

BLESSINGS ALWAYS

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Association Minister Message

Rev. Daniel L. Busch

RESCUE. "I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide and I will fill it." (Psalm 81:10). The weather is so unpredictable these days especially as global warming has changed conditions around the world. The average temperature has gone up, droughts are the new normal, and ice is melting at our polar regions rapidly. At the same time, dangerous flooding recently in nearby West Virginia, Kentucky, and Indiana has caused deaths, destruction, and demolition of homes, vehicles, and properties. Lake Mead on the Colorado River in Southwestern United States is at its lowest level and is jeopardizing water supply for more than 22 million persons. Global pandemic Covid-19 is increasing in numbers as well as the rise of Monkeypox. How can we be *RESCUED* from such problems?

The Hebrew people had to be reminded constantly that God *RESCUED* them many times "out of the land of Egypt" They needed *RESCUE* not only "out of Egypt" but from persecution of invaders who made them captives. Their own evil actions to one another and arrogance over others often held them prisoners to their sins and tribulations. Reliance on strict interpretation of the law and not understanding the intent of law blinded them to welcoming the strangers or supplying help to those in need. God embraced the people time and time again with love, forgiveness, and a Spirit of hope that could transform the most treacherous of situations.

Fanny J. Crosby, though blind since 6 weeks old, wrote nearly 8,500 hymns in her lifetime. Her hymn texts include "To God Be the Glory," "Pass Me Not, Oh Gentle Savior," and "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine." In 1869, she was inspired to write "*RESCUE the Perishing*" after she met residents housed in a New York City Mission. The opening words are, "*RESCUE the perishing, care for the dying*" in response to the residences' living conditions. We need to be *RESCUED* from anger, selfishness, arrogance, hatreds, faithlessness, and all that separates us from one another and God. God calls us and reminds us of our *RESCUE* ministries around the world to care and share God's blessings graciously and generously. Thanks be to God for *RESCUING* us from all that has captured us. God liberates us to be God's sons and daughters with meaningful and purposeful abundant living. *BLESSINGS ALWAYS.*