

## PRAISE:

1. We are thankful to the Lord for a number of timely gifts received in the office over the last couple of weeks; received at just the right time.

2. Praise the Lord for the recommencement of our South American edition of the paper.

3. Praise God for enquiries regarding the possible establishment of a partnership with New Zealand to begin distributing the paper there again.

4. We continue to thank the Lord for our volunteers who come each month to help with Challenge wrap. Without their help we just wouldn't get the paper out.

5. Praise the Lord for our valuable writers who contribute monthly to the newspaper. Their articles are always current and relevant.

6. Praise the Lord for a request from UK Goodnews paper (our sister paper) who would like to use our children's pages in their own edition.

Last month I commenced a devotional on **Psalm 23**. We saw the rather sad picture of David trudging out of Jerusalem escaping from his son Absalom. Along the way he penned this famous psalm. David discovered a God who cares and was aware of his plight. This is further underlined as we go on to verse 2.

One of the constant cries I hear today is that life is just so busy. Often this busyness propels our relationship with the Lord Jesus into a hit and miss affair. This

seems to wander on until our divine shepherd brings us to a standstill to give us time to reflect afresh on just who God, is. Psalm 46:10 gives this same picture: "Be still, and know that I am God..."

Sadly some Christians today don't know what it is to have a growing, intimate love relationship with the Lord Jesus. They don't know what it is to "be still" from what is often a frenzy of activity. For David it would have been understandable for him to be preoccupied with losing his kingdom, his crown, his power and yes – to get angry with God because He wasn't there when he needed Him most.

However, David continued to focus on his divine shepherd. Instead of frenzied activity, there was stillness in his heart and mind. Instead of bitterness and anger there was peace and quietness.

An eastern shepherd was always alert to his flock being frightened and spooked, so when necessary he would act decisively to stop his sheep heading off in all directions. When a flock was alarmed the shepherd would grab one sheep and gently but firmly force it to the ground and get it grazing on the grass around it. Soon the other sheep would follow suit.

Maybe as you are reading this article you are lying in a hospital bed or unemployed and thinking to yourself: what am I doing here? Have you thought what God might be saying to you; that you need to "be still and know that I am God".

**He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters.**  
**PSALM 23:2**

*Continued over*

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PLEASE TURN OVER

Contact us by phone (08) 9453 3311 or fax (08) 9453 3006  
Email: info@challengenews.org

## PRAYER:

1. For our Impact Africa mission trip (July 4-24) with a confirmed team of 24. Pray for team unity as they get to know each other and begin orientation for the trip.

2. For Don and Lillian Kennedy, our reps in the Eastern States; particularly for protection as they travel far and wide and for genuine opportunities to share about the newspaper.

3. We value prayer for Darryl Budge (journalist) as he and Stephanie were recently engaged. They plan to marry in October.

4. Please continue to pray for the visa application for Newell family. Sponsorship has been approved and now we have submitted information for the working visa itself.

5. We would appreciate prayer for the South America edition as we work with Will Herndon to establish a new partnership for the paper.

We learn so little in times of activity. We need to meditate on the scriptures and allow God to speak to us afresh and teach us something new about who He is. Again and again I need to remind myself that the primary reason I read God's Word is that I may come to know God in a deeper way. The primary reason I pray is that I may prove God by experience and grow in my love relationship with Him.

Notice the second part of this verse. As God brings me to a standstill, and as the dust begins to settle, I start to become aware of God leading me. Although David was heading into desert country, here he was telling us that God will lay us down in green pasture and lead us beside still waters. David had confidence that no matter what the circumstance looked like from a human perspective, God would supply abundantly for his needs both spiritually and physically.

The situation looked dire indeed for David, but he was confident of God's leading. Friends, this is something we have to learn again and again; that God's leading is always the best way to go. There are times when we are tempted to think that we know what is best. The fact that David was going through this rather unpleasant departure from Jerusalem, bore sad testimony to the tragic consequences of going our own way.

We must see that God's will and God's leading is always the best way to go. Once we are convinced of that we will discover that the pasture is lush, green and fulfilling. We will discover that the still water is cool and refreshing. As we experience this, we will find ourselves growing deeper and deeper in our love relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

- CARL CARMODY, EDITOR OF CHALLENGE



## MY RESPONSE

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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):

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