

Mable Chan: The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside quiet water. He restoreth my soul. He guideth me the path of righteousness for His namesake. Yeah, even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil, for thou art with me.

Chan: Have you ever felt like you were walking through the valley of the shadow of death? Eighteen years ago today, September 11, 2001, I came close to death. I was in New York right around this time, 8:35 in the morning. I was rushing around in the bathroom. I was checking my computer for messages from work, and suddenly I heard this loud, big engine sound whirring by my window. I ignored it. I kept typing. But then the radio started recording something about some planes hitting the World Trade Center. The World Trade Center. That's where I was, house-sitting for a friend downtown. And so immediately, I ran to the living room. I turned on the TV and I saw the live coverage of the World Trade Center burning at the top.

Chan: Wow! This is huge. What should I do? I was a producer for Dateline NBC. I was a journalist. Should I go down there now, or should I go back to the office and wait to be assigned? I was shaking. "I'm not ready. I have no gear. I have no crew. I have no clue," I said to myself. "I better wait."

Chan: But the longer I waited and the more I watched it on TV and heard what's going on, I felt this urge to act, to respond. So I picked up the phone and called my supervisor at NBC. He picked up the phone and he was thrilled to hear that I was down there. He said, "Well, listen, you go down there now. You go find out what you can. The crew is on the way and look out for Christian."

Chan: The next thing I knew, I was headed into the crowd. Everyone was running out, and in a crowd, I ran into Christian, and together, we spotted someone filming the burning towers with this little digital camera. So we said, "Let's get it." We paid him \$500 on the spot to rent his camera for the rest of the day. My colleague ran off with a camera and started shooting the scenes, and I stayed behind and interviewed this guy. When he was telling me that he saw people jumping off the building, I stood there and looked up. I said, "Where's the building?" And then there was this massive wall of black dust and debris just melting down and gushing out, and people were running towards me, screaming. Duh! That was the south tower collapsing.

Chan: I turned around. I got pushed to the ground. I hit my lips. I hit my knees and my elbows, and lying flat on my face, I saw feet running in front of me and around me. At that moment I asked God, "Is this it?" I didn't answer the question, but I felt this surge of adrenaline pulling me up, and I got up and I'd ripped a huge hole in my jeans. My left knee, stuck out and bleeding. I started running and running and running. I ran and ran until I was almost out of gas, and then I saw this line of news vans parked right in front of me.

Chan: I walked up. I knocked on the door and a reporter opened the door and saw me covered in dust and bleeding, and he saw my NBC news badge. He was with New York One news.

He waved me in. Once inside, I filed my first live report from Ground Zero. My colleagues at NBC were thrilled I was alive. I was thrilled I was alive, and I did my job.

Chan: Even though I'd suffer PTSD, neck and nerve injuries from that day, even though I had to walk through the valley of the shadow of death, the Lord is with me. Today, I still believe I have a job to do. It may not be breaking news. It may simply be standing here talking to you, sharing stories, but the message that I hope to bring, it's about responding to the call of duty. It's about praying and believing that the Lord is with us. Let's pray for those who died on 9/11/2001, and those who survived. Let us say the Lord's Prayer.