

# Victory

magazine

Hidden With Christ Ministries  
September/October 2022



*Out of the Darkness*

Page 9

# IN THIS ISSUE

**2 LOVE, LOSS AND HOPE**

**3 TOA KIDZ UPDATE**

**5 TIME TO HELP OTHERS**

**7 HWC MEDIA UPDATE**

**9 TESTIMONY TIME**

**11 HELP US SPREAD THE WORD**

**13 FAITH CORNER**

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# Love, Loss and Hope

BY RITA LANGELAND

*Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death,  
so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.*

1 Thessalonians 4:13 NIV

The Word of God holds out a beautiful hope to believers who have lost loved ones, encouraging us not to grieve like the rest of the world, who have no hope. We have the blessing of knowing that we will be reunited with loved ones who have gone before us in faith. We will see them again.



June 1952

One thing the Lord has taught me about walking through a season of grief, is that giving thanks for the person's life and their contribution to my own life, helps to ease the pain of the loss. Where we focus our thoughts and emotions at a time of loss, really makes a difference. Focusing on the fact that the person is gone, only deepens the hurt. But choosing to be genuinely thankful to God for each and every day we had the person in our life, brings joy instead of sorrow. It is the choice our family has made. We were blessed with two phenomenal examples of God's love, and we know it. So, we are giving thanks to God for the wonderful lives of Mel and Shirley Langeland, and all that they contributed to our family and the lives of so many others.

*Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death  
of his faithful servants.*

Psalm 116:15 NIV

For the Langeland family, these scripture promises have come into sharp focus this year. We lost the Patriarch and Matriarch of the Langeland family (my husband's parents) within four months of each other. Both were in their 90's, and we are thankful for the long, full lives that they lived.

This precious couple left a tremendous spiritual heritage to children and grandchildren alike. They modeled a great love for God and for people. Having served as missionaries in the West African nation of Liberia, where two of their three children were born, their love for people of every nation never waned throughout their lifetime. They were tremendous encouragers of our missions work in Tanzania, rejoicing with every orphan's victory and praying diligently over every need. They were gifts from God.





*Hamidu came to live at Treasures of Africa Children's Home on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the age of three and a half. At that time, he was still healing from severe burns that needed daily attention. If you remember his story, the Welfare officials removed him from his home because it became apparent that the stepmother was severely abusing the child. They were alerted by the hospital when Hamidu came in for treatment for severe burns on his legs for a second time. It appeared that a pot of boiling hot water had been thrown at the child, AGAIN.*

*When the law of Tanzania was changed, and children from orphanages were allowed to be placed with non-relatives if a suitable family could be found, one of the TOA staff, Mr. Kway, came forward to offer his home to Hamidu. Mr. Kway and his wife were already grandparents, and his easy going and humorous personality, made him a favorite among the Treasures children. Hamidu was happy to join his family. Here is an update from our Administrator in Tanzania, Faith Kaluse, on Hamidu's progress.*

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## ***Feeling At Home***

**By Faith Kaluse**

Hamidu is turning nine years on September 29<sup>th</sup>. He is now in grade three at Kibo Shanty Primary Academy. His school progress keeps improving and the teachers are so impressed with his performance.

Hamidu lives in a village called Shirimatunda. The couple that took in Hamidu (as a foster child) have accepted him as their grandson. They have a granddaughter who is the same age as Hamidu, and she is also in grade three. Her name is Christina. Christina has accepted Hamidu as her own brother. Visiting this family brought joy to my heart after listening to "Babu and Bibi" (grandfather and grandmother) and other family members speak about Hamidu. They described how they are so happy to have Hamidu in their family. Hamidu loves the family in return and is happy to be with them.

I was so impressed with the bond that Hamidu has built with his new family. In African culture, male children are given more food than female children because it is believed that male children should eat more. But Hamidu is different. He always wants to make sure his sister is given the same portion as he has. If there is a difference on their plates, he takes his food and adds to Christina's so that they have the same amount. This shows how the family love and bond has grown between them.

Hamidu loves to play football (soccer) but with his new family life he also enjoys taking care of the chickens. He helps his uncle to feed them and helps to clean the chicken coop.

The TOA KIDZ program has given the former Treasures of Africa children a chance to live in a normal family setting instead of the orphanage. This shift has brought a positive impact to the children's lives. It has given them the opportunity to experience a home environment with loving family where they feel they belong. It is a place where they have father, mother, brothers and sisters, grandparents, uncles and aunties. ***We are so thankful that the TOA KIDZ now truly feel "at home."***

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*We are grateful to all our supporters who help us fund the school expenses for Hamidu and all the children participating in the Treasures of Africa Kidz program. Through your generosity we are sending the children to private English-medium schools to enable them to be prepared for Advanced education which requires English proficiency. You can help us continue this noble effort by making a donation to our EDUCATION FUND on our website: [www.treasuresofafrica.org](http://www.treasuresofafrica.org)*



*The Rewards of*  
**Taking Time to Help Others**

by Marcia Chang Vogl

*Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do.*

*Ephesians 6:7-8*

The elderly woman was sitting outside the grocery store, fretting, nearly in tears.

"Can I help you?" I asked.

"No," she sobbed.

"What is the matter?" I insisted.

"I called for a taxi to take me home, but I have been waiting for half an hour, and my ice cream is melting. I only live across the street, but I can't cross the street."

This store was fronted by a very busy street.

"May I help take you across?"

"I can't carry my groceries!" she moaned.

"I can drive you there if you tell me where you live."

"You can't lift the groceries!" she said dejectedly.

"Let me try. My car is just a few steps away."

I picked up her two small bags of groceries, and after putting them in the trunk, I helped her into the car. She lived in the apartment complex across the street. I parked the car outside her unit and then proceeded to retrieve the groceries from the trunk as she led the way to the door. When I put the groceries on the counter inside the door, she said, "Wait," and handed me some money.

"That is not necessary. It was my pleasure to help. Save it for your next cab ride."

I was on my lunch hour when all this happened. This was the day before Thanksgiving, and I planned to quickly stop at the grocery store for a few last-minute things. Silly me! I returned to the grocery store to gather my items even though now my lunch hour was running out and the check-out lines were very long. I looked at my watch and the three people ahead of me with full carts. I turned suddenly as I felt a tap on my shoulder. A grocery clerk ushered me to another register. I quickly moved as she opened the register for me. As soon as I laid my purchases on the conveyer belt, she put up her "lane closed" sign. I was out in a flash and was headed back to the office on time.

Rewards come in many forms. For me, this was a reward of time. I could have easily ignored the woman sitting outside. Many others did. Usually, an hour at lunch would not be time enough to do what I intended. Special treatment in the grocery store put me at the head of the line. I was rewarded for reaching out to help.

***...through love serve one another.***

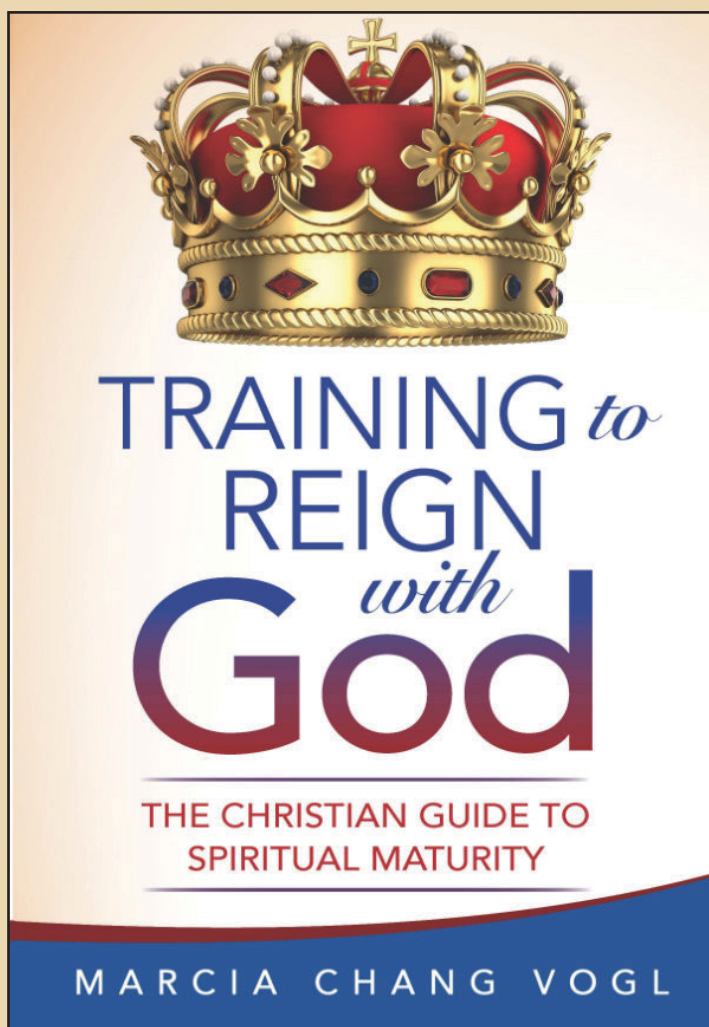
Galatians 5:13

Dr. Marcia Chang Vogl is a teacher, spiritual mentor, author, and the Director of Bethany Projects of Hidden With Christ Ministries. Holding a Master's and Doctorate in Practical Ministry, she has counseled for 30 years with Biblical principles that apply to everyone. You can find her teaching resources at:

[www.bethanyprojects.org](http://www.bethanyprojects.org) or  
[www.marciachangvogl.com](http://www.marciachangvogl.com)

Marcia's latest book -

***Training to Reign With God:  
The Christian Guide to Spiritual Maturity***  
is available on Amazon.com





# Media Update

by  
**Stephen Langeland**  
HWCM Media Director

Since our media update and appeal in the July/August Victory Magazine we have received an initial seed amount needed to get our humble studio up and running. If you have seen the latest Word For Wednesday videos you can see and hear the rapid improvement in production quality. Though our studio space is limited, we are grateful to have a designated area in the office for the equipment and set up and ready to record throughout the week. This has greatly improved our time efficiency as well as the audio/visual consistency. Though the content of the message is more important than the aesthetics, we desire to make that message as easily heard and seen as possible.

Our initial purchase included lights, backdrops, audio recording equipment, and sound deadening blackout curtains allowing for a quiet space in which we have full lighting control. Though there are more items we hope to acquire to further streamline our workflow and replace borrowed cameras and underpowered editing equipment, we are thankful for the progress and hope to be "faithful in little." Most of all we hope that the audio/visual improvements lead to more people being excited to watch or listen to and share these life changing messages!

These technical improvements are also geared at enabling the start of specific projects as mentioned in the July/August Victory Magazine. We will soon be updating some of the My Everyday Bible audio tracks as well as working on a video discipleship series to accompany the Bible Basics For Every Believer book that we are also planning to have translated into key languages. We have a running list of several other video projects in the works as well – we only need the Lord's grace and uninterrupted time to complete the many projects on our hearts!

We are thankful for those who have supported this new endeavor as well as those who have watched/listened and shared the Word For Wednesday videos. We pray that you would continue to be built up by these encouraging messages – and don't forget to share with friends and family who need to hear these! The Word For Wednesday segments are available on Youtube, Facebook, Rumble, and through your favorite Podcast apps.



*Left: studio - facing the camera  
Right: studio set from camera side  
Above: a more professional look for our videos*

***Here are some of the comments we have received recently from viewers all over the world!***

Woman of God thank you for sharing God's word in such a simple way that everyone could understand. God bless. Claudia J. - Guyana (Sept. 2022)

Thanks for speaking the word of God. Charles B. - Uganda (August 2022)

Praise the Lord. I will trust in the Lord. Thank you for the word of God, it's food for the soul. Eunice W. - Kenya (August 2022)

Really love this, I want God to speak to me. Thank you so very much for this. Melvin B. - Liberia (July 2022)

This video has truly blessed me! Dareya A., (Youtube July 2022)

Wonderful truth. Thank you for your videos. They are always so rich with truth from the Word of God. Faye A. - USA (June 2022)

Powerful! Thank you. Claudious G. - Zimbabwe (August 2022)

Wow! Glory be to God! Powerful word and have been inspired. Amen. Psalm C. - Malawi (August 2022)

Amen, that's a good encouragement to follow up daily in our lives. God cares and loves us so much and that's why He never wants us to labour ourselves with heavy burden being burden of sin, burden of sickness, stress, hardship in life or joblessness but so as we may cast it to Him so that he can help us hence having peace and joy in our lives. Thanks sister for that powerful word. J.S. - Kenya (May 2022)

God richly bless you for sharing the Gospel message. Shalom Amen. Sylvanus B. - Ghana (July 2022)

Hallelujah greetings from Uganda Kampala Africa. We are watching! John S. - Uganda (June 2022)

What a wonderful, emotional, touching story. Thank you for sharing your gifts. Judy S. - USA (June 2022)

Amen. Thank you Woman of GOD for your Word. Comfort O. - Ghana (August 2022)

Great teaching of unhooking yourself from offense and hurts of this world. Thanks. Elizabeth N. (Youtube April 2022)

Powerful word. T. C. - Kenya (June 2022)

Great teaching. Diana S. - FL, USA (June 2022)

Thanks for the word of encouragement. R. J. - Kenya (May 2022)

Powerful. Bless you. Benjamin K. - Ghana (July 2022)

I am blessed, thanks a lot. Nebart A. - Liberia (July 2022)

Amen powerful message God bless you. Nasieku T. - Kenya (August 2022)

Totally needed to hear this today! Rob P. - Indiana, USA (August 2022)

Great message, GOD BLESS YOU. Ortis O. - Ghana (August 2022)

Thank you for your teaching how to hear God. That is useful. David C. (Youtube July 2022)

Thanks my dear sister, your words are so touching and blessing. Gordon B. - Kenya (August 2022)

# TESTIMONY TIME



**Stories About What God Has Done**

## OUT OF THE DARKNESS

by Jill Shankles

I praise the Lord that we overcome Satan by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony. (Revelation 12:11) It is with that assurance that I share this personal testimony with you.

I am sure that I was clinically depressed during my grade school years, though those kinds of diagnoses were not as commonly used for children as they are now. Although my parents did their best, our household was loveless. Never feeling that I was loved or that I belonged made it easy to begin my path into the world of drugs and alcohol at the tender age of thirteen.

Hollywood beckoned to me in my teens. Always a musician, I found some sense of worth in music. At the age of eighteen, I did my first recording project at a studio called Mystic Records right off Hollywood Blvd. Everything about Hollywood appealed to me. The music culture, the drugs and alcohol and the nightclub/party atmosphere were all compatible with the darkness already inside of me.

The landscape was wild. It was the early 80's and the streets of LA were literally teeming with young musicians from across America. One of the first places I resided was across from the Whiskey-a-Go-Go on the corner of Sunset Boulevard and Clark Street. The Rainbow Bar and Grill was just down the street, and you could find me there on any given night. It seemed I had finally found my place. But you know, the Devil is a liar.

For a young girl who was already ripe with rebellion, addiction and rage, I was easy prey for the Evil One. Drug use and the allure of easy money took hold of me very quickly. At the age of nineteen I began to work as a call girl for an infamous Madame in Bel Air. The drugs and working as a call girl went well together in my mind, but of course, I became more and more embedded in that lifestyle. By the age of twenty-six I was an intravenous drug user. I lost increasing amounts of my humanity for twenty years. Music and the drug culture was where I found my identity. Insanity and abuse were the dark places where I sensed I belonged.

I died a thousand times in that town. It defies all logic that I made it out alive...but God! My sister became born again shortly after I moved away from home. Several times she came to see me and prayed for me. Surely, her prayers helped bring me out of the darkness. She didn't give up on me!



*Jill - "Before Christ"*

In 2001, I decided I couldn't continue the life I was leading anymore. It took a terrifying series of events, but it finally happened. I went to rehab where I met a woman who shined for Jesus. Her background was similar to mine, yet she had this peace and kindness about her while I was still suicidal and raging on the inside.

"How are you like this?" I asked. "How are you so nice and sweet when you lived like I did?"

"Anything you see in me that's good - is Jesus Christ," she replied.

Six months later, she led me to the Lord, and I found a wonderful church. Every single Sunday the anointing of the Holy Spirit was tangibly present and would set me to weeping! My God had found me, and He had made my crooked path straight. I was never going to let Him go. Finally, I had found a real place to be loved and to belong. It was my tribe! The affection I received from these precious humans was overwhelming at times, but I received great deliverance. My Pastor, one of the dearest men you could ever meet, restored in me a trust in men that I never knew I could have. After about a year, I joined their worship team. Immediately I found myself writing songs of Heaven, playing music for Jesus!

I became determined to go back to school. After pursuing my education, I began working as a counselor in a Family Recovery Center in 2004. My work focused on counseling addicts and alcoholics. I also completed a certification as a Co-occurring Disorders Specialist, enabling me to counsel people with both mental health and addiction issues.

In 2009, I was married to Ryan, the man the Lord chose for me, my love! In 2013 we met the Langelands, and through them, we were able to visit Treasures of Africa Children's Home in Tanzania in 2014. Our hearts were on fire for Jesus! What joy!

In 2017 the Holy Spirit directed me to write a curriculum called "Armor of Light," and I started a counseling ministry/business with the same name - Armor of Light. My office is located in Oceanside, California, where I work primarily with Christians needing breakthrough with mental health, trauma or addiction issues.

In 2019, both my husband and I were ordained as pastors. We are thrilled to be in ministry together doing retreats and other special meetings. The Lord has given me a hope and a future and truly an Ephesians 3:20 life!



***Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,  
according to His power that is at work within us...***

Ephesians 3:20 NIV

Friends, don't give up on the prodigals in your life. Never stop praying for them. I have been sober for twenty-one years. **Our Lord is the God of the impossible! He is able to pull anyone who desires it - out of the darkness - and I am living proof!**

**Editor's Note:** An anointed musician and songwriter, Jill Shankles has recorded two CDs available on Amazon - "Teruah" and "Armor of Light." She has authored a devotional book entitled "Sojourner" also available on Amazon. In addition to her music ministry, Jill is a "Breakthrough Coach" who does individual counseling sessions through ZOOM or in person. You can contact her through her website [www.jillshankles.com](http://www.jillshankles.com).



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BELIEVE IN THE CHARACTER  
OF GOD. HE IS GOOD.  
HE WILL BRING YOU THROUGH.  
BELIEVE IN THE LOVE OF GOD.  
HE CARES FOR YOU DEEPLY  
AND HE WILL NOT ABANDON YOU.

Frances Ridley Havergal  
English Poet and Hymnwriter  
1836-1879



# LOVE YOUR ENEMIES



by Rita Langeland

The solitary confinement cell was dark, damp and filthy. The intermittent beatings intended to elicit information from the American bombardier and his fellow B-25 bomber crew members were not fruitful for their captors. But they continued like clockwork, nonetheless.

Jacob DeShazer<sup>1</sup> had been part of the infamous “Doolittle raiders,” a squadron of 16 US Army Air Corp bombers who executed a daring bombing raid into Japan in April 1942. Returning from their mission, his bomber had run out of fuel before it could reach a refueling base. This forced Jacob and the crew to bail out over Japanese occupied territory in China. Though he and the others survived their dangerous nighttime parachute jump, they were quickly captured by Japanese soldiers.

Though he had been raised by a Church of God minister, Jacob had turned his back on “religion” as a young man. But after being half-starved and cruelly treated, Jacob returned to the Lord during his imprisonment. He begged his captors for a Bible. Somehow, they managed to find an English copy and brought it to Jacob. That was the first of a series of miracles.

Jacob devoured the scriptures. He was struck by the words of Jesus that he discovered in the Gospels which clearly instructed His followers to love their enemies. Never had those words had so much meaning as they did in that prison cell, where he was being held captive by enemy soldiers.

But the words Jacob read in Matthew 5:43-45 were unmistakable. ***You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may prove yourselves to be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.***

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<sup>1</sup> *Jacob DeShazer: Forgive Your Enemies* by Janet and Geoff Benge Copyright 2009 by YWAM Publishing Seattle, WA.

Jacob realized if he was truly going to follow the Lord as he had just promised, he could not ignore that clear command in scripture. He was determined he would put it into action somehow. It wasn't long before he was put to the test.

One day when being returned to his cell, a particularly cruel guard viciously kicked him for not moving fast enough. When he collapsed in pain, the guard kicked him again and laughed. Jacob knew this was the man he must somehow show love toward.

He began to greet the guard with kindness and respect each morning when the guard brought his food and dumped it through the slot in the jail cell door. He continued with his kind greetings for several weeks. Jacob could tell the guard was stunned at first when he was friendly toward him rather than angry or sullen.

After a while, the guard began to soften in his response to Jacob. Jacob asked questions about the guard's family and showed genuine interest in him. Then day by day, the guard began to bring him extra food. At first it was a boiled sweet potato, which to Jacob, who had been slowly starving as a result of his long captivity, tasted like a feast.

Then other thoughtful gifts of food were slipped to Jacob by that same guard, and he began to regain his strength as a result. Jacob marveled at how simple obedience to Jesus' command to love his enemies, changed his situation so dramatically.

Later, after the war was over and Jacob obtained his release, he chose to demonstrate even more love to the Japanese. He became a missionary to Japan, preaching love and forgiveness to the Japanese people. His most famous convert was Mitsuo Fuchida, the Japanese naval flier who had led the attack on the U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

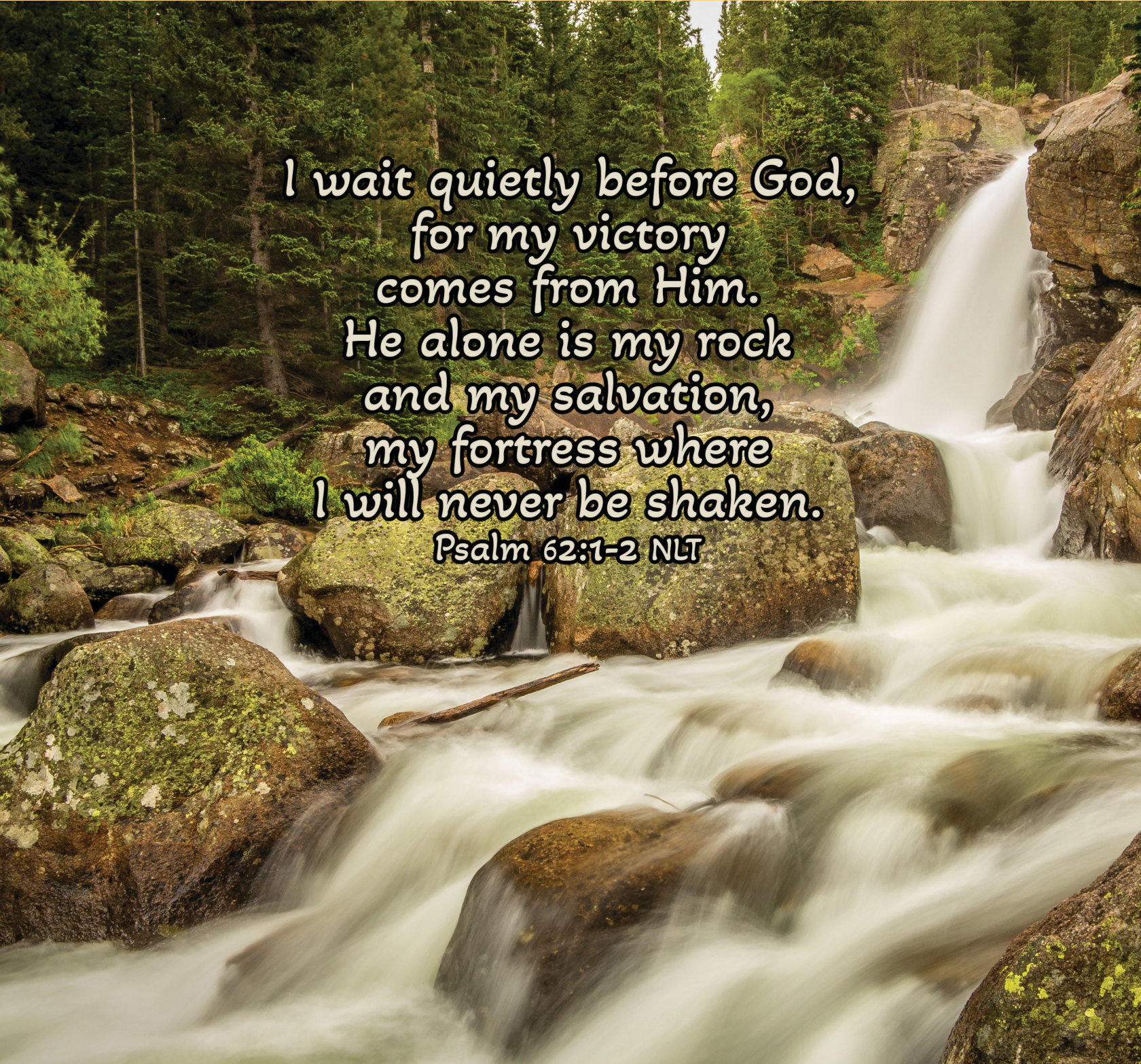
How can we fulfill Jesus' injunction to love our enemies? We can do so by following the step by step instructions recorded in the Gospel of Luke.

***But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who are abusive to you.*** Luke 6:27-28 NASB

In this scripture three specific steps are given to us:

- 1) **DO GOOD** TO THOSE WHO HATE YOU
- 2) **BLESS** THOSE WHO CURSE YOU
- 3) **PRAY FOR** THOSE WHO ARE ABUSIVE TO YOU (*pray for those who mistreat you/pray for those who spitefully use you/pray for those who insult you*)

In Jacob DeShazer's case, as a prisoner, he could not do anything for the guard, so he concentrated on speaking words of blessing and encouragement and praying for him. But we have more options available to us than someone who is locked in solitary confinement. Think of your own situation...is there someone who mistreats you through words or actions? Ask the Lord for grace to obey His command to show love and for creative ideas of how to do it. **It will change everything for you and for them!**



**I wait quietly before God,  
for my victory  
comes from Him.  
He alone is my rock  
and my salvation,  
my fortress where  
I will never be shaken.**  
Psalm 62:1-2 NLT