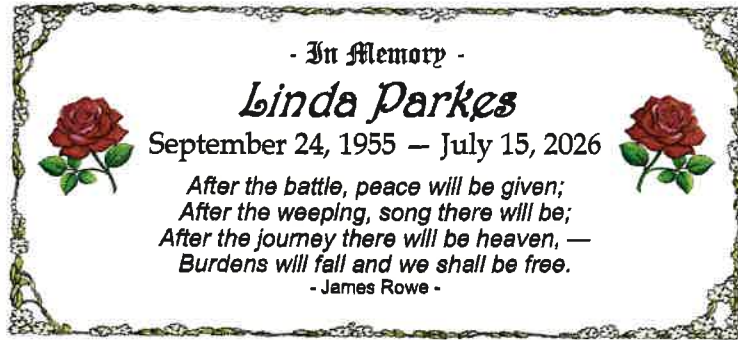




God: Our Refuge & Strength

Joe Slater

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear..." (Psalm 46:1-2a).

God is our refuge, our place of shelter in life's storms. Danger isn't always physical; our adversary walks about as a roaring lion seeking to devour us. Jesus taught us to pray, "Deliver us from the evil one" (Matthew 6:13).

God is our strength. Our own strength will fail us, but God's strength never. Not just our physical strength but our moral and spiritual strength may be taxed to the breaking point by whatever trials and temptations we are facing.

God is a very present help in trouble. He is not distant from us or unconcerned about us. Even people who do not know Him are objects of His care, as Paul told the philosophers in Athens, "He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:27-28). That being true of people in general, how much more should we have confidence He is present with us, especially during difficult times?

Therefore we will not fear. Since God is our refuge, our strength, and a very present help in trouble, why would we fear? When Jesus' disciples became afraid, He said, "Oh you of little faith! Why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14:31). Little faith is often our problem, too. We find ourselves saying with the man in Mark 9:24, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

Your trials aren't the same as mine, but we all encounter trials that put us to the test. Let's remember that God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. So, let us not be afraid, but confident and strong in the Lord!

- Justin Church of Christ, Justin, TX -

"O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come ,,,,"
Isaac Watts, 1719

News Notes

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS: Elaine McClung.

SYMPATHY: To **Andy Parkes** at the passing of his wife, **Linda**. Also to her children: Cindy, Mick, and Elizabeth; her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Linda fought a long hard battle with cancer. She was a faithful member of this congregation and will surely be missed. A **memorial service** is planned for **Saturday, August 8th, 1:00 p.m.** here at the church building.

PANTRY: Vegetable soup.

PRAYERS NEEDED: HOME: Nancy Cox, Anita Hopwood, Randy Beagle, Donna Stevens, Peggy Linger, Scharlotte Jones, Harry Huff, Barbara DeLong.

ELSEWHERE:

Debbie Waite - c/o Brian Waite, 1477 Harris Rd., Jasper, GA 30143.

Nancy Hadley, 2995 Clay Pond Drive, Oakland, TN 38060.

Brenda Harris, 102 Cardinal Drive, Rockwell, NC 28138 (Phone: 304-479-3950).

Sue Baumgardner, 245 Mark Drive, Paducah, KY 42001.

Carolyn Carbone, 98 Orange Blossom Dr., Ranson, WV 25438.

Christy Claypool, 204 Rio Pinar Drive, Warner Robins, GA 31088.

Jackie Brown (Rico's mother), 4227 Prince Hall Blvd., Orlando, FL 32811.

Herman McHan, 29 Jenny Lane, Columbiana, OH 44408

Rob Wilson, 2944 Regina Drive, Macon, GA 31216.

Marlene Evans, Mary Johnson - Fox, Chester.

Jean Haught (Skip's mother) - Serra Manor, Weirton.

Georgia Hackathorn, Rambling Oaks Extensive Care, Room 302-B, 112 Barnett Blvd., Highland Village, TX 75077.

Brett Thompson, #A830908, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, Mail Processing Center (OMPC), 884 Coitsville-Hubbard Road, Youngstown OH 44505.

BIBLE MEDITATIONS: Monday-Friday 12:30-12:35 p.m.

on WOHI 1490 AM and 103.9 FM.

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the Lord,
which made heaven and earth.

Psalm 121:1-2