

PRAISE –

- We continue to praise the Lord for the amazing opportunities we had in South Africa while on Impact Africa mission. So many highs and lows and the Lord was faithful with His care and protection.
- Praise the Lord for the funds that have come in towards the work being established in Uganda.
- Praise the Lord for the positive and fruitful visit to the UK for Carl and John. Time was spent with Jonathan Newell visiting churches etc in preparation for his upcoming move to Australia.
- Praise the Lord for the ongoing flow of commitment slips from the newspaper coming into the office.

PRAYER –

- Please pray that the latest edition of the Challenge will be a valuable seed and bear fruit.

Psalm 23:4

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

In the winter months when I get up early I go straight to the kitchen to put on the kettle. I don't switch on a light because I don't want to disturb the rest of the household. As a result I walk the hallway in darkness, straining my eyes to find my way as well as feeling the wall to give me some bearings.

In Psalm 23, verse 4, David talks about the spiritual experience of walking through a valley that is in darkness. The literal translation of the term 'shadow of death' is *valley of deep darkness*. The picture is of feeling your way around in the darkness to find a way out. It is a picture of looking for a shaft of light to give perspective to your surroundings.

In the times that David lived, as the seasons changed, the snow would melt in the highlands, producing moisture for lush pastures. A good shepherd knew that was the place to take his flock. However going up and coming down the valleys created difficulties for the sheep.

The early mornings and late evenings meant that there were many shadows around, which made the sheep feel uncomfortable. Paths were often narrow and dangerous. Shadows masked potholes and rocks which could cause the sheep to stumble. Sometimes the path might go alongside a fast running stream, creating a frightening sound and sight. The shepherd knew that shadows often hid danger from marauding wolves, lions, bears and other wild animals. Nonetheless the sheep had learnt to trust completely in the shepherd and to keep their eyes upon him at all times. As a result the sheep felt secure and content despite the dangers.

For the Christian we can find ourselves in a deep dark valley of suffering and struggle. Just recently a friend of mine lost his young son to suicide. This is a dark valley.

Continued over

Challenge Direct Deposit details:

BSB: 066162 (Commbank)
Account: 00900455

WWW.CHALLENGENEWS.ORG

PLEASE TURN OVER

Contact us by phone (08) 9453 3311 or fax (08) 9453 3006

Email: info@challengenews.org

PRAYER CONTINUED

- Please pray for Cobus (our South African Director) and Christa Britz. Pray for protection on the roads, for open doors as they visit churches and for the continued growth of the newspaper.
- Please pray for our partnership with World Hope Prison Ministry in South Africa; particularly Rosy Jacobs who leads this ministry. We had almost 800 prisoners commence the discipleship course from our Impact Africa trip.
- Please pray for our writers and for the Lord's inspiration as they faithfully provide articles for the paper's editions around the world.

David declared, "Yea, though I walk through..." The Lord takes us through these valleys, because He is with us. Often the enemy wants to alienate us to make us think God is not with us, but the scriptures say otherwise. Maybe you have just lost a loved one – a wife, husband or child. Know that God will bring you through this valley because He is with you.

Maybe your marriage is going through a dark valley experience. Things seem to be hopeless; there is no ray of light at the end of the valley. Like the sheep we need to keep our eyes on the divine Shepherd, Jesus. Then we can feel secure and content despite the struggles.

Maybe you have found yourself unemployed, or your business is not going well. Maybe even the word bankruptcy has crossed your lips; there is no prospect of a job, no improvement in your business. The divine Shepherd says: "keep your eyes on me, trust in me, put your confidence in me, for I am with you. You are not alone".

Have you ever thought why God allows us to go through valley experiences? I have discovered that I need them for a number of reasons:

1. The Lord wants to teach me more about Himself.
2. The Lord wants to restore me to a right relationship with Himself.
3. He wants to teach more about what it is to trust Him alone.
4. He wants to deepen my devotional life by increasing my hunger for His Word, and praying with a renewed fervency.
5. The Lord wants to reveal to me the importance of being accountable to other Christians, and the need for body life ministry in the local church.

In closing, remember that no matter how generous or treacherous life's paths and tracks may be, we need fear no evil because the Lord is with us and is comforting us through the deep dark valleys.

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

EXPIRY DATE ____ / ____

3-DIGIT CREDIT CARD SECURITY CODE _____

NAME ON CARD: _____

SIGNATURE: _____