

Living Water
By Lori Otis, Elder

Do you remember your first Vacation Bible School? Growing up, we did not attend church regularly so when the summers came, we always looked so forward to being picked up each morning and riding the church bus to Vacation Bible School. My most vivid memory was when we had to learn and recite Bible verses. It gave me great joy to earn my Memory Verse Certificate at the end of week.

When I was a Youth Leader here at our church, I felt a similar joy. One of the discussions before Youth started was about favorite Bible verses. To my surprise one of the young men shared that his favorite passage in the Bible was Psalm 23. He went on to share that he has Psalm 23 written into the bill of each of all of his baseball caps and how this scripture has impacted his life.

At the time, I honestly thought of Psalm 23 being that passage that would only bring comfort to families when a loved one transitions from this life or I heard it read during a funeral. Never would I have thought that a teenager would choose this scripture to find strength, reassurance and peace.

Later, when I took time to read through the passage and review some study materials, I was not surprised that this young man found such peace through these words.

The Lord is my Shepherd. He is my protector through all life's circumstances.

I shall not want. He is ALL I need!

He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters. God wants us to slow down and allow Him to lead and guide our path.

He restores my soul. When our lives get messy, seek Him to refill and recharge.

He leads me in right paths for His name sake. Walk with him in humility and love.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil. In all you do, call out to Him and allow his light to shine through your trials, your troubles, and your grief.

For you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. He wants us to seek a personal relationship with Him and allow us to be aware and appreciate the many blessings in our lives and give grace to those around us.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long. This is the ultimate promise of

eternal life through the spilled blood and broken body of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ!

Amen