



## A FRESH START

March 2017

*"Forget the former things;  
do not dwell on the past.*

*See, I am doing a new thing!  
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?  
I am making a way in the wilderness  
and streams in the wasteland."*

Isaiah 43:18-19

When we feel at our worst, when we remember the bad stuff in our lives—things that have happened, things we've done. God tells us to forget them. He tells us that all is now in the past. A new day has begun. Through the prophet Isaiah he tells us to look ahead—to look to the

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future. To see what God has in his plans.

God has a plan—something he is working on. Something he'd like to see happen for the good of others. And he wants to involve us. Within our minds and imagination we hear him calling us to join him in his work. The work could be a small project. It could be a big one. But it will be just right for us. Throughout our life he has prepared us for this.

Have you ever gotten so excited about an idea—about something that you can see needs to happen—that you can hardly wait to get to work on it?

But it's scary too, especially when the plans seem massive in size. Where do you start? How can a small person like me possibly help such big things happen?

When you think that way—and we all will—you've forgotten something. This is not *your* work, it's *God's*. All you have to do is to provide the hands, the feet, and the voice, ready to pitch in where needed. And you'll have to bring obedience and trust in the great Maker—the designer of all there is. It's *his* work. It's not up to you alone.

When you trust God in this way, you'll be surprised to see how courageous you can be. How strong you can be. You'll discover the person God made you to be.

Working with and for God is a bit like trying to walk in the Judean wilderness. This wilderness is not just barren land. It's made up of jagged steep hills. To make a road, each hill would have to be flattened and the deep gullies filled in. It might seem impossible. But God is able.

The same holds true when trying to create a river in the desert. The only way a river could be formed would be for a miracle to occur, just as God did in Israel's wanderings in the wilderness. With God, all is possible.

All things are possible with God. And he's doing a new thing. Do you perceive it?

marja