

# †.my Shepherd

The Lord is *my Shepherd*, I shall not want.

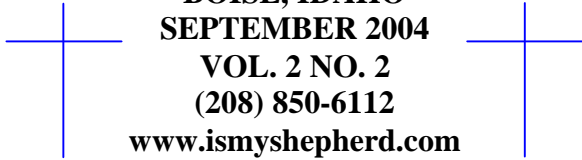


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## TODAYS SCRIPTURE

**I** am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes; first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Romans 1:16 NIV

## HIS MYSTERIOUS WAYS

**I** 'm a sound sleeper. Only thirst or a headache ever wakes me up. A car speeding past, a dog barking, a passing thunderstorm-I can sleep through almost anything. But for no apparent reason I woke up with a start one cool fall night.

At first I thought it was time to get up. No, my clock showed 1:00 A.M. I listened. All was still, yet I felt as though I had awakened for some reason. I sat on the side of the bed, bolt upright. Several minutes passed. The bedroom windows were closed and the curtains drawn. No noise from the outside. There was total silence.

Then I heard, distinctly, a man's voice: "Help me, help me. Oh please, help me!"

The voice sounded like it was in the room with me. "Help me, help me! Oh, please, help me!"

Immediately I called the police emergency number. "Someone needs help," I said, "out near my street." I told the dispatcher where I lived, and satisfied that I had done all I could. I went back to bed.

Even before I fell asleep, the police dispatcher called me back. She sounded incredulous. "How did you know someone was there?" she asked.

"I heard his cries," I said.

"But how could you?" she asked. She knew my condominium was set well back from the street. My windows were closed and I hadn't heard the police drive by. "The man you heard," she explained, "was trapped in a car at the bottom of a ravine nearly two blocks away."

"I heard him," I said. Somehow I heard him.

Virginia Ann Van Seters  
Columbia, South Carolina  
Guideposts-September 1989

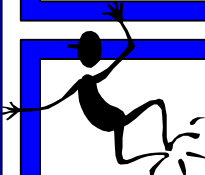
## A PRAYER FOR SEPTEMBER

Let me be a voice  
for the speechless,  
Those who are small and weak;  
Let me speak  
for all helpless creatures  
Who have no power to speak.  
I have lifted my heart  
to heaven  
On behalf of the least of these  
the frightened  
the homeless,  
the hungry.  
I am voicing their pleas.  
if I can help any creature,  
Respond to a desperate call,  
I will know that  
My prayers has been answered  
by the God who created them all.

Helen Inwood



## COMEDY

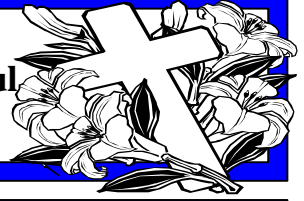
 A preacher preached against whiskey, closed by saying, "Every drop of the stuff should be poured in the river."

And then the choir director got up and sang "Shall We Gather At the River!"



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**MISSION STATEMENT:**  
**To Encourage the Faithful**  
**To Save the Lost.**



**F**or God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 NIV

It's your responsibility, do it today.



**T**he song service at the church where I attend was just starting as I made my way to an open seat last Sunday morning. I was aware of the people around me: an older couple to my left and a young couple with a little toddler in front of me. The toddler was trying to convince her mother that she wanted to be anywhere else but in church. The mother finally took the little girl out and apparently to the nursery.

Everything was quiet except for the beautiful sounds of the congregation in song. The young mother returned to her seat. Pastor Mark was making some announcements and the service was progressing when suddenly the mother of the little girl suddenly lurched forward to the edge of her seat, aware of something the rest of us were unaware of.

As the mother got up to go to the nursery, it was only then that we heard what she had heard a few seconds earlier. Her little girl entered the sanctuary crying at the top of her lungs. Her mother swooped her up into her arms and hurried out.

The scene haunted me throughout the remainder of the day and the fact that the young mother heard the sound of her child before anyone else did.

Several years ago my mother and father were driving home from a visit to my sister's home. The weather was pleasant, the conversation light as they drove across the Kansas landscape. For a moment there was a pause, my mother grabbed my father's arm and with a feeling of horror in her voice quietly said. "Something terrible has just happened to Stan." They pulled off to the side of the road and said a prayer and then continued. Dad noticed it was just about 2:30 in the afternoon as they continued on home.

At the same time, my wife Shirley, who was at home, suddenly felt very ill for no apparent reason. The phone call came shortly, informing her of the accident.

At 2:30, I was lying on the ground, unconscious, the results of a tremendous pipeline explosion in Houston Texas. I was burned over 50 percent of my body and fighting for my life. It was September 9, 1969, an anniversary that I will never forget from that time on.

When my parents finally reached home, they received the news from my wife that there had indeed been an accident. I was in the emergency room in

(cont.) Houston, alive and stable

Just as the young mother knowing something terrible had happened to her son miles away, and my wife suddenly feeling ill at the same time. Our heavenly Father is always there and hears our faintest cry, even though He sometimes seems so far away.

The Bible tells us He knows what we want and what we need even before we do. He cares for you and He will hear you. The Forgiver forgiving the unforgiven. Talk to Him, invite Him into your heart, into your day-to-day life and know that whatever happens to you, it must first pass through the hands of Jesus.

Stan Manley-my Shepherd newsletter

### **Sunshine and Rain**

No life is useless and no day is vain,  
For God has a purpose for sunshine and rain.  
All are discouraged, and everyone cries,  
But we're never alone beneath cloudy skies.  
All hearts can break...they're fragile as glass,  
But God will mend them, and this too shall pass.  
Sometimes we succeed, and sometimes we fail,  
So follow your dream whatever the trail,  
For no one's a loser who gives it his best,  
And you can stand tall above all the rest.  
Those who are faithful are noble at heart,  
And no life is useless when God has a part.  
Be swift to give praises and slow to complain...  
God has a purpose for sunshine and rain.

Clay Harrison

*To do what He wants you to do.*  
*You must be what He wants you to be.*