

Thought for the Day 13th November - John Reed

Read Psalm 40

First, my apologies for not providing a thought for the day on Wednesday this week. It was a busy morning, and my mind was elsewhere, hurriedly trying to make arrangements to get Janine to the hospital, and Riley to school.

For those who don't know already, Janine had a fall on Tuesday evening. Our next-door neighbours have some trees on the fence between our houses, which they were getting cut back. The tradesmen were working from our side, lopping and dropping the branches, and then mulching it. And Janine was out there watching. For those not familiar with it, our whole block is on a slope. And somehow, as she stood on the slope, Janine lost her footing and fell over, hurting her foot. She bravely picked herself up and came inside, but as time went on the pain got worse. And by five o'clock the next morning she knew she had broken something and had to go to the hospital. However, of course, we have our seven-year-old grandson Riley in our care, and we couldn't leave him home on his own, or ask him to make his own way to school. So Joan Loane saved the day by taking Janine to the hospital, while I got Riley ready and off to school. Sure enough, Janine has broken a bone in her foot, and is now in a moon boot and on crutches, and we're having to rework our lives and routines around her inability to walk or drive.

I tell you this to keep you informed, and to ask for your prayers. But it also brings me God in this reading from Psalm 40.

Again, in case you didn't know, we have a shared driveway (technically it's our driveway, but we have to allow our neighbours access across it). And the tree loppers had dropped their massive pile of mulch on the driveway. We wanted it – but not there. So, after I'd got Janine safely back in the house, I went out to help them shovel the mulch off the driveway. And as we worked away shoulder to shoulder, the tree lopper asked how Janine was. He'd seen her fall, and was concerned about her. He said: "I just wanted to go over and pick her up and give her a cuddle!" I appreciate the fact that he didn't – but I was touched by the thought, and the comment.

David, in this Psalm, knows that that's how God feels about him. In verse 1 he says that God heard his cry. And in verse 2, God picked him up out of "the pit of destruction," and set his feet on a rock. Just as that tree lopper saw Janine fall and wanted to pick her up and help her, so God sees us when we fall and picks us up and helps us. And just as I appreciate – and will tell others about – the kindness of the tree lopper, so we should tell others about the goodness of God. As David says in verse 3: "He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God."