

**Received(Date):** 11 SEP 2001 13:10:26  
**From:** Doug Fletcher <dougf@whpc.org> ( Doug Fletcher <dougf@whpc.org> [ UNKNOWN ] )  
**To:** Karen Hughes ( CN=Karen Hughes/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [ WHO ] )  
**Subject:** : RE: a note from Doug F.  
[P\\_XSYM3004\\_WHO.TXT\\_1.jpg](#)  
[P\\_XSYM3004\\_WHO.TXT\\_2.doc](#)

##### Begin Original ARMS Header #####  
RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)  
CREATOR: Doug Fletcher <dougf@whpc.org> ( Doug Fletcher <dougf@whpc.org> [ UNKNOWN ] )  
CREATION DATE/TIME: 11-SEP-2001 13:10:26.00  
SUBJECT: : RE: a note from Doug F.  
TO: Karen Hughes ( CN=Karen Hughes/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [ WHO ] )  
READ: UNKNOWN  
##### End Original ARMS Header #####

Dear Karen,

I am in disbelief. You are in my prayers as is the President. I realize that were a country behind this, we would now be at war. We have services today at 12:45 and 5:30. We will keep you in our prayers. I am attaching some notes from my meditation on Psalm 23. I love you, Doug

- valleyoftheshadowofdeath.jpg - there is disbelief and anger.doc  
ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00  
File attachment <P\_XSYM3004\_WHO.TXT\_1>

ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00  
File attachment <P\_XSYM3004\_WHO.TXT\_2>



there is disbelief and anger; our hearts are broken  
What is yet to happen? Is it over? What does this mean?  
September 11, 2001 is a day in infamy—a day that will change the world  
The church's language about evil sometimes seems for many far away from their  
experience of life; and now is the only language for what has happened  
Our loss extends to those who grieve  
To those who are still trying to reach loved ones  
To children whose world has been shattered;  
To those who have lived with illusions of safety and security that cannot endure  
sadness –

People want to be with loved ones; we are drawn together; but as believing people we  
are drawn to this place

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm – places it was prayed

--saw Israel through the destruction and burning of their homes as they were sent  
into exile.

--it gave them courage to start again when they were allowed to return to a  
desolate land and build again

--It helped them through the heartache of the defilement of the Temple

--it helped them in the valleys

it has been prayed in foxholes and at deathbeds; it has been prayed by those who  
were very afraid and those who knew where to turn with their fears

there is a monastery – which I saw in Israel

--located in the valley of the shadow of death

--right at the heart of the most desolate place in the Judean wilderness

--it is a testament, a statement of faith

--God will not abandon us or forsake us – even in that valley

--I took a picture of that monastery for my sister who had just lost her son

we have a hope, a rock, a fortress ... in Jesus Christ

Christian faith doesn't suggest that life is easy. The empty cross, a symbol of victory, is  
also a reminder of evil and violence. There are valleys, some of them dramatic and some  
of them less so. We do need a shepherd in the valleys. And we are not simply promised  
safe journey. We are promised a banquet.

It is one thing to live bravely underestimating the danger. It is another fully to  
understand the dangers and to live with the confidence of faith in the promises of him  
who promised never to leave us or forsake us.