

PRAISE:

1. Praise the Lord we have received an approval notification from the Immigration Department as a sponsor for the Newell family (see prayer note)

2. Praise the Lord for safety for Carl while overseas in the USA working with Andrew on promotion and development of the ministry

3. Praise the Lord for the ongoing new orders for USA edition. We are thankful to the Lord as this project area continues to grow steadily

4. Praise the Lord for another staff member coming on board. Caitlin Choveaux (who came on a couple of mission trips with us) has begun working as a journalist

PRAYER:

1. Please continue to pray regarding the Newell family application. We have now entered the second phase of the application so would value your ongoing prayer as we continue to navigate our way through this process

Probably one of the best known passages of scripture is **Psalm 23**. This has come mainly through hearing it read or recited at funerals. However, as much as it has been deeply appreciated at funerals it is very much a psalm for the living and in particular for the Christian going through deep waters in their walk with God.

To find out the motivation for David writing this psalm we need to go back to 2 Samuel 15, where we read of difficulties between a father and his son. Absalom had carried out a successful coup and we are left with the sad picture of David trudging out of Jerusalem fearing for his life and pondering what the future held. So in the midst of this troubled picture David pens one of the Bible's most encouraging psalms.

First of all he took time to remind himself that God is a personal God. Note the use of the personal pronouns 'my' or 'me' throughout the psalm. We can conclude from this that despite the seven billion plus population of the world it doesn't change the fact that the Lord is MY shepherd.

Also no matter what difficulty, test, or trial you are going through, we need to constantly remind ourselves that the Lord is MY shepherd. The use of the word 'is' highlights another encouragement to us in times of struggle and testing. It reveals to us that Jesus Christ is not only our shepherd in the present situation, but is continuously our shepherd no matter what the future holds.

As David trugged out of Jerusalem he needed to remind himself of the fact that he was on God's mind and that although he may have felt alone, he wasn't. I think that is a very important point for those who are in leadership, as David was.

Meditating on this thought, David declares, "**I shall not want**". Probably most of us reading the word 'want' would think primarily of things such as money, food, clothing and the like. However, the word 'want' literally means that *I shall lack nothing*. So our divine shepherd not only meets our physical needs, he also meets our spiritual, emotional

Continued over

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BSB: 066162 (Commbank)
Account: 00900455

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PLEASE TURN OVER

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

2. Please pray for Caitlin as she settles in. Caitlin will be working two days a week with us and also finishing off her Masters in Social Media

3. We have a number of staff away on holidays at the moment. Please pray for the Lord's protection and care for all the Challenge staff and their families

4. We have recommenced the Challenge paper going into South America with another partner organisation. Please pray for the Lord's blessing on this edition as we re-establish our connection with South and Central America

5. Please pray for the Lord's provision of finances for the Perth office of Challenge as we are in desperate need at the moment to meet ongoing expenses

and other personal needs. Then there are needs such as physical protection. Also there are needs we have in our marriages, in our families, in our churches and in our workplaces. The amazing thing is God knows these needs even before we mention them to Him in prayer. This attention to detail is brought home to us when we look at the word picture of an eastern shepherd.

A middle-eastern shepherd was dramatically different to how we manage sheep in Australia. We use dogs, motorbikes etc. A biblical shepherd usually cared for a flock of around 100 and he didn't require any outside assistance.

A biblical shepherd would lead his flock; he would get to know each sheep by name. He would get to know their various markings and idiosyncrasies. The sheep would get to know the shepherd and to recognize his voice. The shepherd would put his life on the line to protect his flock, such as David did in 1 Samuel 17, when he killed a lion and a bear.

A biblical shepherd always had the well-being of his sheep in mind. A wayward lamb would be allowed to disobey until such time as the shepherd took drastic action to teach the lamb. The shepherd would literally break a lamb's leg and then bind it and carry the lamb around on his shoulders. During convalescence the lamb would learn to depend on the shepherd for its every need.

So it is with our divine shepherd the Lord Jesus Christ. He knows each one of us by name. He is aware of our personality, quirks and idiosyncrasies. He knows our needs, so much so that He laid down His life for us on Calvary's cross so that we could be delivered from our sin and the curse of death.

- 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: _____

Address: _____ Post Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

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: \$ _____

To be used for _____

Please make all cheques payable to **Challenge Literature Fellowship**

Credit Card: Visa Mastercard

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