

PRAISE –

- Praise the Lord for a challenging but fruitful trip to South Africa. We are so thankful for all the prayer support for the team. We were very conscious of God's protection and care (Psalm 139)
- Praise the Lord for His faithfulness and provision for the work both here and overseas
- Praise the Lord for the various opportunities whilst in South Africa to (i) share Christ (ii) deliver food parcels (iii) distribute clothing (iv) outreach and evangelism (v) encourage believers
- Praise the Lord for the seed that is sown through the paper and we trust many will come into a personal relationship with Christ through the printed page
- We received an email from a church plant in South Africa recently. An extract from that letter reads: "It is great to see people read the Challenge paper on the streets, beauty salons, public gardens....Many are visiting the church just by the Challenge paper.....We give God the glory". Praise the Lord!

Have you ever wandered into a huge shopping centre and then found you have no idea where you entered and so wander around like a lost sheep trying to identify familiar signs or shops to find your way back to your car. This has happened to me.

In our series on **PSALM 23**, verse 3 reads: *"He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name sake."*

Sheep are past masters at getting lost. They have no sense of direction; a bit like me in a shopping centre. A sheep will spot a nice green patch of grass or tasty bush and head in that direction.

An eastern shepherd is particularly vigilant in looking after his flock. Bringing them into the sheepfold for the night, he discovers that he has a woolly wanderer.

Continued over

Missions trip photos, July 2013



Children's program, Mayfair, South Africa



Sharing the good news in Pretoria, South Africa

Plan to go 2014

PRAYER –

- Please pray with us for the ongoing discipleship of new believers in Australia and overseas
- Continue to pray with us as we look to the Lord regarding the visa application for Jonathan Newell and family to come to Perth. His position will be Managing Editor
- Please pray for Carl Carmody and John Palandri as they visit UK with Jonathan Newell and meet with various churches re. support issues
- Please pray for our staff at Challenge that the Lord will continue to bind us together with one heart and vision for what we do with the paper both for Australia and overseas
- We would value prayer for funding needed to replace one of our work vehicles

In general a flock was around 100, thus, the parable of Jesus and the 99 plus 1 sheep. So the shepherd immediately goes into action to find his lost sheep. **Why?** Well he would have been conscious of the risk from lions, bears, wolves and unfamiliar terrain, as well as lost income for his family.

AS CHRISTIANS we find ourselves wandering off what Isaiah calls the highway of holiness in Isaiah 35.

Hebrews 12 verse 1 reads, "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us".

The word ensnares is a word that infers that sin can trap or trip us up very easily. We can be walking earnestly faithfully and fruitfully with God, when suddenly an arrow of temptation comes. It is a temptation that looks like "a nice green spot of grass or juicy bush", but is found to be nothing like what it was presented to be.

When we give into temptation, our divine shepherd, Jesus Christ, moves into action to bring us back into the fold, back into a right relationship with Him. This is a clear indication of the unconditional, unchanging love of God towards His children.

God knows the cost of drifting in our relationship to Him. That is why when we sin the Holy Spirit immediately convicts us of our wrong doing. This is why the second half of verse 3 says, *"He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name sake."*

So our divine Shepherd leads us, directs us, loves us so that we would honour and glorify Him. I have been so thankful that in times of disobedience and spiritual dryness my heavenly Father restores me; brings me back into that vital alive and intimate love-relationship with Him. There is simply no other way that we can live the Christian life. May you know this restoring touch right now today.

CARL CARMODY, EDITOR OF CHALLENGE



MY RESPONSE

Post to: Challenge Literature Fellowship, PO Box 978, Cloverdale WA 6985 or Fax to **(08) 9453 3006**

Name: _____

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With God's help I would like to be a partner in supporting the ministry at Challenge in the following way(s):

Prayer: Please send me updated prayer information

Financial: Please receive my:

Monthly Quarterly Yearly One time contribution of:

\$50 \$75 \$100 \$200 Other: \$ _____

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