



***Devotional from Be Still ... and Let Your Nail Polish Dry***  
**© 2009 Summerside Press**

*"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by your name; you are Mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you.  
When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned,  
nor shall the flame scorch you."*

Isaiah 43:1–2 NKJV

**A Toddler for Life**  
**by Sandra D. Bricker**

I went to the beach with Chloe and her daughter, a wide-eyed toddler named Emma. The two-year-old was quite an independent thinker and surprisingly swift on her feet considering how short a time she'd actually been on them. Slathered in sunscreen, donning a pink hat with a large yellow sunflower, and negotiating each flip-flopped step, the child was fearless.

Chloe, however, followed along behind her daughter, slightly bent into a sort of catcher's stance, ready for whatever surprise might pop up. As Emma came upon a large hole in the sand, Chloe lifted the little girl over it and then set her down on the other side, and the child toddled forward without missing a beat. When the foamy surf sped across the sand toward Emma, Chloe swept her up into her arms above it and then set her safely down again once it retreated.

As I watched them, I realized that they were a beautiful, sunshiny picture-type of how the Lord must feel about us during our entire lives. His Word says that He has called us by name, the way Chloe and her husband decided that "Emma" was just the perfect name for their smiling blue-eyed baby.

When we head for the deeper waters, the Lord is there to sweep us up in His arms to make sure we're not overtaken; and when the flames reach out toward us, He tosses Himself over us like a cloak so we're supernaturally protected and safe until the danger has passed.

Even in the times when the danger isn't entirely averted and we scrape a knee or an elbow or worse, our loving Father is bent behind us in a catcher's stance, ready and willing to hold us tight in His glove and walk through it with us.

The realization that, in that way, I can live the carefree, fearless existence of a toddler for the rest of my life is somehow comforting. And looking back throughout history at the Jonahs and the Peters and the Pauls, I'm really happy that my God has a gazillion years of catching practice!

**Today's Prayer:** *Thank You, Father, for Your protection and grace. Thank You for the assurance that nothing is going to happen to me today that You and I can't handle together. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*