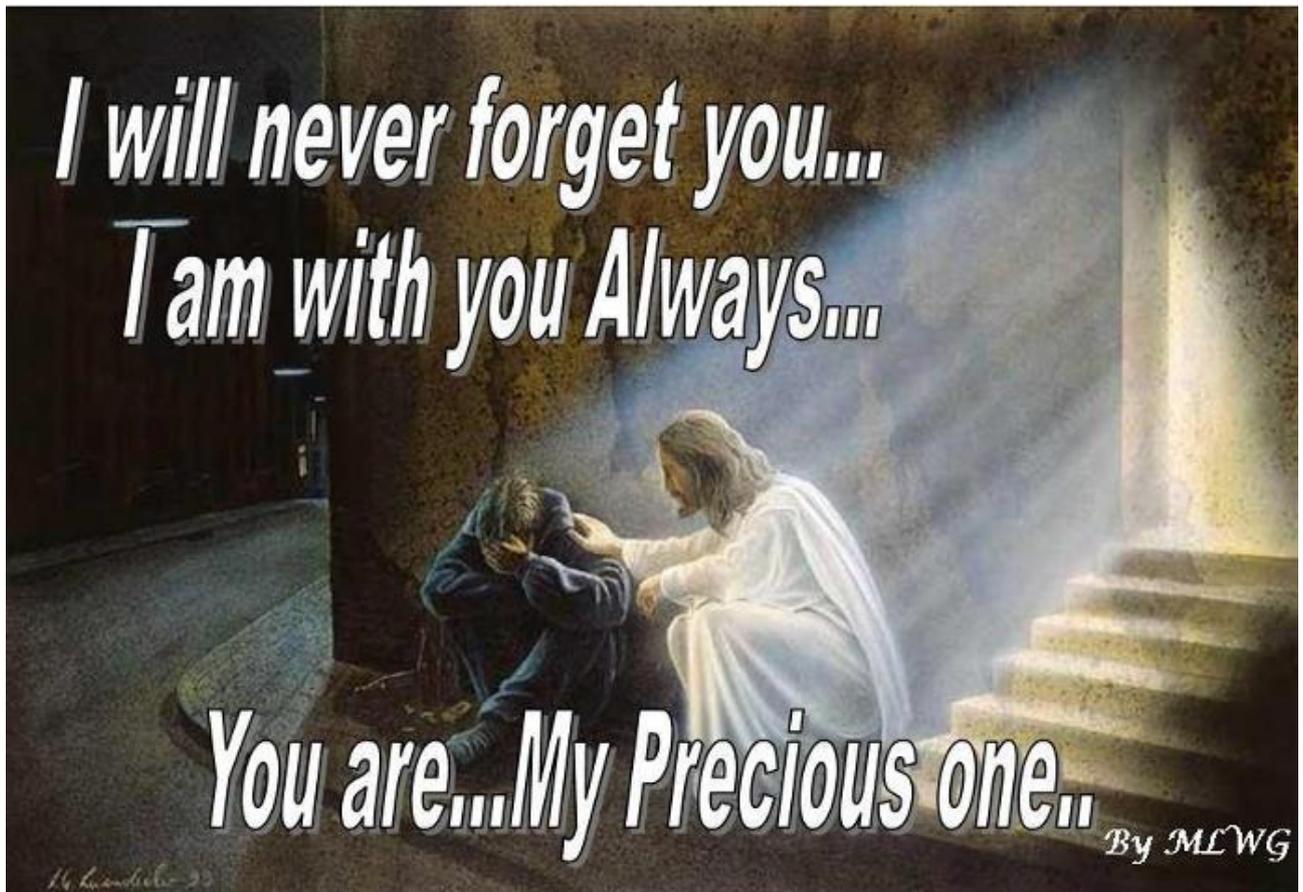
I am so thankful that my ministry leader and staff writer, Sandra Hickman in Australia, spoke from her heart to you. Sandra dearly loved her Mum. Through the almost eight years that I have been in contact with her, she has shared her love for her Mum in her emails and photos to me. They were very close. So for Sandra to go through the painful time of her Mum's illness and then death...it was crushing!

We all go through hard and difficult times. Life can be so demanding and out-of-control. See, I know that this is true! We hurt. We cry. We struggle with one thing and then another. If you are a human being, you know what I mean! Look, we can't make it on our own. We need the Lord to help us. He is the only One who can walk along side us and NOT mislead you. He is the only one who can talk to our hearts to give us peace in the midst of everything going wild and crazy in life.

I have shared with you about some of the painful things going on right now in my life, too. Then, I have friends and family members being pressed and tested on every hand! We can only make it because of JESUS! We need...JESUS, JESUS, JESUS!

Years ago, I wrote a poem title, *"You Were There."* Now, talking about going through...I was stuck in the tunnel and not going through. I think I said this before in one of my newsletters. Well, that is the way it goes.

Anyway, my poem, *"You Were There,"* has been published in several magazines and publications. It has been printed in this newsletter a few times, too. Nevertheless, here it is again. We need to stay reminded that whatever comes our way in life, that God is with us. Sandra's message here is that God kept her through everything that she has been going through. I agree that **GOD KEEPS US THROUGH IT ALL.**



YOU WERE THERE
By Wanda J. Burnside

*Lord, You were there
When tears rolled down my face,
And when I fell again
In painful disgrace.*

*You were there
When my plans crumbled to my feet,
And when I walked away
In bitter defeat.*

*You were there
When my life was falling apart,
And when I didn't know
Where to go or to start.*

*You were there
In the lies, scandals, and shame;
And when everyone somehow
Forgot my name.*

*You were there
When friends left me one by one,
And when I hopelessly thought
Nothing could be done.*

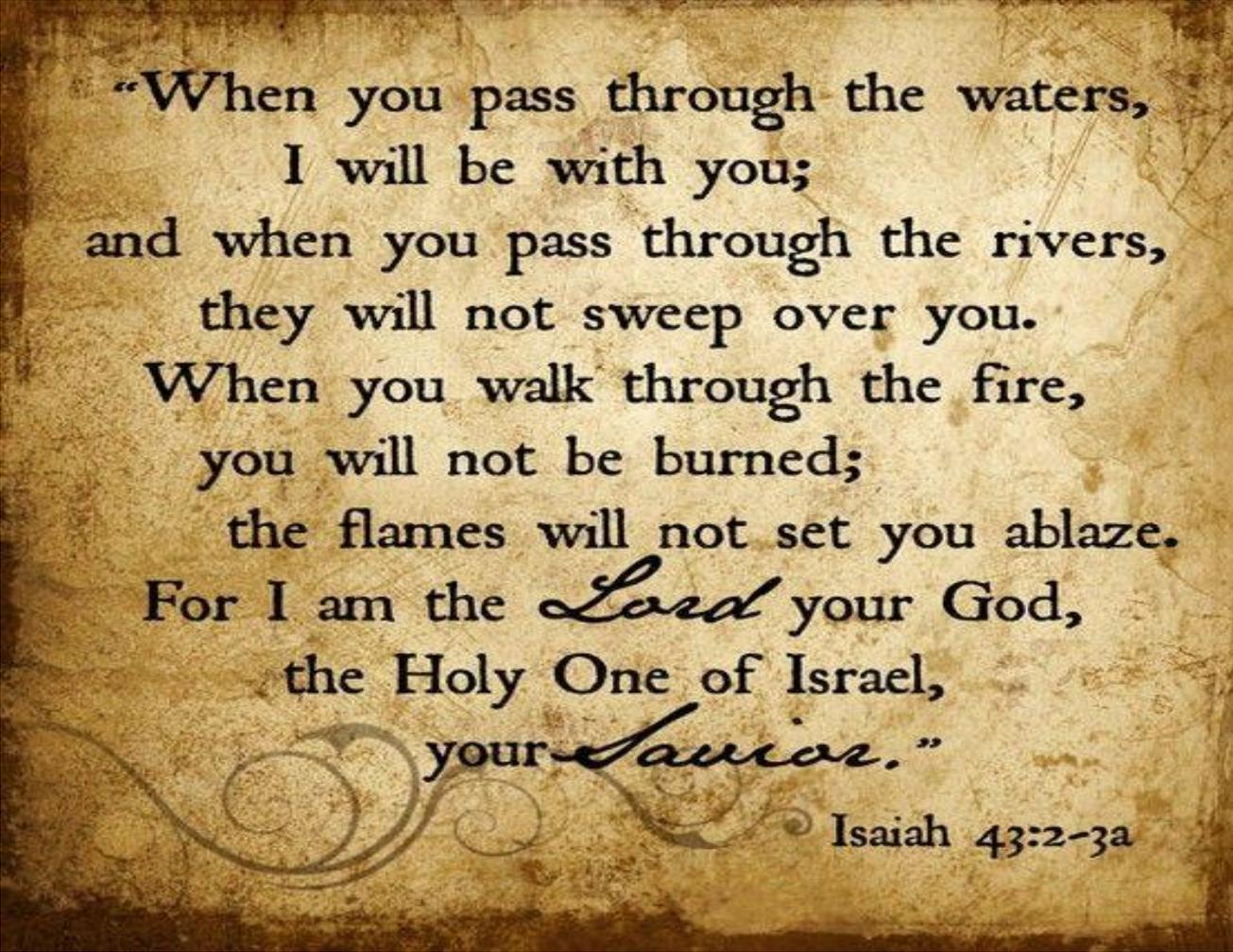
*You were there
When death took my loved ones away,
And when I felt like
I couldn't go on another day.*

*You were there
When the doctor's report was bad,
And when my heart was
Fearful, heavy, and sad.*

*You were there
In the morning before
The birds began to sing
And in the midnight
When I worried about everything.*

*Lord, You were there
When I turned and ran back to You.
You lovingly held me
And gave me life anew!*

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*“When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.
For I am the *Lord* your God,
the Holy One of Israel,
your *Savior.*”*

Isaiah 43:2-3a

Closing Prayer...

Dear Heavenly Father,

We come to You for Your help and strength. There are so many needs in life. We look to You to bring us through. It is too difficult to try to do these things on our own.

Send deliverance from those things that have come to keep us bound. Make a way where there seems to be no way out. Restore our health and strength. Please give us increase in our finance that will overflow and be more than enough. Provide great benefits for us in every area of our lives.

We speak: Protection! We speak: Blessings! We speak: New Things! We speak: Peace! Please cover us with the Precious Blood of Jesus!

Thank You, Lord. We praise You!

We ask for these blessings in the Name of Jesus. Thank You!

Amen.



- **OUR WEBSITE!**
- **MORE CONTRIBUTING WRITERS – New Staff Added!**
 - **The Holiday Newsletters:**
 - **Thanksgiving**
 - **Christmas**
 - **11th Anniversary Celebration Event!**

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GOD BLESS YOU!