

Editor's Letter

Even there

What an amazing start to 2023! You don't have to be paying much attention to current events to notice how God is moving and working all around us. From working with refugees in war-torn Ukraine to a revival that started at Asbury University and has spread to multiple college campuses and beyond! But we know through Scripture that no matter where we go, He is there! In Psalm 139, David is going through all the places and areas that he can go but where God still is there. In his own thoughts and even before he was born—there was God. One of the verses and phrases I've really been meditating on is verse 10 where he writes, "*even there your hand will lead me; your right hand will hold on to me*" (CSB). No matter whether it is day or night, high or low, east or west—**even there**.

God has shown up in so many ways already in 2023. Just a few weeks into the new year, an amazing event, Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC), happened at London Bridge Baptist Church in Virginia Beach. Over 880 students and leaders came to hear God's Word spoken and preached through the music, an illusionist, and a guest speaker (Shane Pruitt). The Holy Spirit stirred the hearts of those listening, and we saw 50 salvations, 18 rededications, 8 callings into ministry, and 22 other decisions.

Not long after that, I was able to represent SBCV churches at the Warrenton Pregnancy Center for a very special dedication service. Because of your generosity through the *Vision Virginia* offering, we partnered with Psalm 139 ministry/ERLC to give \$25,000 for a new ultrasound unit. We received multiple thank-yous and reminders of the hundreds and even thousands of lives that could be impacted by this one gift.

Then in February, thousands came from around the Commonwealth to Richmond for much more than a march around the Virginia State Capitol. The Virginia March for Life started with a special breakfast for pastors, followed by a time to meet and talk with legislators about these important issues. Multiple speakers, including Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares, shared their heart and passion for life at a rally just outside the capitol. Then everyone



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present, including Governor Youngkin, marched together to show the media and the General Assembly that the work God is doing in each of us started when "He knit [us] together in [our mothers' wombs]" (Psalm 139:13).

I don't know where your "even there" is today. You could be in the middle of a crisis or celebrating an amazing moment. You may be debating where God has you now or patiently waiting for what He has for you next. Remember, wherever you are, He is there. And if you keep reading down the page in Psalm 139, you will see an amazing truth that makes His "even there" all the more special. David writes in verse 17, "God, how precious your thoughts are to me; how vast their sum is!" So, as we continue to serve Him this year, let's remember: not only is He with you in middle of family, work, and ministry, but His thoughts are precious, abundant, and about you—"even there." ■

