

## The Upper Room devotional reflection for Tuesday, July 20, 2021, comes to us from Ishwarbhai Hirabhai Dabhi of New Jersey

### Psalm 23:1-6

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,
- 3 he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.
- 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.
- 6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

***If we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.***

***Romans 14:8 (NRSV)***

### **“Always Joyful”**

I am originally from Gujarat, India. One of my greatest blessings is that all my children received good educations and now we have settled in Australia and the U.S. I have been interested in mission work since I was a child, and now I have been able to share the gospel in various cities in Australia and the U.S.

For a time, I returned to Gujarat to serve the Lord by helping those in need. While I was there, doctors found tumors in two places in my brain. At the same time, I was suffering from severe problems with diabetes. The doctors warned me that I had a short time to live. But I was not afraid of this news because I believe death will take me to the joyful presence of the Lord. My doctors were surprised by my joyful presence of the Lord. My doctors were surprised by my joyful attitude. In spite of this serious health condition, I have been joyfully involved in serving the Lord by helping people in need. I do not worry about my health. I am more concerned about serving the Lord that I am afraid of death. It gives me great joy to be involved in the Lord's service.

***Prayer Focus:*** People living with diabetes.

***Thought for the Day:*** Living a life in service to God brings joy.

***Prayer:*** O Father, accept the ways we help others in service to you. By our example, allow others to find it in their hearts to serve you as well. Amen.

**from Ishwarbhim Hirabhai Dabhi of New Jersey**

Friends –

I find this devotional very encouraging. Even when I was very sick early during the pandemic and I was scared about what the consequences of this illness would bring into my life, Ishwarbhim Hirabhai Dabhi reminds me to find joy through the service that I was able to offer in God's world. I confess that I haven't yet gotten to the spiritual strength to be unafraid of death. But I do understand this reflection about trusting God and experiencing joy, even in the midst of great fear.

--Pastor bea