

## **GOD'S ARM IS NOT TOO SHORT**

Isaiah 59:1 "Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save. . ."

Mary wanted to remove a storage box that was on the top shelf of her pantry. She was standing on her faithful two step stool, extending her arms as far as they would go. Her fingers barely touched the bottom of the shelf, but were not able to touch the storage box at all. Her arms were too short.

"Hand shortened" is an Oriental emblem of weakness, as the long stretched-out hand is a symbol of power. These Oriental emblems remind me of a wedding rehearsal I conducted many, many years ago. The wedding party arrived in small groups of twos and fours. As is often the case, some were uncomfortable with being in the wedding party, probably for a variety of reasons. There was one young man who caught my attention. I overheard him say to his buddy standing next to him as he put both of his arms over his head, "I sure hope the rafters are strong, I haven't been in a church in years." Every time I think of this I've wondered if he really thought his arms would protect his head.

The woman unable to reach the top. . .the young man with his arms over his head. . .those who think God's hand is too short to save them. . . Isaiah wrote, "God's hand is not too short. . ." The young man did not have to put his arms over his head. Jesus came into the world, "not to condemn. . .but to save. (John 3:17) There is salvation in no one other than Jesus. (Acts 4:12)

Isaiah's words remind me what Nathanael questioned regarding Jesus: "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" (John 1:46) Nathanael's question is fairly similar to people questioning whether God is able to save them? The heart of God is filled with His desire that all people will be saved. (1 Timothy 2:4) Jesus humbled Himself to come to earth to pay the ransom price for the sins of all humanity. (Philippians 2:5-7)

God's arm reaches out with His Gospel (Good News) word which is His power for salvation for all who believe. (Romans 1:16) "For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. . . we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." (1 Corinthians 1:18,24) Jesus' arms on the cross were not too short. They were just the right length. Only He can save sinners.

Prayer: O Lord, thanks and praise to You for Your gracious love for me, a sinner. When I am weak, You are strong. Keep me in Your loving, saving care. In Jesus' name. Amen,

Jesus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won; And although the way be cheerless,  
We will follow calm and fearless. Guide us by Thy hand To our fatherland.

If the way be drear, if the foe be near, Let not faithless fears o'ertake us;  
Let not faith and hope forsake us; For through many-a woe To our home we  
go.

When we seek relief From a long-felt grief, When temptations come alluring,  
Make us patient and enduring. Show us that bright shore Where we weep no  
more.

Jesus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won. Heav'nly leader, still direct us;  
Let not faith and hope forsake us; Till we safely stand In our fatherland.  
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