



WINTER 2025 | ISSUE 37

Inspiration, advice and resources for God's faithful servants



I saw a poster with a turtle on top of a fence post, struggling to get down. The caption read, "If you ever see a turtle on a fence post, just know it did not get there by itself!"

A man walking his dog did find a turtle on a fence post. It was, indeed, struggling to get down, and he was upset that anyone would commit such a cruel deed. As he began to walk again, he turned to see a small boy placing the turtle back on the fence post.

He quickly confronted the boy about his act of cruelty. After a while, the boy interrupted to defend his action. In a few minutes, there would be a shift change at the warehouse across the street, and a parking lot full of cars would leave as a new set of cars

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. | Romans 8:28

would arrive. The turtle had wandered into what would soon be a street filled with cars coming and going. The boy intended to take the turtle down after the shift change. In actuality, the boy was saving the turtle from its own self.

Most of us know the verse above by memory but often find it difficult to accept. Like the man, we find it difficult to see how some things can work for one's good. We wonder how this illness, this tragedy or this broken relationship can really work for our good.

Romans 8:28 is a challenge to us when we face difficult situations.

The first challenge is for us to believe the Word of God. This verse does not tell us that everything we face is good but that God can bring good from





We have been made aware of an SBC resource specifically for you! NAMB® (North American Mission Board®) has released a podcast specifically for ministry wives.

Hosted by Amy Petersen, the podcast features honest conversations about the realities of the ministry wife life and how to keep your hearts tethered to Jesus as you serve him. Whether you're seeking encouragement or practical tips, don't miss out on these heartfelt discussions with women in various ministry contexts about the joys and challenges of ministry life.

The most recent episode features GuideStone's Angela McClain to discuss tips and tricks for budgeting in ministry.

Listen Today!



NAMB.net/podcast_channel/ ministry-wives-podcast/

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everything we face. God has a way of reversing circumstances and bringing good from them. So, we must begin by believing this verse.

We must then **trust God's hand**. God does not allow some circumstances in our lives to hurt us but to help us. Sometimes, he does so to save us from ourselves, as the boy did for the turtle. Though we do not always understand what God is doing at the moment, we must trust his hand.

And then we need to **rest in his care**. If we believe his Word and trust his hand, we can rest in knowing that he is working all things for our good.

How is the Lord working for your good today?



Johnny Mansell

Served the Lord alongside his wife, Kathie, for 38 years Mission:Dignity® recipient since 2015.





Zach Brown joins Mission:Dignity as our database coordinator. He recently graduated from Mays Business School at Texas A&M® University with a degree in management of information systems and technology. Originally from Houston, Texas, Zachary is passionate about serving the Lord and loves the opportunity to serve others through Mission:Dignity. Zach and his newlywedded wife, Brenna, live in McKinney, Texas.

Help Spread the Word About Mission:Dignity



Our new recipient relations manager, Chad Vandiver, has begun hosting Mission:Dignity Forums, meetings to help Southern Baptist leaders identify and provide for the needs of prospective Mission:Dignity recipients. We hope that leaders nationwide will be inspired to help source financial aid to those who need it most.

These forums will begin in Texas, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Kentucky and then expand to other states. The goal of the Mission:Dignity Forums is to recruit more recipients and care for more Southern Baptist soldiers of the cross.

If you know of a local pastor or associational leader you'd like to connect to Mission:Dignity, please call **1-877-888-9409** and ask for Chad Vandiver or email him at *Chad.Vandiver@GuideStone.org*.



More information about upcoming events can be found at *MissionDignity.org/Forum*.

Look for Our Call

When the Mission:Dignity staff calls you, our phone number may appear as our toll-free number and/or location: **1-877-888-9409** or Dallas, TX. Please save this number on your phone and answer when we call. We may have important information for you!

¿Habla español? Si usted necesita hablar con alguien que hable español, llame al 1-877-888-9409, elija "la opción 1" y pregunte por "Sophia" o "Chad".





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Renew Your Application on Time!

It's more important than ever to submit your grant renewal application on time. Please review these important steps for renewal:

- 1. Your renewal application should arrive in the mail three months before the 1st of the month in which your grant expires.
- 2. If you do not receive the renewal, please contact the Mission:Dignity office so we can send one once we have verified your address. This will help ensure a seamless transition to a new grant once approved.

Please also note that you may receive a call from a manager or director to confirm information on your renewal application.

Contact Us!



Call us at 1-877-888-9409 and select "Option 1".

- Fax documents to 1-866-692-6327.
- Email us at MissionDignity@GuideStone.org.
- Use the enclosed postage-paid envelope.







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