



The Streetcorner

"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6 NIV

God is My Protector

The testimony of Bill Oomen
Smithers, B.C.

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to save a man's life?
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God is My Protector

*The testimony of Bill Oomen,
as told to Ken Penner.*

I was born in Holland to Christian parents who taught me about God and his care over His creation. When I was about 20 years old, I made a confession of my faith in God before the Christian Reformed Church in Holland. There I met and married my wife. We moved to Canada and settled in Smithers BC in 1959.

I am a carpenter by trade and worked for Kodest Construction for years. I worked as a self employed finishing carpenter until I retired.

It was in November 1996, I was coming home from a job I was doing near Smithers. I was having some brake problems on my van and decided that it would be a good day to fix the problem, it was about 11:30 am. I parked my van in

our driveway, it was slippery because of a recent snowfall. I proceeded to jack up the van with a ten ton hydraulic jack under the differential. I took off the left rear wheel and brake drum. As I worked on the brakes, one part was misplaced. I did not know where it was supposed to go, so I decided to take off the other wheel to see where the misplaced part should go.

The wheel on the other side would not come off because it was still on the ground, so I decided that I would crawl back under the van to jack it up a bit more.

As I did this, the jack slipped sideways on the fresh snow and the weight of the van came down on me. The gas tank was resting on my chest and I called out "Lord help me!" Our dog immediately began to run around the van barking, she knew I was in trouble. I was desperate, nobody was around to help me. I could not breath. What was I to do?

In desperation I reached for the jack. I could not compress it to put it back under the differential, so I tried to stick it under the corner of the gas tank. There was not quite enough room, so I lifted my chest with all of my might, thus lifting the van just enough to get the jack in place. I proceeded to jack up the van, to lift it just enough to get the weight off my chest. I wiggled out of the space, leaving my glasses and hat under the vehicle. I was not able to walk due to a severe pain in my chest and shortness of breath, so I crawled into our

garage on my hand and knees. I tried to get into the house; I cried out "Is anybody home?", but nobody was there. I sat down on the back step and started to faint. Needing fresh air, I stepped outside and hung over the hood of our car that was sitting there. I could hear vehicles driving by on the road only a short distance from where I was. They were all driving by. Why would anybody stop, they did not know I needed help. I was so weak I could not get to the road for help. Then I heard a vehicle stop and heard the door open up. I called out "Help" with the best of my ability. Someone came running. It was my friend Ross Nicolai, he called out "Bill" and ran past me into the house. He called the ambulance. By the time they picked me up, I was unconscious.

I woke up in the hospital. Dr. Lovett, a specialist, was on duty and was taking x-rays of my chest. They found I had a collapsed lung and bleeding in my chest cavity. They inserted a hose through my chest wall and released the blood relieving some of the pressure. Then they found I was also bleeding in the other side and they repeated the procedure again before I found some relief. The doctor told me that another ten minutes and I would have been dead. I stayed in the hospital for a week until I could go home. Now I am well, except sometimes I feel a need to gasp for air. When

this happens, I remember God's graciousness to me on that day.

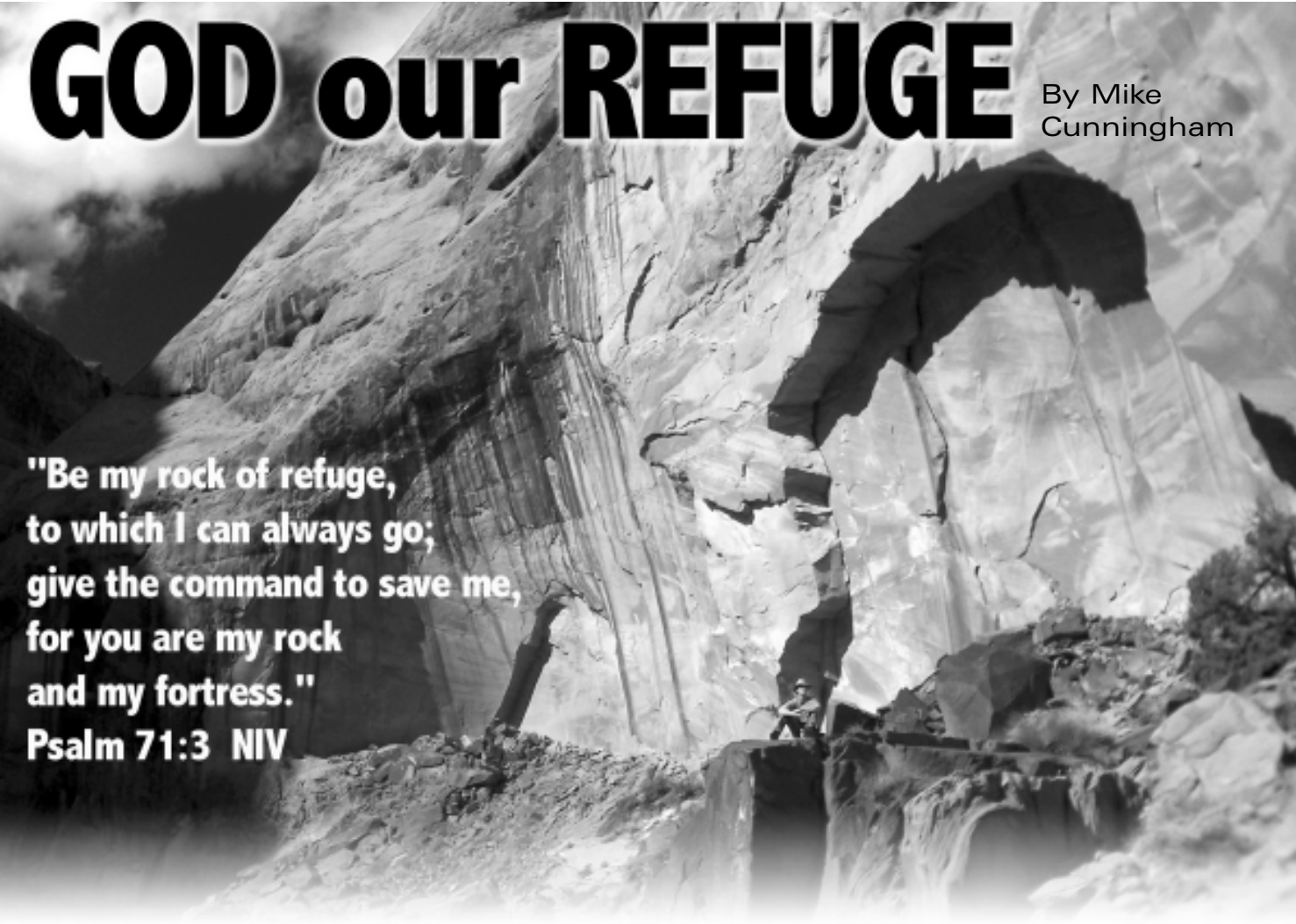
Later, when Ross came in to see me at the hospital, he told me the reason why he had stopped and was able to help me. He told me that as he was driving past my place, he saw a pheasant beside the road. Because pheasants don't live in this area, he stopped to have a more clear look at this bird. When he got out of his truck, he heard me calling out for help. If the pheasant had not been there, he would not have stopped. This was amazing to me. I believe God put the pheasant there so Ross would stop and be able to help me. I also believe God had Dr. Lovett there at the hospital so he could give me the immediate care that I needed. God got me through it and I am here because of His mercy and grace. He is my Protector.



**Bill Oomen
Smithers,
B.C.**

GOD our REFUGE

By Mike
Cunningham



**"Be my rock of refuge,
to which I can always go;
give the command to save me,
for you are my rock
and my fortress."
Psalm 71:3 NIV**

In the picture above, can you find the man taking “refuge” in the shelter of the rock? In the NIV version of the Bible, the word refuge is used 71 times to directly describe God’s protecting hand. Obviously, God is trying to get across something very important in using this word so many times! How is God a refuge to us? In what ways do we need His protection?

The message of the Bible is that we, as people, are extremely vulnerable, although we typically parade such a show of strength! Science has shown us that we are vulnerable physically. Without oxygen, the strongest person on earth would be dead in minutes. Without a heartbeat our life fades immediately. Hundreds of diseases plague humanity to ever remind us of our frailty and weakness.

The Bible teaches us that as weak as we are physically, we are even in more of a desperate state spiritually. We have a great enemy, the devil, who has destroyed millions of lives since the creation of the world, and is determined to do the same to us if left unprotected. Also, the Bible tells us that we are born “enemies” of God, resisting and rebelling against God as naturally as we breathe. The Bible

also teaches us that there is a judgment looming, one instant past death, where each of us will stand before Him to give account. Yes, we are desperately vulnerable! When will I face death? When will you? What shall we say to God then?

**“God is our
refuge and
strength, an
ever-present
help in
trouble.”**

PSALM 46:1

Please hear the Word of the Lord, 71 times over. There is a REFUGE! There is a safe place to go. There is a shelter of security from God’s wrath poured out on sin on that terrible day. His name is Jesus. He is the only real rock of refuge. God has opened a way of safety to all who will simply believe that Jesus bore the penalty of their sin, trust that His holy blood was shed for their forgiveness, turn from their wicked ways, and receive God’s gift of salvation for their own personal need.

Have you found a hiding place in the shelter of the rock? Have you admitted your great weakness and inability to save yourself? Have you looked on God as the only strong One who can, and will, protect you for all eternity? Come and join us in the cleft of the Rock. There is room for one more!

WHERE IS GOD WHEN WE NEED HIM?

"This I Believe"

by Ken Penner

Have you ever wondered where God was when you were in a real bind? Nowhere to turn, no way out, probably you have been there, I know I have. As we read in the testimony featured in this issue of The Streetcorner, Bill Oomen found himself in a hopeless situation, what could he do?

So where is God when very difficult things happen to us?

God's Word in Psalm 139 answers this question "O Lord you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; You know my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. You hem me in - behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast." Psalm 139: 1-10 NIV



tion, feeling hopeless and lost, God is there. He wants us to call out to him as Bill did. He will answer.

The prophet Jeremiah received a word from the Lord when Israel was going through a very rough time. May this word encourage us today, to call out to God in our time of need. "This is what the LORD says, he who made the earth, the LORD who formed it and established it - the LORD is his name. 'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'" Jeremiah 33:3 NIV

God heard Bill and sent a pheasant * along, causing his friend Ross to stop and look at it, so he could hear Bill calling for help. Thank God that he knows and hears.

Jesus said "And even the very hairs on your head are numbered. So don't be afraid" Matthew 10:30,31 NIV

*Note: Pheasants are not native to this area, I have never seen one in the 30 years we have lived here. Would Ross have stopped if it was a grouse or a chicken? God saw fit to have the right bird there at the right time.

This I believe.

If you are going through a hard time, an impossible situa-



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WHAT WE BELIEVE

The Bible and Its Authority

a) We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired by God and inerrant in the original writings, and that they are the supreme and final authority in faith and conduct.

The Eternal Godhead

b) We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Man and His Need

c) We believe that man was created in the image of God; that through sin man incurred both spiritual and physical death. Consequently, man is totally depraved, alienated from God, under his righteous anger, and in need of the new birth.

Jesus Christ and His Work

d) We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary and is true God and true man.

e) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that all who believe in him are justified on the ground of his shed blood.

f) We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord Jesus Christ, in his ascension into heaven, his present life there for us as High Priest and Advocate and in his personal return.

Salvation for Sinners

g) We believe that by the grace of God, all who in repentance and faith receive the Lord Jesus Christ are born again by the Holy Spirit and thereby become children of God. Such are sealed unto the day of redemption. Nevertheless, the believer is commanded to be filled with the Spirit, moment by moment.

The Future

h) We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, in the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and in the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost.

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