



TESTIMONY OF HEALING | JULY 6, 2006

## Financial challenges overcome with support from the Shepherd

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Like many people, I know what it's like to be in a difficult economic situation. My challenge came when I needed to sell my house, as I was moving out of state. But the real estate market in my city was spiraling downward in the aftermath of a bust economy. It wasn't the ideal time to sell, but I didn't have a choice.

Mine was a wooden-frame house with shutters and a magnolia tree in the front. I loved the whole package—but I also knew that home is so much more than a material structure. The Bible confirms that home is actually a divine idea: "Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations." As God's children, we each dwell—live in—God.

How wonderful to know that our home is the presence of God, the tender, comforting Shepherd! As the 23rd Psalm in the Bible describes, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake."

I prayed as I put my home on the market. And I reasoned that just as a shepherd's wisdom leads to green pastures, still waters, and right paths, God would lead me, and everyone concerned with the sale of my home, in a way that resulted in blessings all around. This spiritual perspective freed me from the stress of an uncertain financial outcome and the fear of a shaky economy.

As I prayed, I recalled another time God's shepherding hand had helped me, when I'd had only one day in which to find a new house. I'd turned to God then, and had concrete proof that He is a reliable source of help—I found a buyer for my house and made an offer on a new place the same day. Remembering this experience gave me confidence now.

I thought of this statement from the Bible: "For in him [God] we live, and move, and have our being." This opened my eyes to see that God's divine economy is present and operating even in the middle of uncertain economic conditions. His infinite resources bless all. His economy can't be confined by lack or fettered by limitations, because it's divine and infinite.

Inspired prayer makes it possible to see that all things work together for good without loss or inconvenience to anyone. The Bible makes this promise, "...all things work together for good to them that love God."

Despite the sluggish real estate market, I quickly received and accepted an offer on my house. This enabled me to put an offer on a house in my new location. The closing dates of the houses were coordinated so that the money from the sale of my home would be used to pay for the new one.

Everything was on track—and then the US stock market fell dramatically. The buyer of my house withdrew his offer, because he'd lost a considerable amount of his net worth.

I had the legal right to sue him for breach of contract, and my real estate agent was pushing me to do so. I knew, though, that if I were in the same situation as this buyer, I would greatly appreciate mercy. Even though I'd lose a large amount of money if I couldn't buy the new house, I felt confident that I wouldn't be hurt by treating this buyer the way I would want to be treated.

Numerous banks were contacted to get a bridge loan, but none were willing to lend the money because the house I was buying was out of state. Things looked bleak—but I turned again to the 23rd Psalm where it says, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”

To me, the “rod” mentioned in the psalm represented God's irrefutable law of freedom, which removes all obstacles and impels forward progress. I was strengthened by the knowledge that this law continuously operates for me and everyone.

I saw that with divine guidance I could walk through fearful and discouraging circumstances. Fear could not harm me any more than a shadow crossing my path could touch me. No human circumstance, including a depressed economy, can ever trap or thwart God's plan for His children. With the Shepherd's rod and staff comforting me, I could expect to go forward without penalty.

And on the last possible day, a bank agreed to give the bridge loan and I was able to close on the new house.

I put my original residence on the market again, but prices had continued to drop. It seemed any new offers would be lower than the one that fell through.

The reassuring promise in that psalm continued to help me, “Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.” I saw that the Shepherd, even in the face of uncertainty and loss, was “anointing my head with oil”—in other words, filling my consciousness with the hope of heavenly inspiration.

I prayerfully affirmed that the joy of moving to another state, and all the wonderful possibilities and blessings that it held, could not be turned into sorrow. I also saw that since home represents a divine idea, it can never diminish in expression or value. Home is a divine idea in God, Mind, so the consciousness of the one that needs it has to be aware of it, because there is only one Mind, one God.

I was steadfast as I affirmed that everything would work out because God, Principle, is in control of all the details. I cherished this statement from Mary Baker Eddy, “Into His haven of Soul there enters no element of earth to cast out angels, to silence the right intuition which guides you safely home” (*Miscellaneous Writings 1883-1896*, p. 152).

In a few months, I received an offer on the house. Even though the real estate market was still dropping, this offer was significantly higher than the first one, and was enough to cover the interest on the bridge loan and more. The man who bought the house said he found it to be “an oasis of peace and beauty.”

Even if the human economy is daunting, each of us can turn to the loving Shepherd, who cares for us and guides us unerringly. The Shepherd’s economy of being includes no fear, loss, or want—only continuity and permanence of good, with blessings abounding for all. Understanding this spiritual fact can make a decided difference in our lives.

The 23rd Psalm closes with this beautiful benediction, “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.”  
What a wonderful place to be!

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## **A home in God’s kingdom:**

### ***Science and Health***

[254:31](#)

### **King James Bible**

[Ps. 23:1-6](#)

[Rom. 8:28](#)

[Ps. 90:1](#)

[Acts 17:28](#)

## **About the author**

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