

# View

## WHEN TRIALS COME

BY SHARON BRIDGE

There are many members at the Folsom Point congregation who are enduring trials of various kinds right now. These trials involve those enduring sorrow, heartaches, physical and emotional pain, loneliness and those who are concerned for their family members who are ill or struggling with their faith, etc. I have been a member at the Folsom congregation for 25 years and I never recall a time where so many are affected by so much pain and heartaches. It seems like every day when I open up our e-mails, there is more sad news. I don't know how each of you is coping but I feel overwhelmed in the situation. How are we to cope?

The biblical definition of a trial is a hardships that tries our faith. The apostle Paul (a recipient of more trials than we could ever imagine), described his experience in the book of II Corinthians 1:8 as being burdened beyond measure, above strength. However, we know from reading the Holy Scriptures that whatever the trials, Paul never quit, he never gave up. He said in 2nd Timothy 4:7 that he fought the good fight, finished the race and kept the faith.

We all need to pray fervently and frequently for our spiritual family members who are enduring trials. God's word tells us this in 1st Thessalonians 5:17 and James 5:16. God is always there to listen to our cares, heal our broken hearts and give us strength to carry on.

My heart is especially heavy now as I think of the heartaches and trials the Warshaw and Dickey families are going through. Melody's father, Don Hopper, was a great and godly man and we loved him dearly. Don and I had so many great talks over the years about our beloved 49'ers. We were not "fair weather fans." If Don could be here to speak to each of us, I know he would say "Be comforted that my suffering is over and I am now with God." As we see the frailty and serious medical condition of Don's great-grandson, Blake, we can find comfort in knowing that Blake will be in heaven with his great-grandfather when his

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Sunday Morning Assembly  
9:30 AM

Sunday Evening: 5:00 PM  
Wednesday Bible Study  
7:30 PM

Classes for all ages.  
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life on this earth is complete. What great lessons of faith we can learn by observing how the Dickey and Hopper families have dealt with these trials.

Jeff and Kimmie Warshaw are also great examples of faith. It is heart wrenching to see their young child diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor. These kinds of things just aren't supposed to happen to healthy happy children but sometimes they do. These situations call for great faith and that has been manifest by Jeff and Kimmie. They have exhibited such grace, strength and dignity. We all pray earnestly that James will be cured of the cancer and that he will go on to lead a full and happy life. He is such an adorable and spunky little guy. His big sister Kyra is pretty special herself.

As I was going through the membership directory I counted 25 Folsom Point families who are enduring various trials involving their own health or the health of their family members. There are probably others that I am not aware of. Some of these members are dealing with serious health problems such as Sharon Jones and Kathy Wilson and others. These people are mentioned weekly in the View and we appreciate David for providing us with that information. So get your last week's copy of the View and start praying.

Prayer is so important but there are other things we can do to help those dealing with trials. We need to seek ways to lighten their loads. We can offer encouraging words, call them or e-mail them. We can send cards, go to visit them, prepare a meal for them. Sometimes just a caring smile, a hug or a pat on the back can do wonders for that person. They just need to know they don't have to bear their burdens alone. Abraham Lincoln said "To ease another's heartache is to forget one's own." Let's awake each day with the thought that we must do something for someone that day and then go do it.

To all who are enduring trials right now my prayers and the prayers of many saints are with

you. We all realize that life is full of bends and curves along the pathway to heaven. Just keep on keeping on! As one eloquent writer stated, "Living today to the best of our ability helps to make our tomorrows easier to bear."

In closing I want to share with you two scriptures I have found to be so comforting during trials in my own life. Psalms 46:10 says: "Be still and know that I am God." In 2nd Thessalonians 3:16 it says: "Now may the Lord of peace give you peace always in every way." May God bless you all.

IN HIS LOVE, FEBRUARY 12, 2009

## "Answered Prayer"

I asked for strength and God gave me  
difficulties to make me strong.

I asked for wisdom and God gave me  
problems to solve.

I asked for prosperity and God gave me  
brawn and brain to work.

I asked for courage and God gave me  
dangers to overcome.

I asked for patience God placed me in a  
situations where i was forced to wait.

I asked for love and God gave me troubled  
people to help me.

I asked for favors and God gave me  
opportunities.

I received nothing I wanted.

I received everything I needed.

**MY PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED!**

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