



On the Wings of Prayer

" Because thou hast been my help,
therefore in the shadow of thy wings
will I rejoice:" Psalm 63:7

Those Few Sheep

In 1 Samuel 17:28, Eliab unleashes his pent up resentment against his little brother David. I can't help but notice the disdain that the oldest brother expressed for his father's small flock. More noteworthy is the worth that David placed on those same few sheep. You could describe David up to this point in his life with the words "keeper of his father's sheep." When Samuel came to anoint the next King of Israel, God refused Eliab and chose David; but before he could be anointed, he had to be called in from keeping the sheep. When David was summoned to play the harp before Saul and cause the evil spirit to depart, the royal request was "Send me David thy son, which is with the sheep." Later, after David had been promoted above his older brothers to the position of armourbearer to the king; it is said that Eliab "followed Saul . . . But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep." As far as David was concerned, that was his job and that was where you would find him. It was also there that David learned lessons that would serve him well as God's chosen leader.

As David sang praises to God, he learned that God inhabits the praises of His people. When the lion and the bear came, David was not alone; God was present. With God's presence is God's power. Nothing else is necessary. If our music attracts God, it is enough. It was there that David learned that simple weapons with God's power always get the job done, and God's plan will not work without God's presence and God's power. With God, there is no need of praise worthy weapons and armor. Let God have the praise and the glory. If worldly weapons attract our admiration, we do well to follow David's example and walk away. David had learned that it takes the same power of God to protect a few sheep in the wilderness, as it does to lead an army against mighty enemies of God. Likewise, old fashioned gospel preaching, godly music and soul winning may seem dated and too simple to reach a contemporary world; but these are the simple weapons that have been proved through the years. They still work no matter the size or location of a church. Let one learn to find God in the most remote of locations, and they will see that the same methods also work in the largest city and defeat the most intimidating enemy. Some seek a more praiseworthy method, one that people will flock to. Israel's greatest need at that hour was not a large army, popular leader or high tech weaponry. Israel needed someone to confront and defeat Goliath. Let Saul or Eliab face Goliath with their weapons and their armor if they dare. David trusted in God with the simple weapons he had proved as he kept those few sheep in the wilderness. Wise is the shepherd that puts off the latest methods, and instead, trusts God and the proven methods we have learned from our Father.

Many a pastor and missionary could also be described with the words "keeper of his Father's sheep." Others may find themselves in Eliab's place, chasing great things while questioning the value of small ministries or even the value of slowly progressing missionary ministries to Gospel resistant cultures. God's plan of redemption for this lost world is through the local church and great wisdom is expressed by one who surrenders to God's call and finds himself faithfully keeping his Father's sheep regardless the size or location of the flock. God is known to choose men for promotion not based on the outward appearance, but because of their heart. David sought God's heart and found it. Later, while the nation's finest still followed Saul, the distressed, indebted, and discontented sought David and made him captain over them. They sought David as David sought God. Mighty foes fell before them, and they all became great champions that God used to change the world. And it all started in the wilderness with those few sheep.

-John Peeples, IBFI Mission Director

- **Mark and Tricia Haynes (Navajo Nation)** report fifty coming to Christ from Ganado Baptist Church ministries in 2015. There are sixteen students attending Ganado Baptist Bible College this semester.
- **Flo Martin (Guatemala)** report a good turn-out for their anniversary service at church. Please continue to pray for Flo and some ongoing health needs.
- **Darrain and Mari Coker (Mexico)** report visitors in their church services. Souls are being saved and discipled. The Coker's will begin furlough August 2016. They request prayer for wisdom as they decide who will oversee the work.
- **Daniel and Michelle Jones (Rio Grande Valley/Mexico)** report God is blessing his work in Mexico. The Bible Institute continues to train men and women for the ministry. Many of these have become pastors and missionaries. The Jones' are busy with soul-winning and discipleship. They have nineteen going out regularly on visitation. These soul-winners have lead several to Christ on visitation.
- **Harold and Lena Priday (Honduras)** report fifty-seven campers at youth camp. There were nine trusting Christ. There were also daily VBS held in the community with five trusting Christ.
- **Bill and Sharon Smith (Brazil)** report a good attendance for their recent anniversary service at the church. Eighty-five were present from three churches. The institute in Caracarai will have two more graduating this May.
- **True and Diana Hawkins (Brazil)** request prayer for the Bible Institute students. Several are suffering from health problems that hinder their attending classes. The Lord continues to bless and expand his work through nationals that the Hawkins' have trained and equipped for the ministry.
- **Leslie and Alba Priday (Honduras)** arrived to begin their furlough in April. The Youth Camp in Honduras was well attended.
- **Prayer Request:** Our missionaries health, safety, wisdom, and victory over the trials they face daily.

"Brethren pray for us."

1 Thess. 5:25