

## **Daily Devotional**

**April 6, 2005**

(Contributed by David Berry)

**Theme:** God, Our Hope and Shield

**Text:** Psalm 33:18-22

### **Story:**

I have a friend and brother in Christ who will spend several years in prison. His incarceration has created enormous hardships for his wife and children. The financial wolf stays constantly at her door. She has had her moments of despair and her times of questioning God. But as the months pass what I see is a woman whose faith in the Lord has deepened in remarkable ways.

Just before Christmas my wife and I sent her some money, knowing it was such a small gift in the face of such overwhelming need. Only days later we received a heart-warming note. She wrote, "In my difficult position of need, I have come to rely completely on the Lord and the hearts of His people whom He chooses to touch on my behalf. Over and over again He meets my needs exactly in time and amount."

She went on to describe a specific bill that needed to be paid and a deadline that loomed with no money in the bank. Her note continued, "Do you see that He moved in your heart to send me exactly the amount to meet my needs on 12/28/04?" She continued, "I tell you all this so you can share in my joy and blessing. Our God is Great! He has me in the palm of His hand and it is an amazing place to be!"

The very morning we received her note I had been reflecting on Psalm 33, in which the Psalmist announces God's faithfulness and love. He proclaims God's power to create the universe. He also declares that God keeps his eyes on those who fear Him and who hope in God's unfailing love. This same God—the One who is powerful enough to breathe the stars into existence—will deliver His people from death and keep them alive in famine.

Then in verse 20-22, the Psalmist writes, "*We wait in hope for the Lord; He is our help and our shield. In Him our hearts rejoice.*"

My dear brother's faith has also grown immensely behind bars. He, like his dear wife, has become totally dependent on God to see them through. Even in their distress, they are experiencing the reassuring, loving presence of God. I could not help but see how my friends were living illustrations of the trust I had just read about in Psalm 33.

### **Meditate:**

When you have faced difficult times, did you respond by distancing yourself from God or by seeking Him in hope and trust?

Read Psalm 33 carefully two or three times. What is the Psalmist telling you about God that will help you face any hardship or difficulty that comes?