



NEW LIFE

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL MINISTRY

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July - August 2007

MY SHEEP KNOW ME

By Vince C. Dorazio

One of the main characteristics of sheep is that they are social animals, and from the day they are born, they tend to flock together in groups as small as 4 or 5 and larger. They have excellent senses and keep their eyes and ears centered on what is familiar to what they recognize. They become familiar to their shepherd's voice and follow him wherever he leads them. The shepherd who tends his flock keeps a close eye on his sheep moving them from one pasture to another. He keeps a lookout for predators, keeping his sheep safe. He usually has a long staff that he uses to keep the sheep together as they move from one place to another. It is also used as a weapon to use against predators (wolves and lions) that may attack the sheep. At one end of the staff there is a crook, shaped like a hook. This allows the shepherd to catch the sheep that were straying into dangerous ground. When one of the sheep begins to stray, the shepherd's job is to bring that straying sheep back to the fold. He would use the crook end of the staff to catch the sheep by the hind legs and drag it back to the flock. If the sheep strays too far away from the main flock he may be in danger of being lost forever and also of being caught in the snares of a predator.

In the Old Testament, we read that many of the Israelites were shepherds. And



there were two kinds of shepherds; one who was the hired hand who worked for wages and the other was the shepherd-owner who grew up with the sheep. He knows each of his sheep by name, and he knows their weaknesses and their strength. He also knows which sheep would wonder off straying from the flock. He would keep a steady eye on these sheep and bring them back to the fold whenever they started to stray. These are the shepherds that Jesus describes in the New Testament in John's Gospel in Chapter 10.

People are somewhat like sheep. We tend to flock together in cities and towns. We too are also social beings, and for the most part we are followers. Just like the sheep that follow the leader sheep, we follow our leaders, whether it is in our jobs, politics, or our churches.

Christian people are in the same category. The church has given us shepherds (Cardinals and Bishops) to help guide us in our daily life. We follow their teachings and instructions so as not to stray from the Christian faith, lest we fall into danger. But unfortunately, many do fall away, and are lost forever, and become prey for predators. Satan.

Years ago, a Christian friend told me that when we meet in our weekly prayer meetings, there is safety in numbers. Because once we make a commitment to renew our lives in the Holy Spirit, Satan is out to change our minds, and wants us to stray from the flock. He does this in the simplest ways; such as a good TV show you had wanted to see; a sporting event that you are interested in attending; the weather is too hot or too cold, etc. These temptations always seem to fall on the same night your prayer meetings come together for praise and worship. Besides, when you attend the weekly prayer meetings, you are rubbing shoulders with the saints as we build one another up in the Holy Spirit.

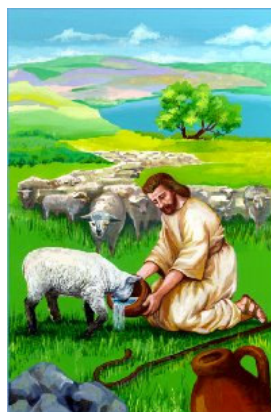
Jesus says, ***"The one who enters through the gate is shepherd of the sheep; the keeper opens the gate for him. The sheep hear his voice as he calls his own by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all those that are his, he walks in front of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice."*** (John 10:2-4) Jesus continues, ***"I am the good shepherd, I know my***

sheep and my sheep know me in the same manner that the Father knows me and I know the Father: for these sheep I will lay down my life." (John 10:14-15)

Are you one of the sheep that has strayed away from the weekly prayer meeting? Or do you know someone who has? If so, I believe that the Good Shepherd (Jesus) is calling you by name to return to the flock to come together with the other sheep (your brothers and sisters) to sing praise and worship our Lord. I believe Jesus is calling you and others to return to the weekly prayer meetings. Remember there is safety in numbers as we gather together and rub shoulder with one another.

Each of us has been given a special gift from the Holy Spirit. ***"To each person the manifestation of the Spirit has been given for the common good."*** Your gift of the Holy Spirit is needed by the other people in the prayer meeting. Your absence from the prayer meeting denies the other members of your special gift from God. So I encourage you; ***"We should not absent ourselves from the assembly, as some do, but encourage one another; and this all the more, because you see that the Day draws near."*** (Hebrews 10:25)

"I am the Good Shepherd." Says Jesus as he describes what kind of Shepherd he is. (See John 10:11-16) He knows each one of us individually. He knows the cares and concerns of our lives. He knows our needs. He knows our strengths and weaknesses. He knows what we can be.



Do you recognize the Shepherds voice calling?

Come follow Him!

NEW LIFE RENEWAL

During the next few months, we will be making an all out effort to send the Shepherds voice to thousands of people. We will be beginning in the South Minneapolis area surrounding St. Albert's Catholic Church and then continue on to other areas of Minneapolis. Our goal is to find the lost and straying sheep and return them to the flock.

Earlier this year, we received a word from the Lord through a member of the prayer meeting **"to hit the streets and evangelize"**. This will be an evangelistic outreach to introduce **all** people to the Holy Spirit and the Charismatic Renewal. We will begin by contacting over 20,000 homes with the message that,

JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!

As you can imagine, an undertaking of this size will take considerable time and effort, along with much needed prayer and finances. You can help with this project by offering your prayers and donations as we answer the Shepherd's voice. Our advance costs of printing and mailing (approximately \$4,500) is needed to get the project started. Several larger donations will allow us to begin this outreach, and help clear our advance costs. Some of you can donate more than others with a larger donation; however any amount will be greatly appreciated. But most important, **your prayers** are needed to ensure that those who receive this outreach message will respond favorably. **May Our Lord Jesus Bless You Abundantly With His New Life!**

Prayer Meetings

THURSDAYS – 7:30 PM

**St Albert's Catholic Church
East 29th St. & 32nd Ave. So. Mpls.**

Handicap Accessible

For more information Call:

Mark Bjorkstrand

612-282-9896

COME JOIN US

NEED PRAYER?

If you or someone you know is in need of personal prayer, we would like to include your needs to our Prayer Requests.

Please pray for all those in need.

Below is a Prayer Request Form. Please cut it out, fill in your request and mail it to us. We will add your request to our prayer list.

<p style="text-align: center;">PRAYER REQUEST PLEASE PRINT</p> <p>Please pray for the following person.</p> <p>Name: _____ _____</p> <p>Prayer Need(s): _____ _____</p> <p>Requested by: _____ _____</p> <p>Address: _____ _____</p> <p>Email: _____ _____</p> <p>Return To: NEW LIFE CRM 6253 Penn Avenue South Richfield, MN. 55423</p> <p>Email: Vince@NewLifeCRM.org Or Mark@NewLifeCRM.org</p>

The primary purpose of this newsletter is to proclaim that JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!



NEW LIFE
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CHARISMATIC PRAYER MEETINGS

THURSDAYS 7:30 PM

St Albert's Catholic Church
 29th Street & 32nd Ave. South Minneapolis, MN.
 (1 Block North of E. Lake St.)
 Call ahead for Handicap Accessibility 612-282-9896



LET'S JUST PRAISE THE LORD

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