

“God’s Search and Rescue Plan”

“For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness.”
(Ezekiel 34:11-12)

On February 10, 2012, *Fox News* reported that what began as a simple rear-end crash on Highway 138E ended in a life-saving search and rescue mission by Oregon State Troopers. Following a nearly two-day search, the troopers found a hypothermic man that suffered from severe PTSD and panic attacks. He had fled his vehicle following a non-injury crash near Umpqua National Forest.

Knowing that the man would not survive the frigid weather with little clothing and no supplies, the troopers searched with snowmobiles. They then followed the man’s tracks north into the snow-filled woods on foot for about five miles to a remote road. Hiking back to their pickup, the troopers returned by snowmobile, traveling up the remote road about 1 ½ miles. There they found the man lying on the ground covered with tree branches. The troopers attributed their success in finding the lost man to determination and to their tracking skills.

In this true story, the troopers did not give up searching for the lost man. Just as the troopers were determined to rescue this man, our Almighty Sovereign God will do the same for us.

The problem for many of us is that we don’t feel valuable enough to be sought after by the True Shepherd. We harbor feelings of unworthiness and inadequacy. Perhaps our shortcomings and low self-esteem make us feel so low and unworthy. "How could God possibly love someone like me?" we may ask. We can't imagine it, because after all, we believe we don't really deserve His love.

But, even as Yahweh brought back the exiles from the East into the land of their fathers, so does the Good Shepherd restore the sinful and believing to His gracious heart, and to the fellowship of his rejoicing Church, to never go astray again.

Our Good Shepherd longs to find every one of us even in our own destructive deeds and impulses. And the Good Shepherd yearns to put us on His broad loving shoulders, rejoicing, and bring us home!

*Reverend Melissa Wise
Associate Minister*



**FIRST MISSIONARY
BAPTIST CHURCH
REV. RONDALL LEGGETT,
PASTOR
501 DRAKE AVENUE
MARIN CITY, CA 94952
(415) 332-2826
<http://www.fmbc4christ.org>**