



# REFLECTIONS

Grace OPC

## The Mysteries of Providence

By Pastor Brian De Jong

What are God’s works of providence? *God’s works of providence are his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures; ordering them, and all their actions, to his own glory.*

These words come from our Westminster Larger Catechism. They explain something mysterious, yet comforting. This is a grid for understanding reality as we know it. Providence answers the “why” questions, although not always as specifically as men might wish.

Providence begins with a God who is holy, wise and powerful. He is the Sovereign Lord who made the world and all things in it. He is the One who upholds all things by His powerful word, and in whom all things cohere. This God has ordained whatsoever comes to pass, and who alone has the power to make all things meet their appointed ends.

The power of this Omnipotent God is always guided by holiness and wisdom. He is never out of control, nor does He do anything which is evil, wicked or unrighteous. Moral rectitude marks all of His actions, for He cannot transact anything which is unholy.

Thus does the great God preserve and govern all His creatures and all their actions. He has so ordered their existence and their activities to serve His

own glory. This includes the entire human race in their individual, familial and national existence. He governs men and nations, we say.

It also encompasses all other living creatures – insects, birds, fish, reptiles, land animals, and livestock. God preserves and governs all inanimate aspects of his creation – rocks, rivers, mountains, oceans, the sun, moon and stars – everything in this universe He has made. He even preserves and governs invisible things – such



forces as gravity comes to mind. But He is also the Lord of the angels, and He is sovereign over the hosts of hell. Thus angels and demons are controlled by His providence.

We would be remiss if we didn’t recognize that God’s providence even extends to the macro movements of the universe. The earth spinning on its axis, tilting into and out of the seasons. The planets and the stars hanging in space, following their courses. Even the great galaxies – some with hundred of millions of stars and planets in them – all these are likewise controlled by a good Providence.

These things are all mind-boggling, if one thinks about them. Yet there are other aspects of Providence that mystify us also. Why does a healthy young mother suddenly contract

*Continued on last page...*

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Inside this issue:

<i>Pastor’s Article</i>	1
<i>6 Tips for Reading the Bible with Your Kids</i>	2-3
<i>Sunset Hills Golf</i>	3
<i>Anchor of Hope Newsletter</i>	4-6
<i>John Ploughman</i>	6-7
<i>Good News Jail and Prison Ministry Volunteer Opportunities</i>	8
<i>Baby Shower</i>	8
	9
<i>July Birthdays and Anniversaries</i>	9
<i>July Calendar</i>	10
<i>Recipe Corner</i>	11
<i>Spurgeon Corner</i>	12
<b>Mnemonics...</b>	
• <i>Men’s Potluck, July 1st</i>	
• <i>Emily’s Baby Shower, July 12th</i>	
• <i>Meadowview Manor, July 15th</i>	
• <i>Session Meeting, July 17th</i>	
• <i>Alyssa’s Baby Shower, July 28th</i>	

## 6 Tips for Reading the Bible with Your

By David Murray



### Happy Childhood Memories

When we look back on our childhoods, among many other happy memories, we may recall our parents reading with us. “Jack and the Beanstalk,” “Little Red Riding Hood,” “Three Little Pigs,” and multiple other children’s classics cast a warm hue upon our earliest recollections.

So why don’t we do the same with the Bible? Why don’t we read the Bible one-on-one with our children? Wouldn’t it be wonderful to give our children that best of memories? If you haven’t started such a practice, let me give you some guidance to start the ball rolling.

#### 1. Give them a good reason to read the Bible.

Students do best when they are motivated by the ultimate aim of their studies. That’s why it’s so important to answer the “Why?” question up front, and to keep it in front, when reading the Bible with our children.

“Why are we doing this?”

“We’re reading the Bible together because we want to know and love God, and live our lives for his glory and the good of others.” That’s my purpose statement. Yours may be slightly different, but without it, we won’t sustain the practice of reading the Bible with our kids. And let’s remind them of that glorious purpose continually, so that they too can catch the motivation.

#### 2. Establish a routine.

Like everything else in life, reading the Bible with our kids is much more likely to happen if it becomes part of our routine. It takes about 6–8 weeks to build a habit by doing something at the same time in the same place with the same person. There will be ups and downs in that period, with times of forgetfulness and catch-up, but it will eventually become part of the fabric of life.

*Reading the Bible with our kids is much more likely to happen if it becomes part of our routine.*

Try to find a slot in your schedule that you can commit to, push through the first 6–8 weeks, and you and your children will have formed a holy habit.

#### 3. Be realistic.

As someone who once tried to teach my hyperactive five- and six-year-old sons Hebrew, believe me, I know the folly of unrealistic expectations. That lasted about four days. And that’s about how long many of our Bible reading plans last, too. We set Everest goals and don’t even get to base camp.

It took me many years to grasp the limitations of my children’s minds when it came to my spiritual ambitions for them. However, by the time the boys were about ten or eleven, I’d drastically lowered my goals, and then it began to click. We read less, but learned more.

#### 4. Be systematic.

When I was young, if I ever opened my Bible, I did so randomly and just read some verses here and there. The result was a patchwork of Bible knowledge with no sense of an overall story, and no sense of connection between the passages, the chapters, the books, or the Testaments.

When reading the Bible with our kids, let’s do so systematically, reading whole books of the Bible

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together over time. Doing so will teach them to wrestle with harder passages, expose them to the whole counsel of God, and forge connections within books, between books, and between the Testaments.

### 5. Ask good questions.

Asking our children questions about what they read increases their concentration, cements the content, and helps them to apply it to their lives. When children are young, the focus should be on content using the familiar *what, where, when, and who* questions. The aim is to build up their store of Bible knowledge. As our children get older, we can ask questions more focused on the meaning and implications of the passages.

Two questions I've tried to keep asking my kids are: "What does this teach us about God?" and "What does this teach us about salvation?" Again, I hope that, by repetition, these questions become part of the fabric of their thinking processes. Other general questions might include, "What does this teach us about sin . . . the world . . . the Christian life . . . mission and evangelism?" and so on.

We should also invite questions from our children, although they will sometimes ask silly questions or perhaps even stump us from time to time. We mustn't do anything that will stifle their inquiries and even when they strike us out, we simply say, "I don't know but I'll find out." Then open Matthew Henry's commentary or a good study Bible and make sure you do get back to them with an answer.

### 6. Ask God for help.

By praying before reading the Bible, we demonstrate to our children the need for heavenly help if we are to benefit from our reading. We show our dependence upon God as we ask him for light on his Word. After reading together, why not help your children to turn what you've read into prayers. What in this passage can we turn into a praise, a confession, a thanksgiving, or a request?

The aim in all this is to establish patterns and habits that will eventually result in them reading the Bible independently with profit and pleasure.

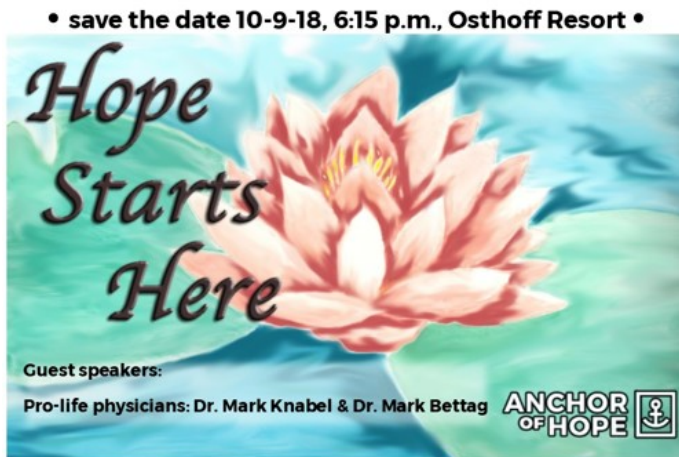
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## Sunset Hills Golf

A golf outing is being planned for July 4th, 8:30am, at Sunset Hills Golf Course. The address is W 3634 Sunset Rd, Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085. Prices are \$9 for children and seniors and \$11 for 9 holes for adults. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Brady Froh at 920-889-7071.



# Anchor of Hope Pregnancy Center Update



## Our 4th Annual Banquet

Please save the date for **Anchor of Hope's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet, to be held October 9th**. The banquet will once again be held at the beautiful Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake, WI. We are thrilled to have Dr. Mark Knabel and Dr. Mark Bettag, as our guest speakers. Both Dr. Knabel and Dr. Bettag are Pro-life physicians and Anchor of Hope supporters. We also look forward to updating you on the exciting kingdom work God has been doing through the staff at Anchor of Hope.

Our theme for the banquet is "Hope Starts Here" and the lotus flower was chosen to represent this year's theme. Local artist, Ruth Vanderpuy, wisely selected the lotus flower as an appropriate representation of Anchor of Hope's work because it serves as a symbol of hope and new life. This flower traditionally grows in murky swamp water. It takes root in the muck and mud, with the stem sprouting up through the dirty water until the bud gloriously emerges just above the water's surface. When the lotus flower opens, it is a beautiful, symmetrical flower resting perfectly above the filth below. The final flower has no resemblance of the muddy water that fostered its growth.

Isn't that just like Christ? The lotus flower is a beautiful example in nature of the transformation we go through when we allow Christ to rule in our hearts. It is a symbol of the hope that we have because of Christ's sacrifice, and a symbol of the hope that Anchor of Hope wishes to pass on to the community we serve.

Please make plans to join us at our banquet in October and help us bring hope to our community.

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# Center Update

Jacky Drewry  
Center Manager



## God Of the Audible

Did you ever have a day when you started with an idea of what the day would have in store (appointments, activities, tasks to be accomplished, etc.) and you soon realized that your "plan" was just that – "a plan?" At the end of one of the day, you realize the overlap between your "plan" and reality is non-existent? (It's like a Venn diagram that resembles grandma's spectacles.) There's a reason the wisest man to have lived penned these words, "In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps."

[Wednesday](#) was THAT day! Susan (not her real name) stepped into our building at 9:10 am, accompanied by a man (later identified as the baby's father) and two children. We were expecting Susan on [Wednesday](#), just not at 9:00. For a very specific reason, we had scheduled Susan for the 11:00 appointment slot that morning.

Susan had called the Center on [Tuesday](#) asking if we performed abortions at Anchor of Hope. All of us take a deep breath and say a silent prayer when we are asked that particular question. Because the conversation started with this question, Cassie, who answered the phone, knew that she was a high-risk client and heavily leaning toward making a decision to terminate her baby's life. Our team's goal when initial contact is made with an abortion-minded caller is to establish rapport, helping the client feel that she is not alone, and to schedule an appointment for options counseling and an ultrasound. This appointment generally lasts for 1.5 hours. Cassie executed her role with grace and brilliance and she was able to accomplish both goals, scheduling Susan for 11:00 am on [Wednesday](#), the earliest time our medical room and medical staff would be available due to other scheduling appointments.

Now you see where this is going. When Susan stepped through our doors [Wednesday](#) morning with her crew in tow, our "plan" for the day was foiled. For you football fans, we were now "running an audible." It was too late to call the 10:00 appointment and reschedule. There simply was not enough time to listen carefully to Susan and allow her to process out loud everything going on in her life influencing her potential decision to abort before the 10:00 appointment arrived. But it also didn't seem reasonable to ask this abortion-minded woman

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## Anchor of Hope Continued....

(with her two children and the baby's father) to "come back later" when it was more convenient for us.

I am so thankful that nothing takes God by surprise. We were certainly surprised, and quite frankly a bit on edge, about how all of this was going to play out. Our "plan" had been orderly and concise, down to scheduling times, resources, client movement, etc. For those of us who like things well-ordered, schedules are wonderful tools that help us operate with great efficiency and peace of mind.

When everything was said and done, we did go through the intake process and options counseling with Susan shortly after 9. The 10:00 appointment did NOT show up. Susan was able to have an ultrasound and saw her 8-week-old baby. Her heart was moved and her mind WAS changed as she decided to carry her baby. What God saw at 9:10 am on [Wednesday](#) (or before the beginning of time), we were able to see at 11:30. What God allowed us the privilege of seeing and being a part of was a life saved and a mom's heart changed and encouraged to carry her baby. I hope each one of you reading this knows that you were a part of that day with us! Your daily prayers DO change lives and hearts. Your financial support DOES allow us to open our doors for clients like Susan to walk through. Your encouraging words do LIFT us up when we've suffered a loss. So, from the bottom of our hearts - THANK YOU! But, more importantly THANK GOD for being in control of our life's "audibles." We wouldn't have it any other way. But we also welcome the days when our "plan" does resemble God's plan just a bit more.

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## John Ploughman

### Chapter 11: Things Not Worth Trying

That is a wise old saying, "Spend not all you have, believe not all you hear, tell not all you know, and do not all you can." There is so much work to be done that needs our hands that it is a pity to waste a grain of our strength. When the game is not worth the candle, drop it at once. It is wasting time to look for milk in a gate post, or blood in a turnip, or sense in a fool. Never ask a covetous man for money till you have boiled a flint soft. Don't sue a debtor who has not a penny to bless himself with-you will only be throwing good money after bad, which is like losing your ferret without getting a rabbit. Never offer a mirror to a blind man: if a man is so proud that he will not see his faults, he will only quarrel with you for pointing them out to him. It is of no use to hold a lantern to a mole or to talk of heaven to a man who cares for nothing but his dirty money. There's a time for everything, and it is a silly thing to preach to drunken men; it is casting pearls before swine. Get them sober and then talk to them soberly; if you lecture them while they are drunk, you act as if you were drunk yourself.

Do not put a cat on a coachbox or men in places for which they are not fitted. There's no making apples of plums. Little minds will still be little, even if you make them deacons or elders. It's a pity to turn a monkey into a minister or a maid-servant into a mistress. Many preachers are good tailors spoiled, and capital shoemakers turned out of their proper calling. When God means a creature to fly, He gives it wings; and when He intends men to preach, he gives them abilities. It is a pity to push a man into the war if cannot fight. Better discourage a man's climbing than help him to break his neck. Silk purses are not to

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made out of sows' ears, and pigs will never play well on the flute, teach them as long as you like.

It is not wise to aim at impossibilities—it is a waste of powder to fire at the man in the moon. Making boards out of sawdust is a very sensible scheme compared with what some of my London friends have been aiming at, for they have been trying to get money by buying shares in companies; they might quite as soon catch the wind in a net or carry water in a sieve. Bubbles are fine fun for boys, but bubble companies are sharp-edged tools that none should play with. If my friend has money which he can afford to lose, there is still no reason why he should hand it over to a set of knaves. If I wanted to get rid of my leg, I should not get a shark to snap it off for me. Give your money to fools sooner than let rogues wheedle you out of it.

It is never worthwhile to do unnecessary thongs. Never grease a fat sow or praise a proud man. Don't make clothes for fishes or coverings for altars. Don't paint lilies or garnish the gospel. Never bind up a man's head before it is broken or comfort a conscience that makes no confession. Never hold up a candle to the sun or try to prove a thing which nobody doubts. I would advise no one to attempt a thing which cost more than it is worth. You may sweeten a dunghill with lavender water, and a bad living man may keep up a good character by an outward show of religion, but it will turn out a losing business in the long run. If our nation were sensible, it would sweep out a good many expensive but useless people, who eat the malt which lies in the house that Jack built; they live on the national estate but do it little service. To pay a man a pounds earning a penny is a good deal wiser than' keeping bishops who meet together by the score and consult about the best way of doing nothing. If my master's old dog was as sleepy as the bishops are, he would get shot or drowned, for he wouldn't be worth the amount of the dog tax. However, their time of reckoning is nearing, as sure as Christmas is coming.

Long ago, my experience taught me not to dispute with anybody about tastes and whims; one might as well argue about what you can see in the fire. It is of no use plowing the air or trying to convince matters of no consequence. It is useless to try to end a quarrel by getting angry over it; it is much the same as pouring oil on a fire to quench it or blowing coals with the bellows to put them out. Some people like row—I don't envy their choice; I'd rather walk ten miles to get out of a dispute than a half-mile to get into one. I have often been told to be bold and take the bull by the horns; but, as I rather think that the amusement is more pleasant than profitable, I shall leave it to those who are so cracked already that an ugly poke with a horn would not damage their skulls. Solomon says, "Leave off strife before it be meddled with," which is much the same as if he had said, "Leave off before you begin." When you see a mad dog, don't argue with him unless you are sure of your logic. Instead, get out of his way; if nobody calls you a coward, you need not call him a fool—everybody knows that. Meddling in quarrels never finds answers: let hornets' nests be alone, and don't pull down old houses over your own head. Meddlers are sure to hurt their own characters: if you scrub other people's pigs, you will soon need scrubbing yourself. It is the height of folly to interfere between a man and his wife, for they will be sure to leave off fighting each other and turn their whole strength upon you—and it would serve you right, too. If you put your spoon into other people's broth and it scalds you, who is to blame but yourself?

One thing more, don't attempt to make a strong-minded woman give way, but remember:

"If she will, she will,  
You may depend on it.  
If she won't, she won't,  
And there's an end to it."

The other day I cut out of a newspaper a scrap from America, which shall be my endpiece:  
"Dip the Mississippi dry with a teaspoon; twist your heel into the toe of your boot; send up fishing-hooks with balloons and fish for stars; get astride a gossamer and chase a comet; when a rain storm is coming down like the cataract of Niagara, remember where you left your umbrella; choke a flea with a brickbat! In short, prove everything hitherto considered impossible to be possible but never attempt to coax a woman to say she will when she has made up her mind to say she won't.

# Good News Jail and Prison Ministry Volunteer Opportunities



## Volunteer Possibilities

**One-on-one mentoring**—we provide a brief training. They visit in a no contact area.

**Trauma Healing Leaders** – go through the Trauma Healing class then take the training part 1, lead 2 groups, take part 2 of the training.

**Bible Study Leaders**—this would be going inside to help lead Bible studies

**Sunday Worship Leaders**—Our goal is to have a different group each Sunday of the month. Many of these leaders do a Bible study type format with some music.

**Back up for me**— mentoring behind bars, lead Bible studies, lead Trauma Healing, distribute clothing and Bibles, bring in books, follow up with release or transferred ladies, pray, update emails, newsletter articles, get prayers to prater leader, get names to Hope Notes.

**Prayers for the ministries:** for the ladies and for the men and volunteers, and the officers. To be on the prayer list where you receive specific monthly prayer requests, email Gayle at [jesus\\_died4you2@yahoo.com](mailto:jesus_died4you2@yahoo.com)

**Encouragement cards and letters:** Write to ladies.

Please contact Gail Moody if you need more info.

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## Baby Shower

Save the date for a baby shower for Alyssa Arndt to be held on Saturday, July 28th. More details to follow.





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# July Birthdays

Zach Blasczyk 2nd  
Stephanie Arndt 2nd  
Amy Gross 6th  
Al Gross 7th  
Noah Friberg 7th  
Megan Boss 9th  
Paul Doro 15th  
Joel Moody 18th



Brian Wingard 18th  
Carl Nyhof 19th  
Daniel Doro 21st  
Jackie Baatz 22nd  
Phyllis Nyhof 24th  
Graham Ver Velde 25th  
Samantha Nyhof 26th  
Steven Doro 28th

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## *July Anniversaries*

Tim & Tammy Voskuil  
~July 20th, 33 years~

Jim & Arenda Onnink  
~July 30th, 47 years~

Zach & Emile Blasczyk  
~ July 23rd, 2 years~





*Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ*

Grace OPC

# July 2018



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Men's Potluck	2	3	4 Sunset Hills Golf	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Emily's Baby Shower	13	14
15 Meadowview Manor	16	17 Session Meeting	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Allyssa's Baby Shower
29	30	31				

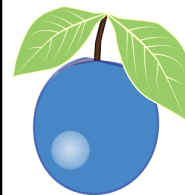
# Ice Cream Pie With Warm Blueberry Sauce

## Ingredients:

- 1 store-bought refrigerated piecrust
- 2 cups fresh blueberries
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 2 pints vanilla ice cream

## Instructions:

- Heat oven to 375° F. Coat the bottom and sides of the tart pans with cooking spray, vegetable oil, or butter.
- Divide the piecrust into 4 portions and roll them out so they're slightly larger than the pans. Press the dough into the pans. Run a rolling pin over the tops to trim the excess dough. Line the dough with parchment paper or foil, fitting it up the sides. Fill with pie weights, dried beans, or uncooked rice. Place the pans on a baking sheet and bake for 10 minutes. Remove the weights and paper and let cool.
- Meanwhile, in a saucepan, over medium heat, cook the berries, sugar, water, cornstarch, and cinnamon until the sauce thickens slightly, 5 to 6 minutes. Remove from heat and cool slightly. Remove the crusts from pans and transfer to serving plates. Place 1/2 pint of ice cream in each tart. Spoon some sauce on top.



*“For He  
has satisfied  
the thirsty soul,  
and the  
hungry soul  
He has filled  
with what  
is good.”*



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*Spurgeon*

*Corner*

*"The voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day."*

*Genesis 3:8*

My soul, now that the cool of the day has come, retire awhile and hearken to the voice of thy God. He is always ready to speak with thee when thou art prepared to hear. If there be any slowness to commune it is not on his part, but altogether on thine own, for he stands at the door and knocks, and if his people will but open he rejoices to enter. But in what state is my heart, which is my Lord's garden? May I venture to hope that it is well trimmed and watered, and is bringing forth fruit fit for him? If not, he will have much to reprove, but still I pray him to come unto me, for nothing can so certainly bring my heart into a right condition as the presence of the Sun of Righteousness, who brings healing in his wings. Come,

therefore, O Lord, my God, my soul invites thee earnestly, and waits for thee eagerly. Come to me, O Jesus, my well-beloved, and plant fresh flowers in my garden, such as I see blooming in such perfection in thy matchless character! Come, O my Father, who art the Husbandman, and deal with me in thy tenderness and prudence! Come, O Holy Spirit, and bedew my whole nature, as the herbs are now moistened with the evening dews. O that God would speak to me. Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth! O that he would walk with me; I am ready to give up my whole heart and mind to him, and every other thought is hushed. I am only asking what he delights to give. I am sure that he will condescend to have fellowship with me, for he has given me his Holy Spirit to abide with me forever. Sweet is the cool twilight, when every star seems like the eye of heaven, and the cool wind is as the breath of celestial love. My Father, my elder Brother, my sweet Comforter, speak now in lovingkindness, for thou hast opened mine ear and I am not rebellious.

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Evening, July 1st, C.H. Spurgeon

## Front Page Concluded...

cancer, leaving a bereaved husband and grieving young children behind? Why does a drunk driver plow into an unsuspecting driver, causing paralysis for his victims? Why does life often turn out so differently from what we've expected?

There are many points in this life where we do not have answers to the hard questions of providence. It is God's plan – that we know. But why? Why these events? Why this plan? We struggle to understand, but are less than satisfied. We can repeat the words, "For his own glory." Yet we wonder why God's glory must come in such unusual scenarios?

Here is where faith comes to the rescue.

Though we don't know why, we can trust that God knows why. We don't fathom the wisdom of His plans, but He does. To the tear-stained face that asks, "Why, God, why?" He responds, "Trust me, my child. I know best – trust me I do."

When that is the only answer we have, it is enough. God is good, and He does good to His people. Romans 8:28 will yet play out! One day, looking back over this life, we will see it differently that we do right now. So for now, just trust Him and rest in His wise, holy and powerful preserving and governing all His creatures and all their actions!