

PRAISE

- Praise the Lord for a number of gifts received towards the replacement of a new work vehicle.
- Praise the Lord for the recent opportunity to get Challenge newspapers into Swaziland (southern Africa) with a ministry out of the USA called Hands Against Hunger. With every meal pack will go a Challenge paper.
- Praise the Lord for the opportunity to produce a Creole edition for Haiti, again with Hands Against Hunger.
- Praise the Lord for a number of orders coming in from recent trip to Sydney.
- Praise the Lord for a number of orders for our upcoming Christmas edition.

PRAYER

- Please pray for the India project as we look to increase the distribution. Pray for the staff as they continue to make the paper relevant and for churches that use the paper.
- Please pray for upcoming trip for Carl to United States. Andrew Trezona (US rep.) and Carl will be working in Las Vegas, Dallas, Atlanta, Kentucky and Ohio. Pray for open doors as we continue to establish the work there.

Psalm 23:6

Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

New Living Translation

Yet here is David in Psalm 23 stating that **surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life**. That speaks to us of the fact that David was willing to take whatever came his way in the will and purpose of God to achieve whatever needed to be achieved in his own personal development and growth as a believer.

So as a shepherd who took his job seriously he was grateful that each day passed by where none of his sheep were lost, hurt or injured in all the difficulties of the day. Certainly in biblical days there were many issues as far as safety was concerned, and in particular wild-life such as the lion or bear, and even thieves. So David was able to give thanks to God for His continued goodness and mercy and grace and kindness, and all those things we thank God for more and more as we get older.

A second thing that is most encouraging in verse 6 is the whole idea of knowing eternal security when David says **I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever**. I have found those words so "courage-giving" over the years as I have gone through difficult times, and begin to wonder whether I even know the Lord let alone are saved.

We come to the last verse in Psalm 23 and see that note of thankfulness to God: David looks back over the years and remembers nothing but the goodness and the mercy of the Lord.

I have just been doing some studies in Psalm 55 where David recalls what appears to be the betrayal of his son Absalom and his good friend Ahithophel, and it has been interesting to see how he responds to the awful portrayal of not only his son but also a close friend.

Continued over

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PRAYER CONTINUED

- We value prayer for our Argentina project which has recently recommended distribution. Churches are happy to use the paper but we need them to own it financially. Pray for Will Herndon and his family as they promote and develop the paper there.
- Please pray for upcoming trip to the UK. As our visa application has been declined we are exploring the option of working with our sister paper in UK. Please pray for wisdom as we seek the Lord further on this direction with Jonathan Newell working as Editor for us.
- Please continue to pray for our involvement with Prison Fellowship Australia. We are required to seek permission from each prison so we can get a tailor made prison edition into prisons around the nation under the banner of PF.

I am sure there are some who are reading this who have gone through the most dark and difficult experiences and wondered where God is in all of it. David was no exception as he went through some very sad times.

I can think of Psalm 32 where he relates how he had committed adultery with Bathsheba, and had kept silent for a whole year as his life was turned as he says "into the drought of summer".

Now sometimes when we go through difficult times, maybe caused by our own sinfulness, our lives become marred and cracked. So David was able to say with a note of jubilation ... even though I have gone through the valleys of the shadow of death ... even though I have had many difficulties and obstacles come my way ... nothing will change the fact that I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

What a great note of confidence and encouragement to finish such a wonderful Psalm on. I trust it is a word of encouragement to you that once we have genuinely come to the Lord nothing can change that.

CARL CARMODY, EDITOR OF CHALLENGE

PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; He leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honour to His name. Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for You are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honour me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

MY RESPONSE

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