



**Living a life of purpose in these unprecedented times**

**Daily** Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation  
**Weekly** worship song, reflection and small group questions

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Colossians 3: 13 (Forgiveness) **Sunday 15 August**

**Week 4: It shouldn't be about who is right but what is right** – Ntsokolo Selebe

1 Thessalonians 5:22 (Conscience) **Sunday 22 August**

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Matthew 6: 33the (Best Life) **Sunday 29 August**

*Sunday Sermons* Sunday 1 August  
**Week 1**  
Experiencing God in the hard knocks of life and opportunities

**BIBLE READING:**

Roman 8: 28-39 (God is real) **Sunday 1 August**

**PRAISE AND WORSHIP:**

Let's worship our God with the following You Tube song:  
I say yes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nPVTbKo-LTI>

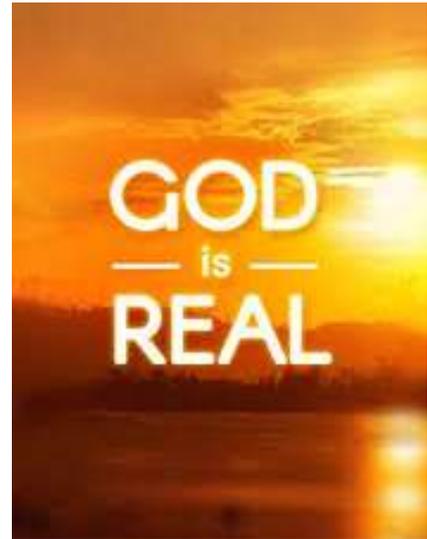
*Reflection*

**by Rev Kedibone Mntambo**

Today, the first of August, we embark on Women's Month where we celebrate women as an opportunity to highlight women's achievements and discuss continuing and emerging women's empowerment. We recognize the tremendous efforts by women and girls around the world in shaping a more equal future and gender equality amid this Corona Virus. We continue to celebrate, despite economic challenges and

concerns, and march on holding on to our goals and commitments knowing that *'all things work together for good, to them that love God'*.

In mid-July, we experienced a difficult time for all of us throughout our country. Over and above the pain of losing many lives due to the pandemic we also saw wanton destruction and looting, the lawlessness of our people. On TV, we viewed people of all ages involved in these acts of destruction when others try to rebuild our lives. Whatever the reason was, the month ushered for us suffering and struggles that will take time to heal as we try to navigate our way through this web. Think of a woman who puts all her efforts and resources into building a business, then destroyed with no hope of discovery. A young person who has worked hard, in the face of unemployment to establish a business, with dreams of growing it to benefit the very people the business would employ. That dream and hard work went up in smoke in a matter of few hours. We also cry like the psalmist: *"How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart?"* (Psalm 13: 1)



Our text today tells us that God is supremely in charge of the world, that all things that happen to us are ordered in a way to serve our good. This verse contains a promise (all things work together for good) and two descriptions of the beneficiaries of the promise (those who love God and those who are called according to his purpose). Tribulation and distress and this pandemic all work together for the good of those who love God. So, the rugged hope of the believer is not that we will escape distress or danger or hunger, but that Almighty God will make every one of our agonies an instrument of His mercy to do us good. "You meant it for evil," Joseph said to his brothers who had sold him into slavery, "but God meant it for good." (Genesis 50:20) And so, it is with every calamity of those who love God that God allowed it and meant it for good, all for God's glory!

I want to encourage you that there is a God who's love for you is greater, higher than you can imagine. He loves you, and in the details of what you're walking through, he is working it together for your good and your good is greater intimacy with Jesus, greater understanding of his love for you, greater dependence on and trust in him, where he will always prove himself faithful to you. He's working this together for more conformity to the image of Jesus, which is where your soul's deepest delight will be found.

#### **PRAYER:**

*God, thank you for this promise. Thank you for this reminder that you are ultimately in control of all things, even the worst things. Even the things that we least understand. We ask Lord that you bring us more and more into the image of Jesus, that we will know you more and delight in you more at the end of this journey when it's all said and done, in greater ways than we can even fathom right now. So, help us to trust in you. I pray for women who are walking through hard times especially right now, that you would help them to trust in you. Help them to trust in your promise here in Romans 8:28-30. We hold on to your promise to work all these things together for our good and bring us to glory with you. We long for the ultimate fulfillment of this promise. In Jesus' name, we pray, **Amen***

#### **SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:**

1. Do you think you qualify to God's promises, why?
2. What is it that can separate us from the love of God?
3. What is God's purpose in your life?
4. How do you understand the statement: Everything we face, even suffering, is used by God for our eternal good.



#### **DAILY BIBLE READING:**

##### **Monday**

Jeremiah 33:3

**Memory Verse:** God longs for us to call to him as our source of life, wisdom, guidance, and truth.

**Prayer:** *Thank you Lord, that when I call on you and come and pray to you, you will listen to me. When I seek you, I will find you, when I seek you with all of my heart. I'm so thankful that you hear and allow me to speak to you, in Jesus' name. **Amen.***

## Tuesday

Proverbs 3:5-6

**Memory Verse:** Your heavenly Father longs to be a guide throughout all the twists and turns of life. He longs to shepherd you to greener pastures and calmer waters. He longs to protect you and provide for you.

**Prayer:** *God our father lead, guide, direct us in our lives, families, work, church, and everything we do. Please help us to trust you with all our heart, help us lean not on our own understanding. In all our ways help us to acknowledge you. We believe, we trust that you will make our paths straight. May it be so, we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.*

## Wednesday

James 1:17

**Memory Verse:** God blesses us in far greater ways than worldly success and wealth. He is concerned with that which is eternal and will actually produce the abundant life your heart truly desires.

**Prayer:** *Creator God, I am thankful for all the blessings you've consistently given me. Your glory shines in the magnificence of your creation. Thank you for not only giving us life but forgiving us. I know that every good and perfect gift comes straight from you. Blessed be your name. I am grateful. Amen.*

## Thursday

Isaiah 49:15-16

**Memory Verse:** God longs to overwhelm you with his love today. He paid the highest price for you to simply experience and know the depth of his love.

**Prayer:** *Lord, thank you for engraving me on the palms of your hands, it gives me confidence that nothing can remove me from your plans. Thank you for loving me and caring for me. Amen*

## Friday

Joshua 1:8

**Memory Verse:** Renew your mind today to the truth of God. Choose to align your thinking with his word. Filter your emotions and decisions through the Word of God. And experience today the abundant life God has in store for you in the goodness of his promises.

**Prayer:** *Loving God, thank you for your Word. I pray that in the weeks and months that lie ahead I may read, mark, learn and inwardly digest your Word and treasure it in my heart, for I desire to prosper in the things of God and to give glory to your name, Amen.*



## Saturday

Isaiah 40:31

**Memory Verse:** God longs to shield you from the attacks of your enemy. He longs to protect you from what would tear you down. But like a shield, he can only protect you if you are willing to stay behind him. He can only help you if you are willing to be helped. Allow him to go before you and guide you.

**Prayer:** *Lord God, fountain of all blessings, I come to you to have my strength renewed. I trust that you alone can renew my heart, soul, and mind. Grant me the strength to walk the hard, narrow, winding path. Give me the focus to conquer obstacles in my way. I know I can't succeed alone, and I trust you to be at my side. Amen.*



It is important for parents to take time to lead the conversations of family time and to be honest with their children in these conversations.

BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN'S PASTOR  
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## Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August

**Pray daily:** Set up family time for prayer and devotions and stick to this arrangement. All devotions should always begin by with a prayer. Ask a family member to pray or one of the children.

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 8:28 Allow children/teens to read out loud for the family.

## Activity/Family Moment:

**This object lesson was used in the children's online lesson today!**

**What you need:** Pot / Oil / Popcorn seeds

**What you do:**

Show everyone the un-popped popcorn kernel. Would you like to eat it like it is? No! it's hard and not tasty...

If you had to place your popcorn in the pot with a bit of oil and turn on the stove what will happen? Not much at first it takes a bit of time for the seeds to pop.

- Talk about Romans 8:28. What are our thoughts and feeling about it?

When the popcorn starts popping comment on it. Say something like 'ooh I can hear something! Etc.'

Say: we can only get our popcorn when it's placed in heat. The seeds pop at different times, they all look different, but they all needed the heat to change.

God can give us difficult things to go through to help us learn and grow, like the popcorn needed the heat. They help us become the person God made us to be.

However, we all go through things differently and at different times. Just like the popcorn popping. But we all get to where God needs us.

- What things have been very difficult for you?
- Do you believe that God was in control the whole time? (God was and will always be with you)

Pray together as a family asking God for guidance in difficult times, praising God in good times and thanking God for being with us always!



## **THURSDAYS IN BLACK**

During Women's Month, we would like to stand and support the women in this country and in our congregation by wearing the "**Thursdays in Black**" button and wearing black on Thursdays for the month of August.

**PLEDGE:** *By supporting 'Thursdays in Black' I stand:*

- *In protest against systems and societies that encourage violence in any form,*
- *In solidarity with 1 in 4 women worldwide who face violence in their lives.*
- *In mourning for men, women and children who are harmed and killed in sexual violence.*
- *For awareness and information about the challenges of gender-based violence.*
- *In the hope that a different reality is possible.*

*By making this pledge I undertake to stand up and make a difference in the world where I live, work and play.*

*(<https://www.thursdaysinblack.co.za/about-0>)*

**CHALLENGE:** Join us by wearing black along with your small group, family, or colleagues every Thursday and send us a photo of yourselves to [kerryw@bmc.org.za](mailto:kerryw@bmc.org.za) so we can stand together during the month of August.

