Walking Through the Pain
July 19th, 2012

In plant one of our campus here in Three Rivers, Mi., right next to the conference rooms downstairs, there is a beautiful little chapel. In fact, you can see this chapel on our website. On the wall there is a verse painted for all to see that sums up the need for such a place in the middle of an international corporation. The verse is from the New Testament book of Matthew, Chapter 11, verse 28, which reads as follows:

"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy, and I will give you rest."

I recall when I was in boot camp in the Army and they filled us with whatever they fill soldiers with before shipping out by lining us up like an assembly line and walking us through medical people (I think) who injected strange mixtures in both arms.

One of our biggest guys who towered above the rest and boasted frequently about his greatness was about 3 guys down from me in formation. I remember, like it was slow motion, this giant of a man falling face first into the gravel as he passed out from the shots. Blood streamed down his face as he tried to get back up as a Drill Sargeant was yelling in his face, "Get up, you sissy! No one passes out in my platoon!"

It is obvious to me this man needed to rest after the trauma of those small needles piercing his big, muscular arms. Resting on his face in the gravel may not have been his chosen resting place?

It is a tough thing for us when pain strikes. Knocked to our knees by the pains of life tests our faith. We wonder "Why me?" We struggle to get back up again, sometimes only to be knocked out again.

The first impact is the worst. I strong knuckled blow to the stomach occurs when a spouse has been unfaithful. Eyes are blackened by a child who finds himself in jail after a poor decision. A nose is bloodied by a blow as a doctors report suggests a potential problem lies within. A sudden death blows you and
your "pretty faith" away like a tornado just hit your house. We are surprised by the suffering.

The strong and the weak are all affected the same way when the cares of this world pour out over our lives. But, the strong in faith, even though their faith may be shaken, fall back on the claims that the apostle Paul made to the Corinthian believers in 2 Corinthians 4:8–10.

"We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest."

The victorious life of Jesus, victorious in every way, works through our lives when we walk through the pain. After all, we never walk through that pain alone. Jesus promised He would never leave us. Never forsake us.

Enter that chapel and rest from your labors of life. Enter heavy laden and leave your troubles there. Walk out with your head lifted high, knowing that you have just met with your Father there. He saw you. He knows you. He feels your pain. He calms your fears. He is your Heavenly Father and nothing can compare with the love of God who is walking through the pain with you.