



13 February 2026

## We are joyful!

Today's devotional comes in the context of the news on Tuesday that the District of Peachland at their Council meeting stated that "municipal acquisition of [our] property is no longer being considered."

It has been a long, over four year-long process. We should be, and are thankful and joyful because God has done great things for us!

In light of this, think about Psalm 126.

When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with joyful shouting; then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." The LORD has done great things for us; we are joyful. Restore our fortunes, LORD, as the streams in the South. Those who sow in tears shall harvest with joyful shouting. One who goes here and there weeping, carrying his bag of seed, shall indeed come again with a shout of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

This Psalm is one of the Psalms, or *Songs of Ascent*. One basic, early use of these Psalms was by people traveling to, or *ascending to* Jerusalem for the three required-attendance, nationwide festivals each year: Passover, Pentecost, Booths. As they spent those days walking in family and community groups they would prepare for the times of worship in Jerusalem. One key part of their preparation was singing these *Songs of Ascent*.

While the Psalm is set in the history of Israel, there are lessons for us today, and every day.

One lesson is that God performs His work in His way and time regardless of how difficult, stressful and hopeless it may seem to be to us, or how impossible it is for us on our own. The people of Israel experienced that when they were captives, but God brought them back into their land. So generations traveling to Jerusalem for the festivals remembered and sang praises to God for it. We were lost and dead in our sins, *but God* "being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which



He loved us, even when we were dead in our wrongdoings, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) [Ephesians 2:4-5]. In our over four year-long journey God was working in His time and way according to His will. He has done great things for us and we are joyful.

Flowing from this is a second lesson: we should always remember the acts of God, the evidence of His great love, power and grace to us. The Jewish people did as they sang this song. Before long God's great work for us regarding our property could fade in the rear view mirror. The writer of Psalm 77 said, "I shall remember the deeds of the LORD; I will certainly remember Your wonders of old. I will meditate on all Your work, and on Your deeds with thanksgiving" (11-12). The writer of Psalm 105 sounds the call, "Remember [God's] wonders which He has done, His marvels and the judgments spoken by His mouth" (5). While not stated in Scripture, I have long thought it is good to remember God's answers to our prayers for at least as long as we prayed for them, if not longer.

One more lesson is that the threats, stresses, heartaches and sorrow will not last forever. Our Psalm states the principle, "Those who sow in tears shall harvest with joyful shouting. One who goes here and there weeping, carrying his bag of seed, shall indeed come again with a shout of joy, bringing his sheaves with him" (5-6). King David testified from his experience with God, "Weeping may last for the night, but a shout of joy comes in the morning" (Psalm 30:5). You may be facing some long, dark times. It won't always be this way because God is at work. You may know the gospel song,

Someone said that in each life some rain is bound to fall and each one sheds his share of tears, and trouble troubles us all. But the hurt can't hurt forever and the tears are sure to dry. And it won't rain always, the clouds will soon be gone. The sun that they've been hiding has been there all along and it won't rain always. God's promises are true. The sun's gonna shine in His own good time, and He will see you through.

Some difficulties are long term, but not one of them will go with you into eternity.

As we celebrate and give God thanks and praise for His work about us staying in our location, let this also be a reminder of these lessons for every situation, every day of our lives.

Pastor Lyle