

# ***Good News Daily***

**April 2-8, 2017**

## **Sunday, April 2**

Psalm 118 *Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! His faithful love endures forever.* (v.1 NLT)

One of the most important parts of prayer is thanking God for His bountiful blessings, yet so many of our prayers are only asking. I like to use my five fingers to keep my prayer life balanced. I call them my tips for action in prayer: (a-c-t-i-p)

- Adoration—bless & worship God
- Confession—ask forgiveness for my sin
- Thanksgiving—gratitude for all my blessings
- Intercession—requests for others
- Petition—my needs

God loves to hear our words of thanksgiving as well as our requests. He longs to bless us. The story is told of the man who goes to his heavenly mansion and sees many gifts packed in a corner. When he asks St. Peter about these many presents, Peter answers that they were gifts that God had for the man but he had never prayed for these blessings. Remember, Jesus said, "Ask and it will be given you" (Matthew 7:7). In the words of the old hymn: "Count your many blessings, name them one by one, see what wondrous things God has done."

Prayer: Forgive the times I have only asked in prayer. Please help me have a well-balanced prayer life.  
Jeremiah 23:16-32, 1 Corinthians 9:19-27, Mark 8:31—9:1

**Birthdays:** Gail DeGraffenaried and Zachary Spicer

**Anniversaries:** Cheryl & William Kiefhaber

## **Monday, April 3**

Psalm 31 *I find protection in you alone.* (v.4b)

As I write these devotionals our community has suffered many tragic losses: A young singer was shot signing autographs after her performance at a musical venue I often attend. Then late Saturday night a terrorist gunman killed 49 and wounded 53 at a downtown nightclub. Most of the injured were taken to the nearby hospital where my son was born. A little boy from Nebraska (where I was born) was killed by an alligator at Walt Disney World, where I've often taken my children and grandchildren. Then a dear Christian brother (in my Bible study group) was killed in a freak accident while working on his truck. It was almost too much to endure. I could only lean on God's everlasting arms and remember that Scripture says, "He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows" (Isiah 53:4).

Many prayer vigils were held, thousands lined up to give blood. Restaurants gave food and water to those waiting in line to do so, plus the police and FBI doing the investigative work. Florists provided flowers for memorials, sports teams held moments of silence to honor the victims. Morticians gave discounted services,

the city gave free burial sites, and a man from Illinois made 49 wooden crosses and brought them to Orlando. People around the world sent messages of prayer and remembrance.

Prayer: Lord, please heal our pain.  
Jeremiah 24:1-10; Romans 9:19-33; John 9:1-17

**Birthdays:** Paula Morris

**Anniversaries:** Geralda Pigeot-Saint Fleur and Patrick Saint Fleur

## **Tuesday, April 4**

Psalm 121 *I look up to the mountains—does my help come from there? My help comes from the LORD, who made the heavens and the earth!* (vv.1-2)

Part of our summer vacation was spent at Glacier National Park and Yellowstone. The mountains (and valleys) there are awesome—some sheer rock, others covered with many trees, all many hundreds of feet high. Our Creator God has made us a planet of much beauty and grandeur!

The psalmist continues, reminding us that "The LORD himself watches over you The LORD stands beside you as a protective shade" (v.5). What a great comfort!

As we traveled out west and saw many cattle and wild animals, we also witnessed a double rainbow. My two grandsons were so excited and tried to take pictures with their cellphones to remember this happy event. Everywhere we looked we were reminded of our everlasting God and His wonderful love for us.

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for keeping watch over us as we come and go, both now and forever (v.8).  
Jeremiah 25:8-17; Psalms 120, 122, 123; Romans 10:1-13;  
John 9:18-41

**Birthdays:** Sydney Cameron, Alan Freedman, Keith Howell, William Kitchens and Sheena Simon

**Anniversaries:** Roy & Jeniffer Reid

## **Wednesday, April 5**

Psalm 119:145-176 *I rejoice in your word like one who discovers a great treasure.* (v.162)

It is such a blessing to read Scripture and experience how each time one reads a passage new meanings emerge. The psalmist expresses so many emotions—if you are sad or upset or happy you can find your feelings expressed in Scripture.

The Psalms assure us that those who love God's law have great peace (v.165). Through reading the Bible I receive the discerning mind God promised (v.169). We are reminded of God's great mercy (v.156) and are assured that all His commands are true (v.151). As we study His word, the Holy Spirit guides our understanding and increases our faith.

Prayer: Thanks for the treasure we have in our Bibles, dear Lord.  
Jeremiah 25:30-38; Romans 10:14-21; John 10:1-18

**Birthdays:** Courtney Pettiford, Ashley-Ann Thompson, Donna White-Meyer and Katherine Wild

**Anniversaries:** None

### Thursday, April 6

John 10:19-42 *"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me."* (vv.27-28)

Jesus uses this illustration to assure his hearers that they will be safe in his keeping. He will lead them to green pastures (Psalm 23:3). The hired man will run away if he sees a wolf coming, but Jesus gives his life to care for his sheep.

Today's reading and the story Jesus told in yesterday's reading (John 10:1-18), was something his followers could easily understand. I'm sure many 21<sup>st</sup> century pet owners can also understand the loyalty of the animals and their master toward one another.

We are blessed to have a Savior who cares about all the big and little events of our lives and wants the best for us. He wants close fellowship with us and will protect and care for us. Even though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death we need fear no evil, for he is with us (Psalm 23:4)

Prayer: Thank you, Good Shepherd, for loving and caring for each of us.

Jeremiah 26:1-16; Psalms 131, 132, 133; Romans 11:1-12

**Birthdays:** Jade Armitt, Sarah Mawhinney and Simone Shepherd

**Anniversaries:** Joshua & Jessica Laban

### Friday, April 7

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-13 *"For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."* (v.11)

The prophet Jeremiah writes this letter to the exiles in Babylon under King Nebuchadnezzar, to let them know they will be able to return to Jerusalem and rebuild it after 70 years of captivity.

Jeremiah's words are also for those of us living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century chaos with wars, killings, rebellion, and violence. His words are for the high school student trying to decide which college to attend, for the recent college grad trying to decide on a career path, for the young married couple trying to decide how many children to have, for the mid-career couple trying to plan for retirement, and for those of us in retirement coping with health issues.

Recall the reminder from Psalm 23: "He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name sake" (v.3b). We need only to commit our ways to the Lord and He will direct our paths.

Prayer: Thanks, Lord, that You promised that when we pray You will listen and when we look for You in earnest we will find You (v.13).

Psalm 22; Romans 11:13-24; John 11:1-27

**Birthdays:** Judy Burke, Kadija Carty, Eleanor Cummings, Virginia Donnellan, Dorothy Edwards and Marguerite Hampton

**Anniversaries:** Van & Seva Hulmes

### Saturday, April 8

Psalm 144 *He is my loving ally and my fortress, my tower of safety, my rescuer.* (v.2a)

We all need love—from our spouses, parents, children, grandchildren, and even pets! God teaches us how to love.

I see love in our church between couples who have been married many years and still look at each other with loving eyes. I see love in the young couple proudly bringing their new-born for the sacrament of Baptism. I see love in the friends and family bringing their loved one in a wheelchair to our healing service. I see love in the Sunday school teacher gathering the boys and girls to learn a story about Jesus and then having fun doing arts and crafts. I see love in our "Love Wins" team packing and delivering boxes of food each month to almost 100 needy families. I see love in the beautiful flower arrangements at the altar each Sunday, made by our Flower Guild. I see love at each worship service by the messages brought by our clergy as they faithfully study and preach God's word.

Our church is a love-station—we come to be filled with God's love each Sunday so we can take His love out into our hurting world.

Prayer: Thanks for teaching us how to love, dear Lord.

Jeremiah 31:27-34; Psalm 137; Romans 11:25-36; John 11:28-44

**Birthdays:** Cynthia Fleming, Dennis Rawlins, Catherine Rodriguez and Sandra Sampson

**Anniversaries:** None

**by Jacqueline Littleford**

Used with permission from the BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

PO Box 380, Winter Park, FL 32790

[www.biblereading.org](http://www.biblereading.org)