

I AM WITH YOU



DIVINE HELP FOR TODAY'S NEEDS

Mini-edition of the well-loved
modern devotional classic

Fr. JOHN WOOLLEY

WELCOME to this specially prepared mini-sample of Fr John Woolley's book "I Am With You".

The complete book comprises 265 pages in very attractive maroon hard-back, designed to fit easily inside your pocket.

If you wish to obtain copies of "I am With You" for friends, or others in need, you may like to know that in addition to good Christian bookshops the new amplified edition is available direct from:-

**GOODNEWS BOOKS,
(Mail Order Christian Books)**

Upper Level
St. John the Apostle Church Complex
296 Sundon Park Road
Luton, Bedfordshire LU3 3AL

Tel: +44 (0) 1582 - 571011
Orders@goodnewsbooks.net
www.goodnewsbooks.net

* * *

“ I am with you
always,
until the end
of time. ”

(Matthew 28.20)

ADDITIONAL COPIES

If you wish to obtain copies of *I Am With You* for friends or others in need, they are available from the distributors below:

UK and Europe

Orca Book Services Ltd
Home trade orders
tradeorders@orcabookservices.co.uk
Tel: 01235 465521
Fax: 01235 465555

Good News Books
Upper Level
St. John the Apostle Church Complex
296 Sundon Park Road
Luton, Bedfordshire LU3 3AL
U.K.
Tel: 01582 571011

Bridge Books and Music,
14 North Bridge Street,
Sunderland SR5 1B. U.K.
Tel: 0191 567 3544

Export orders

exportorders@orcabookservices.co.uk
Tel: 01235 465516 or 01235 465517
Fax: 01235 465555

USA and Canada

NBN
custserv@nbnbooks.com
Tel: 1 800 462 6420
Fax: 1 800 338 4550

Australia and New Zealand

Brumby Books
sales@brumbybooks.com.au
Tel: 61 3 9761 5535
Fax: 61 3 9761 7095

Far East

(Offices in Singapore,
Thailand, Hong Kong, Taiwan)
Pansing Distribution Pte Ltd
kemal@pansing.com
Tel: 65 6319 9939
Fax: 65 6462 5761

South Africa

Stephan Phillips (pty) Ltd
Email: orders@stephanphillips.com
Tel: 27 21 4489839
Telefax: 27 21 4479879

I AM WITH YOU

**Treasured words of divine
inspiration for everyone
as given to
Fr. John Woolley**

“THE I AM WITH YOU FOUNDATION”

Registered Charity No. 1026163

© John A. Woolley, 1984

All rights reserved

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means - electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of the copyright owner.

ISBN 0 9529159 2 8 Mini Edition

Typesetting by Gerald Vann
Set in Souvenir 11pt

I AM WITH YOU

(A new and amplified edition)

From all over the world come messages of appreciation about these words of divine encouragement and guidance from the risen Lord Jesus Christ through His Holy Spirit... words received in prayer-times by Father John Woolley, former British hospital chaplain. With the words came a promise by our Lord that there would be a wonderful spread of His word - a promise now being marvellously realised.

“I Am With You” offers unique help for the often-difficult Christian road, and is an essential companion for times of prayer and Bible study. These words unfailingly bring a sense of God’s nearness; they bring tranquility, and they wonderfully strengthen. Church leaders, and so many readers (of all Christian denominations) speak, constantly, of being uplifted and inspired by this little book ... often in a life-changing way.

* * *

Tributes

“I Am With You’ will bring peace and consolation to all who read it”

*(Cormac Murphy O’Connor,
Archbishop of Westminster)*

“I Am With You’ is a very special book, which will bless countless people”

(Prebendary John Pearce, England)

“I have never experienced such a closeness to Jesus”

(Fran Gunning, U.S.A.)

“A lovely book of devotions; we use it daily”

*(Dr. Donald English, former President
Methodist Conference)*

“I Am With You’ will deeply touch many people”

(Fr. Robert de Grandis, U.S.A.)

“God’s Holy Spirit breathes through every page”

(Revd. Robert Llewelyn, England)

“The touch of God is in these beautiful words”

(Margaret Green, Canada)

“A most wonderful book which I keep with me always”
(Fr. Michael Clothier, O.S.B.)

“‘I Am With You’ is so powerful”
(Barbara Anicich, U.S.A.)

“‘I Am With You’ is a little gem”
(Authoress Joyce Huggett)

“Wonderfully inspiring” *(Betty Tapscott, U.S.A.)*

“‘I Am With You’ opens a lovely door into God’s
presence; reading it is a thing of real joy”
(Bishop John Crowley)

“I commend ‘I Am With You’ to all persons who are
seeking to deepen their spiritual lives”
*(Cardinal George Basil Hume,
former Archbishop of Westminster)*

“God speaks in a very powerful way.”
(Mgr Seamus Kilbane)

“The book has changed my life”
(Fr .F. Bernard, S.J., India)

“The most wonderful book I have read”
(Fr. Tom Cass, Tyneside, England)

* * * *

USING THIS BOOK

Although the words in “I Am With You” are usually read in the order given in the book, there is an index at the rear of the complete hard back edition for specific areas of personal need or sudden crises.

If prayer is made beforehand, so many readers have found that they turn to just the right page and that a word for the need of the moment is unfailingly given.

THE BIBLE QUOTATIONS

Bible verses - mostly spoken in the first Person singular - have been chosen to accompany our Lord's words in “I Am With You”.

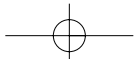
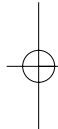
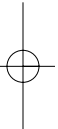
MY PRAYER FOR YOU

+

May the Lord Jesus Christ
speak to your heart,
repeatedly, through His
words in this book.

May He greatly bless you,
and each day draw you
closer to Himself.

John A. Woolley



I am the hope of all the ends of the earth. But so few truly know it deep in their hearts. In Me lies the fulfilment of the complex desires and possibilities of human nature.

You know that all the qualities you see in Me are available for you. Are you sad, My child, that so often you fail to make use of them? Yes, this is the world's failing - that men do not appropriate that which is there for them, in Me.

Set Me before you always as your one true hope. Be sure that your hand is firmly in Mine . . . Proclaim Me as mankind's hope to those around you . . . As you recognise the progress you make with Me, so the conviction will grow which you bring to telling others, all that I can be to them!

I know that in your heart is that longing to know Me more perfectly. I honour that longing, and that is why you are sure of My patience in all your failures. It is, of course, My grace which helps you to maintain that longing - and to come, increasingly, into oneness with Myself.

I will never turn away anyone who comes to Me.

(John 6.37)

Long before My love was seen on earth it was expressed in creativity. Although seen as creativity of power or of mystery, it is a creativity of love . . . a continuing creativity.

Existence, as you see it, is puzzling and often frightening, but let it thrill you that the Father was seen in His creation ... becoming one with it, surrendering Himself to it. That moment in history when I stood as the meeting-place of Divine love and human hopes and fears, was the beginning of all true spiritual awareness.

You will be aware of much darkness, and of forces dedicated to obstructing your climb towards the heavenly sphere. Any other view of My creation would be naive and partial. Nevertheless, you must resolutely see *love* as the soul of creation... now, as it always was.

Love in creativity means that I am never remote from the inevitable heartaches of My children ... or, of course, from *your* heartaches.

Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father.

(John 14.9)

My child, let it be your privilege, each day, to dwell upon My sacrifice - made for the whole world.

In My suffering love upon the Cross you see a *continuing process*... the unrequited love which pursues My children - yearning for the slightest response, and profoundly grateful when one of those children surrenders his or her life to Me.

On the Cross, you see My heart of love crushed, for the moment, by the force of evil which darkens this universe. Then you see the bursting forth again of love's *power*... in My Father's victory; this power, in its submission, and its patience, can change, permanently, any human situation.

Although you are conscious of being unworthy of that love, be sure that the pain of rejection is made *so much less* by even the simplest, imperfect dependence upon Myself.

Here, at the Cross, give Me your heart, anew, every day.

**For the sake of My sheep,
I surrender My life.**
(John 10.15)

How much it means to Me when one of My children, responding to a prompting of My Spirit, asks to live close to Me.

The response to that request is automatic. Forces to draw closer our spirits are then at work, in spite of the tangled emotions and contra-influences of earth. As soon as that hesitant request is made, I am able to look upon My child as *perfected*.

Everything is built upon that child's request. I see beyond the intermittent progress, the spiritual weariness, and the times when that child fails Me. I need no more than the initial response, and the *continuance* of that wish to be close to Me, for My existence increasingly to interpenetrate yours.

My child, can you still recognise that deep desire for closeness to Me in your heart . . . even after many discouragements in your spiritual walk? If so, let it remind you of the *perfection* which is your destiny.

Drawn by Me . . . with bonds of love!

(Hosea 11.4)

My child, the bond between us is unbreakable, because you are My chosen . . .

The company you keep is with the Architect of this universe in His infinite wisdom. My presence surrounds you - and My influence, in your unique circumstances. Without Me, you would have been in the gravest danger.

Because you are precious to Me, your need near to My Heart, I save you from what is contrary to your best interests, diverting harmful influences.

No combination of circumstances can defeat Me; therefore, do not be afraid of earth's chances, nor of the very worst that evil can do. Not afraid... because I can always restore and return you to the path of My will. All that you need to dwell upon is that My care of you stretches into eternity!

No-one can take My children out of My hand.

(John 10.28)

Even those who acknowledge Me carry burdens because they cannot believe that My forgiveness is *infinite*; they cannot believe that there is cleansing of the deep guilt flowing from wilful acts which had tragic consequences for others; they cannot believe that (even with true sorrow over those things) My mercy can extend to *them*.

My child, you know that the only condition for My overflowing love and mercy is your *heartfelt sorrow*. . . and *always* sorrow that the wrong act should have hurt Myself. My forgiveness is instantaneous; you are made clean in My sight, worthy of My most tender care. Attendant evil influences are swept away. My child, that same love will now help you to forgive, from your heart, all who have hurt you. This is My law, and must be obeyed. Release them into My love.

To convey the peace of forgiveness concerning *any* sin is why I gave Myself... I wish My children to be drawn back to Me with the *pain* of guilt removed . . . even if memory cannot be erased completely.

**I am the Lord your God . . . merciful,
gracious, and infinitely patient.**

(Exodus 34.6)

It would be wrong to pretend that maintaining faith in Me will always be easy.

There is the greatest temptation to see earth's calamities and misfortunes as pointing to a universe without soul.

Whenever you are forced to conclude, even momentarily, that you are alone in a materialistic creation, then evil has secured what is always its greatest ambition.

The one *crucial* division in this world is not between fortune and misfortune, but between life based on Me and shared with Me - and life divorced from Me, leading to oblivion.

When events seem to point away from Me and lead you into doubt, that is the *very moment* to summon all your strength and to tell Me that, in spite of all, I am with you and can never fail you.

You cannot know the *power* of such a trusting word - spoken to Me in circumstances which cause you to doubt!

Whoever believes in Me will live!

(John 11.25)

My child, because I in-dwell you by My Spirit, I experience in the closest possible way, your conflicts, your longings, all which can cause you distress. Because I have travelled your road, there is, within the Godhead, infinite, tender appreciation of what you endure upon earth.

Because you have responded to My call, however imperfectly, I have made you My concern . . . When I see you in great need, My love and compassion are made most real to you. Each heartache, each struggle can be made to awaken the sense of need of Me, to deepen trust, to teach new truths.

It is only because I can see the ultimate blessing to you of pain shared with Me, that I can accept (though *never* unmoved by them) your earthly struggles.

Recognise love's transforming work in earth's darkness . . . See experiences of darkness melt, under My hand, into experiences (within My love) of security and of hope.

I am making everything new.

(Revelation 21.5)

My child, your time spent in My company impresses upon you, deeper than mere intellectual assent, that you owe everything to Me.

Yes, I brought you into being . . . foreseeing that event. My hand was upon your life long before your thoughts turned to Myself. You owe to Me your very existence *now*, in a world which, without My victory, would have been lost. Recognise in your care in the hands of loved ones and the kindness of friends, My prompting and My provision. See Me as the *origin* of everything with which your life has been blessed.

The sense of gratitude to Me is missing from the lives of so many. You have the tremendous privilege of being among those who can make glad My heart by your recognition of your debt to Me.

You could never, of course, repay that debt. All I ask is your thankful heart towards your Saviour, and your Protector.

I have called you by name; you are Mine.

(Isaiah 43.1)

T rue knowledge of Me comes when I am valued . . . To place Me above everything else in your life is indispensable to your growth . . . causing you to *thrill* at the thought of Me, and to desire closer and closer communion with Me.

When you arrive at the blessed state of My being all in all to you, you also realise that this has not made any *less* precious those whom you love on earth . . . On the contrary, My place of supremacy in your life encircles those other ties, and means that the influence of heaven is in your relationships - making them pleasing to Me.

Even at times of disappointment, let there be that steady *resolve* that I should maintain first place; this will draw everything into a beautiful harmony, as life loses its conflicts and its vain striving. My child, enthrone Me in that highest place now, and rely on Me to ensure that everything flowing from this is unerringly right.

I came so that you may have life . . . abundantly!

(John 10.10)

Trust is so often formed by difficulties and setbacks; a trust which remains, even when My way does not bring the 'results' which have been sought, when that way is hard to understand.

Blind trusting, when no obvious advantage is gained, is the real trust which I require, and which I always honour.

Follow the way of trust in every area, every conceivable situation upon earth – each relationship, each encounter, each problem. Yes, complete confidence in Me – expressed in joy, thankfulness, and in recognition of My touch in seeming coincidences and unplanned encounters.

My plans for you are unerring and will triumph, as you trust the voice within which assures you (in spite of observed circumstances) that I *cannot* fail a trusting child! Give Me, often, the glance of utter trusting love.

**In quietness and in confidence
will be your strength.**

(Isaiah 30.15)

My child, let My peace *enfold* you . . . not looking at yourself but at Me! Consciously and frequently rest your spirit in that peace; it brings true healing, and is all that you need.

Eagerly desire My peace for its *uniqueness*; know that it neutralises long-standing hurts. Unless My peace works upon deep wounds, you are at the mercy of so much from the past – its pain revived.

Firmly refuse unloving ways, wrong ways, which would temporarily destroy My peace in you; refuse them in My strength. Do not ‘analyse’ whether you have My peace; just *know* that it is there, as you are careful to tread My way . . . and it will pass from you to My other children.

My Name – the Name of JESUS – brings peace; Say it to Me – in love; say it to yourself – to comfort your heart, unflinchingly.

Do not let your heart be troubled, or afraid.

(John 14.27)

The true goal of your companionship with Me is finding the reality of the things of the Spirit. Sadly, many still see worldly things as having more substance than their spiritual origins.

In taking Me into your life, you are acknowledging that the unseen is of supreme importance. No human encounter or experience must ever be divorced from the abiding reality against which it is set. The sharpness of this world's disappointments is removed (even though one's heart may be breaking), when their impermanence is compared with the fact of Myself.

Realising the unseen gives a sense of proportion to the experiences which temporarily elate or crush the human soul. To see My kingdom as the *reality* of this existence, and every other manifestation as transient, wonderfully gives courage and steadiness in the dark places. Life's passing phenomena are *transformed* by the reality lying behind them. Find in the world's experiences a *spiritual* gain . . . kept secure for you in the realm of My love.

My Kingdom is not of this world.

(John 18.36)

My child, the sense of isolation experienced in trying to tread My way is a stage which I see as necessary for you. There is the temptation to feel that too much is being given up . . . to feel, even, that you have been mistaken about the rewards of the spiritual life.

You have My promise that the stage of feeling isolated, perhaps discouraged, is a very positive one in your growth. You will find that nothing (harmless in itself), which seemed to be coming between us, and which you have surrendered, will ever be the subject of regret. What I give to you is of infinitely more worth than earth's riches.

In what the world may see as isolation, you find companionship at the deepest level, a sense of being lifted through uncharted areas of difficulty. Affirm very strongly when tempted to feel discouraged, that I belong to you! . . . aware of being provided for in the fullest possible sense.

**I will go with you
and prosper all that you do.**
(Exodus 33.14)

Call upon Me when any hurtful or overwhelming situation arises – *firstly* so that you may learn the lesson I have for you in it; *secondly* so that I may break the pattern of events before it becomes too burdensome for you.

You know that I am more than equal to the things which may threaten you or make you anxious; they remain – by My permission – for as long as they can further My plans for you – and for others. For My loved ones I make every trial fit into My pattern, and to serve a good purpose; you know that they are not really trials if I *share* them and then *conquer* them with you. I have *used* life's experiences to teach you, to sanctify you, to give you victories.

None are more aware of life's pain than those who seek My way; yet My peace and joy are found upon that way . . . and My presence, the priceless gift which is to be sought above all else. As you pray about everything, you will increasingly be able simply to *watch* the answers to those prayers come!

**In the world you will have trouble and sorrow
... but rejoice . . . I have conquered the world.**

(John 16.33)

Those who have not experienced what I can be to them, can subtly take away My *supremacy*; these include some who claim to carry My name in this world.

My child, your confidence in Me will be undermined when I am, to you, anything *less* than . .

the source of all love . . .
the source of all made things . . .
the source of all power – interpreted
for this world's needs.

To place your life into My hands is to receive all the resources of the Godhead; resources *focused* in Myself upon earth . . . so that My children would be drawn to Me as the fullest expression of the Father's love.

Let your spirit be gloriously uplifted many times each day by realising My almighty and never-ending *responsibility* for you.

I and the Father are One.

(John 10.30)

The almost instinctive speaking of My Name when life is dark and uncertain ...
the cry of a child for the One who can draw close;
the cry of a child when reasoning ceases to function, when all is threatening, when human help is absent, when confidence is lost.

The speaking of My Name brings into the foreground of your situation the one vital factor. My Name can be said in helplessness... but said in joy and thankfulness only seconds later! Thankfulness at being brought through that state of helplessness.

The speaking of My Name ensures, immediately, the retreat of evil forces . . . acknowledging that they are defeated in their aim for your life.

My child, the whispering of My Name . . . On waking... On surrendering to sleep ... And very frequently during each day!

**I will be with you
when you go through deep waters.**

(Isaiah 43.2)

There will be times when you will not see the immediate way ahead. You may be filled with panic, wanting to avoid what could be a disastrous step. Remember that you do not always need to see the road ahead. It is sufficient, for the moment, to see *Me!*

When the time is right for a choice to be made you will know and I will assist you through it. Until that time be sure that merely keeping close to Me guarantees your moving in the right direction, despite questions and doubts raging in your mind.

When you cannot see clearly the next step, there is a good reason for My withholding that awareness. It becomes a time of trust . . . trust, very often, that I will simply *cause* My wish for you to happen! Do not feel the awful responsibility of choosing your path when that is not necessary for the moment. Just hide in Myself and know that you will soon see clearly... Until then, you are *precisely* where I want you to be.

Your Father knows what you need.

(Matthew 6.8)

My child, a radical change is made in your life when you focus, clearly, upon one principal aim . . . to run through all your personal ambitions, all your relationships. The aim which will integrate your personality is a simple one: that in some way you will extend My Kingdom of love, even in situations which seem to contain formidable barriers against this happening.

Begin by deliberately bringing this aim to Me, for My blessing – even if you have made promises of this kind previously. I will have your aim before Me! I will honour that aim – not only on occasions when you yourself remember it, but when you are temporarily distracted from remembering it.

Each encounter with another person is under the influence of My Kingdom – to push back, a little further, those forces which darken this world. Thank Me each day that you are used to establish My rule of love.

**Fix your mind on God's Kingdom
and His justice above all else.**

(Matthew 6.33)

Never admit that a particular area of your life is a 'defeated' one.

Because you failed, perhaps many times, in a certain situation, this does not mean that you must be resigned to defeat. It does not mean that victory was not very close.

My child, you will experience the joy of resolutely uniting yourself with Me, and meeting difficult places victoriously. No environment, no set of circumstances, need prove impossible for you, if you believe that My victory with you extends to *every* area. I look for that readiness (completely trusting Me), to enter, once more, those scenes of crushing defeat, and *this* time to prove that on all previous occasions you could have been a victorious person!

Any area of compromise, or of resignation to defeat, weakens the whole. See how many areas of your life have become, already, the scene of new reactions, new gains. . . Let this encourage you about the victory which can be yours in each remaining problem area.

With God, all things are possible.

(Mark 10.27)

See communion with Myself as your *highest activity*; . . . there are no places on earth where this activity is impossible.

It is no mere escapism, no flight from reality, to give time to the interaction of our spirits; it gives My heart the joy which compensates for a world following so many illusions. Your time with Me is one of trust . . . trust in My answering of your prayers; of giving Me room in which to work; of letting Me help you to profit from the lessons of current circumstances.

Temptations to restrict the activity of communion with Me are often disguised as 'pressing duty', and often involve misuse of time which will contribute nothing to your progress.

My child, *treasure* time spent, consciously, with Me, as I supply need for the hours ahead. Such communion, far from mere escaping, is *dynamic* in its essence . . . and is indispensable for you. You were not meant to live without My resources!

Only one thing is vital . . .

(Luke 10.42)

As a very necessary discipline, give to Me every set of circumstances with which you feel unable to deal. The pressure upon you to 'respond' to those circumstances may be great, but you must make time (even if only moments), in which to give the situation, with its uncertainty, its complexity or its fear-capacity to Myself.

The simple, almost mechanical, giving to Me ensures the Divine activity; the most fleeting moment spent giving a situation into My hands is repaid many times over by the moulding of events under My power and wisdom.

Always react, *firstly*, by giving difficult or distressing circumstances to Me; then patiently watch My oversight, and My intervention, in their development. What is urgent and necessary, involving your action, I will always show you. But your walk with Me must always be one of calm and patience, based on My *sufficiency*.

I am with you to save you.

(Jeremiah 1.19)

Readers of Fr. John's inspired words may join the *I Am With You Fellowship*. All in the Fellowship are remembered in prayer and encouraged to write about any need. To join, please send your Christian name, surname, address including your post code, telephone number, and if possible your email address to:

I Am With You Foundation
c/o Goodnews Books
Upper Level
St. John the Apostle Church Complex
296 Sundon Park Road
Luton, Bedfordshire LU3 3AL

There is no membership charge.

If you have been blessed by Fr. John's books, would you consider supporting the work of the Foundation financially? We desperately need funds to continue the mission to provide free minis for hospital and prison chaplains etc. and you can be sure every penny you may send will be used wisely. Please send donations to:

I Am With You Foundation,
c/o Lucy Walker,
4 Station Road,
Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 4QF.

If you are a UK tax payer please ask for a Gift Aid form so we can reclaim tax you have paid on your gift.

Charity Number 1026163. God Bless you.

**Web site: www.iamwithyou.co.uk
email: contact@iamwithyou.co.uk**

