

Angels Among Us
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*“This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.
The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.”* Psalm 34:6, 7

My dad is an amazing craftsman. He is good with wood, whether it is carving or building. He can manage the intricacies of creating fine jewelry, and at the same time he can tune up the engine in a car built before 1984. But one of the things he does best has always amazed me, he works well in stained glass creating works of bold colors and great beauty.

One year for Christmas he started early and decided to make a stained glass angel for each of his five children. “Children” is a stretch as we were all in our own homes by then, but still. Each angel was from the same design, but they were all unique in the glass that was used. He put them each on a chain to hang from a ceiling of in a window.

From the beginning mine has hung in the office where I serve. This angel turns slightly with the currents of the heat or the air. Not so you can see the motion, but when you come into the room, it may be facing a different direction than it was before. The thing I love about its motion is that it always draws me back to the thoughts that accompany this particular work of my father’s hands.

The thought of the angel of the Lord which encamps around those who fear Him. When I am reminded of the God of all creation and His compassion and care for me, it gives me strength to get through this day and the next. The simple promises of God are so often forgotten in the moments we need them most. But this gift from my earthly father reminds me of the grace, mercy, and love of my heavenly Father. It points me again and again towards the salvation won on the cross, and the gift of eternal life. And most of all it encourages me with its reminder of the angel of the Lord. He is the one who delivers me and protects me. I can trust in Him.