

## **GOD OUR CONSTANT HELP**

We have a basketball net in front of our house for my daughter Coral to shoot and practice at. Recently, the rim came off the basket. I wish I could say it was a result of all of my slam dunks, but this pastor does not jump very high. Rust got the better of the rim, not me. Fortunately, we did have a replacement rim. One night, Nadine and I decided to get up on a ladder and try to put the new rim on. The rim is about ten feet up and we could tell right away that it was going to be a struggle to try to take off the old one and install the replacement while standing on a ladder.

Just as we came to this realization one of our neighbours rode down the street on his bicycle and suggested that it might be easier for us to lay the basketball net on the grass instead of trying to do it high up on the ladder. His advice could not have come at a better time. He rode off after offering this advice and we were able to lay the basketball net system on our front lawn. We had to remove four bolts in order to take off the broken hoop. It did not take long for us to realize it was going to be a long struggle. I put a wrench on one side of the bolt while Nadine tried to loosen it from the other side, but we were making little to no progress.

Right at this point another neighbour and his wife were walking by our house. I had never seen this couple walk down our street before. They live a couple of blocks over from us. He initially asked if we were taking apart the entire basketball net. When we shared with him that we were just trying to replace the rim but were struggling with the bolts, he came over and looked at our dilemma. He realized quickly that part of our struggle was due to not having the right wrenches for the job. He offered to go home and get his tools and come back to help us. We immediately took him up on his offer. Sure enough, about fifteen minutes later he drove up to our house as promised and got out with his tools and helped. It did not take him long with the right tools to remove all four bolts and put the new hoop on.

Two neighbours came to our help that night. Whether they were aware of it or not, something that I knew was that their timely arrivals were all of God's doing. The reason why I say this is the first neighbour who arrived as we were

standing on the ladder never rides his bike at that time of the day. It was about seven o'clock that night when we were standing on the ladder. Usually, it is about 8:30 in the evening when he rides in front of our house. His early timing and advice were of great assistance to us. The arrival of the other neighbour as we struggled trying to get the bolts off was no coincidence in my mind either. Even though they live two blocks over from us I cannot remember any time I have seen them walk down our street, and we have lived in our current residence since 2009. If I have seen them, they have never stopped to talk to me before if I was out front. They came by at the exact time we needed help.

One thing I have learned in my walk with the Lord is to never assume situations like we experienced that night are just by chance or coincidence. Time and time again I have been the recipient, or heard stories told by others, of situations like these where people came out of the blue to be of help. It is a reminder to me of what the psalmist expressed in Psalm 121: 1-2:

**I look up to the mountains -  
does my help come from there?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth!**

The psalmist not only acknowledged here that God is the One who is his source of help, but also identified a few verses later how He constantly kept watch over him. The fact that God constantly kept watch over him was so reassuring for the psalmist. I find it just as reassuring. God was watching over us that night as Nadine and I struggled on that ladder trying to replace that rim. He was aware of our struggles, and He sent those two neighbours each at the perfect time in order to be of help.

Sometimes, we might think that God may only want to help us with the big problems we experience in life. Replacing a basketball net is not on the grand scale of things a person might think God would want to intervene in and offer His help. He did, and the reason why is to show us how much He cares about it. No matter how big or small a matter might be that we need assistance with God is always there offering His help.

I am sure if we all take the time to reflect back over these past sixteen months, we too will be able to identify moments when God was aware of us needing help and responded in some special way. It is important for us not to chalk these moments up to coincidence or good luck, but to see it as our all-present, all-knowing, and all-loving God coming to our help. This is how I saw my experience that night out front of our house installing that basketball rim. Because I saw this experience through the eyes of faith, going forward I know no matter what situation or challenge may arise, God will not only be aware, but be my constant source of help. It is my hope and prayer that we all will walk forward with confidence and peace knowing God will always be there for us, no matter the need.

This pastor still cannot slam dunk or jump, but at least with God's help I can still work out and have fun with my daughter shooting baskets.

Keep safe and God bless

Pastor Dean