

*“...in the midst of the church I will sing praise unto thee.” -Hebrews 2:12*

*Charles Wesley once wrote, “Near Ripley, my horse threw and fell upon me. My companion thought I had broken my neck; but my leg only was bruised, my hand sprained, and my head stunned—which spoiled my making of hymns, or thinking at all, till the next day.”*

*I am amazed at the Christian stamina of the soldiers of the cross who blazed the trail for us. Wesley could have said “That’s it, end of the road, I quit,” but his concern was not his hurting body, but rather, the thought that a day might pass without writing a hymn of praise unto God.*

*Once when God’s people were living in a troubled time as captives away from home, they hung their harps in the willows and asked, “How can we sing the songs of Zion in a foreign land?” I think that Charles Wesley would have encouraged them to sing unto the Lord who is always with them wherever they may be.*

*We can never forget the examples of others like Paul and Silas who were beaten and thrown into a prison cell. At midnight they were singing the joy of the Lord. The last thing that Jesus and his disciples did before he entered into Gethsemane’s agony was to sing a hymn. (Mark 14:26)*

*It is a great witness when we do believe that praise is greater than our pain, and God is always in hearing distance of our song. “In the night His song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life.” Psalm 42:8*

*Grace and Peace, Rev Ray*