

## I Am With You Always



Late last summer, I decided to mow my lawn (Isn't that a pleasant picture on a snowy February day?) Well, my lawnmower would not start. I got more and more frustrated as I tried to start it. Then I said to myself "You haven't prayed about this." But really, was God going to start my lawnmower! I needed a rest anyway, so I prayed. You guessed it – on the next pull it started!

Well what do I make of this? Do I really think that God cares about whether my lawnmower starts? I don't know. But in my experience - in the many tragic things that I see going on in the world, I know that God does not always answer our prayers in the way we want. But what I do know is that God cares about me. I also believe that God started that lawnmower. But I believe that he started it to catch my attention - and did he ever! I had left God out of my life in the midst of my frustration and God was reminding of that. He was telling me that in big things and in small ones and even in the mundane, he wants me to always be aware of his presence in my life and of his desire to keep the communication lines open, - to be quiet enough to listen and to trust he is there even when I don't hear him – to live contemplatively. Yes, I do need to hold my specific desires which I take to him in prayer, lightly, but I should never take our relationship lightly.

*"And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matt. 28:20(b)"*

Tom Bell