

Praising the Lord

Most of us would agree that God showers us with His blessings – personally and professionally. As we finished up 2007 and have now moved a month deep into the new year, it is obvious that God’s hand has been at work in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home. We should offer our gratitude to Him frequently for the good things He bestows upon us.

But what about those times when we face adversity, and circumstances turn out differently than what we would hope? Can we still praise the Lord?

In his book, *Turning Points*, Dr. David Jeremiah, senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, Calif., and chancellor of Christian Heritage College, relates the story behind the German hymn, *O That I Had a Thousand Voices*. The song was written by Pastor Johann Mentzer, who labored in the 17th century in the little village of Kemnitz in Eastern Germany.

Pastor Mentzer was known for his attitude of praise and thanksgiving, and he encouraged his flock to praise the Lord, whatever the circumstances. One night, as he returned home from a nearby village, Mentzer saw flames shooting into the sky. Hastening to the scene, he found his home – the church parsonage – engulfed. Later, as he inspected the smoldering ruins, someone tapped him on the shoulder.

“So, Pastor,” said the man, “are you still in the mood for praise and thanksgiving?”

Pastor Mentzer was still in the mood for praise and thanksgiving, and out of that experience he wrote his hymn, wishing for a thousand voices with which to praise the Lord.

What about you today? What situations do you find yourself in? Whether you perceive them to be good or bad, can you still praise a loving and gracious God?

As Dr. Jeremiah concludes, “We praise the Lord because it’s a great therapy for the soul, but we praise Him most of all because He is worthy of praise.”

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord (Psalm 150:6).

--Beecher Hunter