

Answered Prayers

Be rainfall on cut grass, earth-refreshing rain showers.
Let righteousness burst until the moon fades to nothing.

Psalm 72:6-7, *The Message*

There are times in our lives when anxiety seems to dominate a part of an hour, day(s) or even more. We may know the reason why and at other times cannot figure out why the strange feelings. Going to the physician for test results, waiting for a call about an ill family member, or even anticipating the arrival of a new grandchild can cause the body to respond in strange and unfamiliar ways.

I recall a time long ago when my family experienced the stress that comes with anxiety: The southern sun had beamed down on the hot, dry and sandy earth. Rain was nowhere in sight and the crops were wilting. My grandparents and the whole family were worried and anxious that the income from the sale of the crops would be lost. Eventually, the rains came, the parched earth became wet and the plants stood tall, reaching for the sky. An unspoken calmness and joy came over our family. Prayers had been answered.

I remember another anxious but exciting time while in elementary school: As the Christmas season approached, preparations began at the three-room country school for the Christmas play. All of the sixty or so children waited for that special night and the special treats provided by the teachers. After the program was over, relief and joy filled the room. Those happy times are not forgotten.

Stress and anxieties creep into our lives and we sometimes do not recognize why. It is calming to remember that God cares for us. What a wonderful feeling to know, as Solomon wrote in Psalm 72, "He is like the rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers water the earth!"

Prayer: Dear God, strengthen me that I keep the faith and remember that you know my every need. Help me to remain calm so that I can receive your messages. Help me to be conscious of your presence and love. Amen

Edna Bennett

Additional Scripture Readings:

Psalm 72:18-19

Isaiah 4:2-6

Acts 1:12-17; 21-26