

Welcome!

- ✓ *Grab a cup of coffee and breakfast.*
- ✓ *Say hello to someone you don't know.*
- ✓ *We'll gather at 10:20am.*

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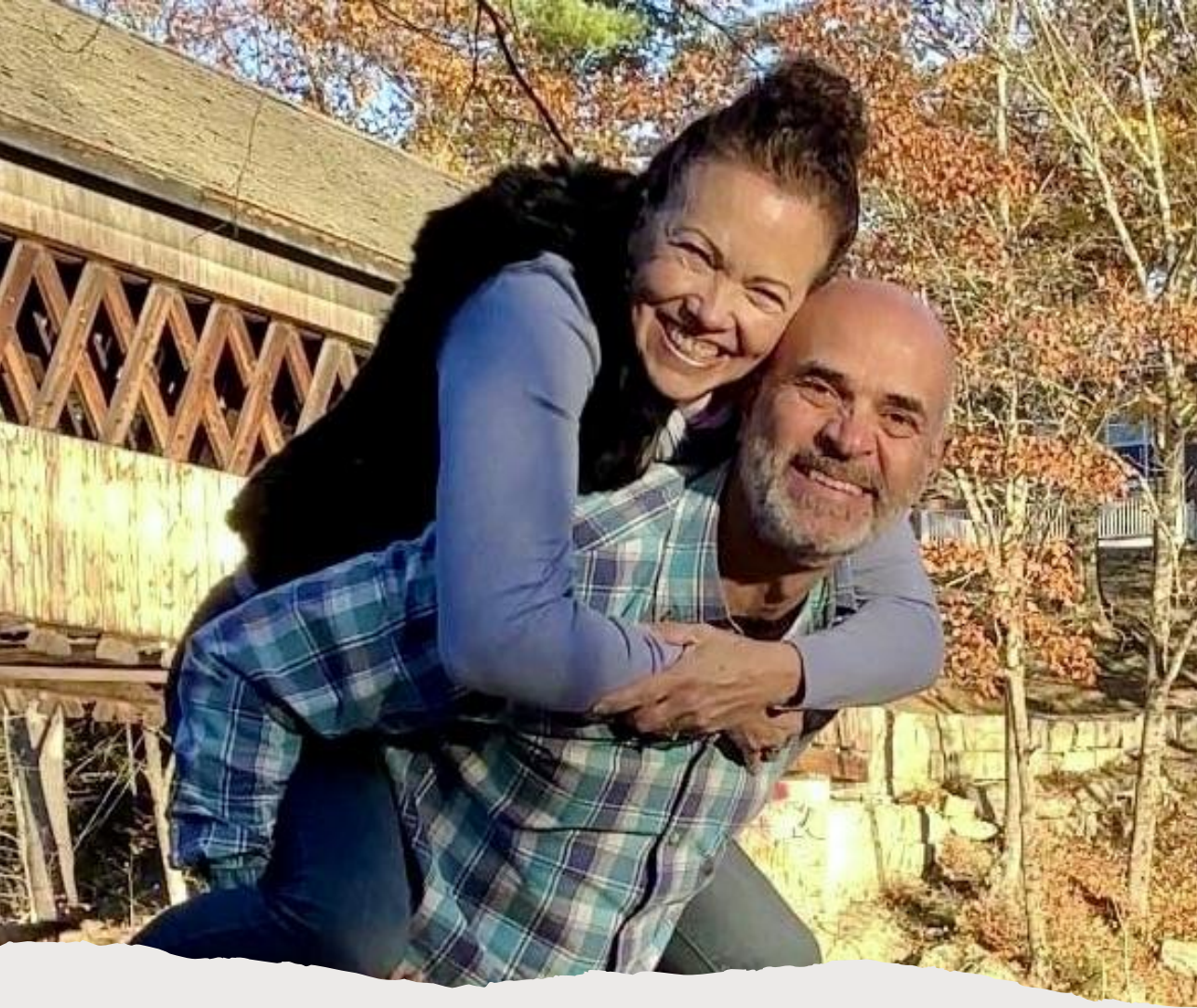
Debbie Saenz

ABOUT YOU

Birthplace, Family, Vocation,
Passions, Interests

ABOUT FAITH

Growing up, Life B.C., Turning
Point, Surrender, Life A.D.



Hernando & Debbie Saenz





Monkey Wrench Brewing (Suwanee, GA)





Decatur, Georgia



Sugar Hill, GA











D'Saenz



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Preparing our Hearts for Worship

Psalm 105:1-7 (The Message)

*Thank God! Pray to him by name!
Tell everyone you meet what he has done!
Sing him songs, belt out hymns,
translate his wonders into music!
Honor his holy name with Hallelujahs,
you who seek God. Live a happy life!*

*Keep your eyes open for God,
watch for his works;
be alert for signs of his presence.*

*Remember the world of wonders he has made,
his miracles, and the verdicts he's rendered*

*O seed of Abraham, his servant,
O child of Jacob, his chosen.*

*He's God, our God,
in charge of the whole earth.*

A shepherd, seen from behind, stands on a grassy hillside. He is wearing a dark cap and a light-colored jacket over a blue shirt. A large, light-colored bag or bundle is slung over his shoulder. In the distance, several sheep are grazing on the grass. The background features a body of water with white foam, possibly a beach or a bay. The overall scene is peaceful and pastoral.

The Shepherd & Our Stories Psalm 23

The 23rd Psalm

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.

3 He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

The 23rd Psalm

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.

6 Surely goodness and mercy (lovingkindness) will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 23:3

*He restores my soul;
He guides me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.*

He restores my soul

Hebrew - שׁוּב (pronounced “shoob”)

- to return, bring back

Synonyms

Renew – Renovate – Regenerate – Resuscitate –
Rejuvenate – Revitalize – Refresh – Revive













How does God restore our souls?

- Reconciles
- Rescues
- Ransoms
- Redeems

God reconciles us.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.”

– 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

God rescues us.

*"For **he has rescued us** from the dominion of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."*

– Colossians 1:13

God ransoms us.

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” – Mark 10:45

God redeems us.

“But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.”

– Galatians 4:4-5

Results of Restoration (from / to):

- enslavement to sin to freedom in Christ
- condemnation to acceptance
- judgment to forgiveness
- guilt to grace
- death to life

How does God daily restore us?

God guides us by the Word of God, the Spirit of God, and the people of God

He guides me in paths of righteousness

2 paths in life

- *Death and destruction*
- *Life and righteousness*

Living by the Flesh or the Spirit

*“Those who live according to the **flesh** have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the **Spirit** have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.*

The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.”

– Romans 8:5-6

Death and Destruction

The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.” – Romans 8:7-8

“There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.” – Proverbs 14:12

Life and Righteousness

*God made him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that **in him we might become the righteousness of God.** – 2 Corinthians 5:21*

Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, **our righteousness**, holiness and redemption.” - 1 Corinthians 1:30

“Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be **righteousness for everyone who believes.**”
- Romans 10:4

“The first Adam ushered all of mankind into sin and death by a tree. The second Adam restored mankind into life and righteousness by conquering sin and death on a tree.”

- Doug Wilson

How does God guide us?

God guides us by the Word of God, the Spirit of God, and the people of God

For His name's sake.

WSC #1: What is the chief end of man?

To glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

Glory (def): pinnacle of prosperity or achievement, splendor, renown, satisfaction, gratification, perfect happiness

Shared Glory

*“The only reason God would have had for creating us was not to get the cosmic love and joy of relationship (because he already had that) but **to share it.**” - Jonathan Edwards*

*“Jonathan Edwards shows how it is completely consistent for a triune God - who is ‘other-oriented’ in his very core, who **seeks glory only to give it to others** - to communicate happiness and delight in his own divine perfections and beauty to others.” - Tim Keller*

Shared Glory

*“I have given them the glory
that you gave me.”*

- Jesus (John 17:22)

Final Thoughts

God restores our soul and guides us in paths of righteousness because He is good, loving, and generous. These acts of restoration and guidance are His doing (from beginning to end) and we are invited to walk in the path that He has set before us.

How do we attain God's glory?

We attain God's glory by surrendering ourselves to Christ, and by letting Him guide us by the Word of God, the Spirit of God, and the people of God.

Final Thoughts

Because God is abundantly kind and loving, and generous, He is perfectly pleased and satisfied to accumulate glory **not only for His name's sake, but also to share it with us!**



Debbie Saenz

Q: *Is there anything about your faith story that connects with Psalm 23:2, "He makes me rest and leads me to refreshing."*

The Blessing

Psalm 23 & John 10
(from Jesus' perspective)

*I am your Good Shepherd, and I will take care of you.
When you're weary, I'll give you rest in green pastures,
When you're anxious, I'll guide you beside quiet waters,
When you're exhausted, I'll restore your soul.
When you're lost, I'll guide you in the right direction.*

*When you walk through the darkest valleys of life,
you don't need to fear because I will be with you.
When you're surrounded and under attack,
I will protect you.*

*I have laid down My life for you, so that you
can have life with fullness of joy.*

*My lovingkindness will follow you every day of your life,
and you will dwell with me in the house of God our
Father, forever and ever. Amen*

