



## DAILY ENCOURAGEMENTS

Carstairs-Bancroft United Church

November 16, 2023



Photo: Our Daily Bread

# GOD'S RESCUE

*He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.*

Psalm 40:2

### READ Psalm 40:1-4

A compassionate volunteer was called a “guardian angel” for his heroic efforts. Jake Manna was installing solar panels at a job site when he joined an urgent search to find a missing five-year-old girl. While neighbors searched their garages and yards, Manna took a path that led him into a nearby wooded area where he spotted the girl waist-deep in a marsh. He waded carefully into the sticky mud to pull her out of her predicament and return her, damp but unharmed, to her grateful mother.

Like that little girl, David also experienced deliverance. The singer “waited patiently” for God to respond to his heartfelt cries for mercy (Psalm 40:1). And He did. God leaned in, paid close attention to his cry for help and responded by rescuing him from the “mud and mire” of his circumstances (v. 2)—providing sure footing for David’s life. The past rescues from the muddy marsh of life reinforced his desire to sing songs of praise, to make God his trust in future circumstances and to share his story with others (vv. 3–4).

When we find ourselves in life challenges such as financial difficulties, marital turmoil, and feelings of inadequacy, let’s cry out to God and patiently wait for Him to respond (v. 1). He’s there, ready to help us in our time of need and give us a firm place to stand.

By **Marvin Williams**

### PRAY & REFLECT

**When I'm stuck in the mud, I'll wait patiently for You, my loving God. Amen**

When has God delivered you from the "muddy marsh? How do His past rescues encourage you to trust in Him?

### SCRIPTURE INSIGHT

Psalm 40 is identified as a psalm of David, but we aren't given any other information regarding the events that prompted him to write it. Some scholars, however, find messianic significance in verses 6-9 because the songwriter expresses his commitment to do God's will seemingly at all costs. Jesus made similar statements in the gospel of John: "My food . . . is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work" (4:34); and "the one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him" (8:29). Our Savior's commitment in these verses seems to echo the words of David in Psalm 40:6-9. – By **Bill Crowder**

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