



Worship Notes

Fall 2009

Evangelical Free Church of Sycamore-DeKalb

The Lord is MY Shepherd

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

When I think back to my own childhood, I can remember one of the first passages of Scripture I ever memorized was Psalm 23. It is fairly short and contains many vivid pictures that a child can relate to – shepherds, pastures, streams, valleys, table of delights, etc. I remember it being very meaningful to me.

Over the years I suppose the familiarity and popularity of the Psalm has made it less meaningful. In an age where newer is better, it is easy to lay

aside that which is familiar for more “current” truth from other Scripture passages. And yet it is so important to remember that ALL Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness! How I need to remember that!

We have begun to introduce Psalms in our worship songs on Sunday. This is an ancient practice that goes back to the Hebrew Temple and is also one that has been part of the church in history for 2000 years. We are instructed to sing “psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs” in Colossians 3:16 and Ephesians 5:20. Psalms are the worship songs of God’s people in the Old Testament, and their message is relevant to our experience today. The psalms represent the private prayers of Old Testament worshippers like David, and in the worship of God’s people they become the prayers of the whole people.

As we consider using Psalms in our singing, may we be enriched by their divine message and be formed by their God-focused (and often *Christ*

-focused) meanings. Here in the sacred text we find how to be “real” in our worship and how to place our faith and dependence upon God in light of whatever circumstances we find ourselves.

Let’s think a bit about Psalm 23 – aren’t you glad the Lord shepherds you? Oh, I am glad! He leads us in the paths of righteousness! He restores our soul just when we need it most. And in the darkest of valleys in which we find ourselves, He is right there beside you! He hasn’t gone anywhere! He will never leave you and is, in fact, comforting you and intentionally guiding you through those difficult times of life. Corrie ten Boom used to say, “There is no prison too deep that He is not deeper still!” What a comfort! And aren’t you glad for your future? You will dwell in the presence of the Lord forever with incredible privileges and blessings beyond your wildest dreams.

Be encouraged and look up,
Pastor Paul

KCC Camp 2009



EOS Prayer Ministry

"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone..." – 1 Timothy 2:1

How important is prayer? As the apostle Paul begins to instruct Timothy on how the church is to worship, he urges first of all that the church needs to pray. As the church does this, he writes that it is good and "pleasing in the sight of God our Savior". The purpose of our EOS prayer team is to stand with our brothers and sisters who need the spiritual reinforcement of prayer. There is something unique about the nature of partnering with someone in prayer. Perhaps that is why Jesus said He is present with you whenever two or three come together to pray (Matt. 18:20). There is a special and unspoken ministry that takes place when the needs of the body are shared before the throne together.

Some practical ways to make your prayer time most effective on Sun-

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day morning:

Prepare the night before by praying for the time you will spend serving in this ministry. The Holy Spirit will focus your heart and mind upon the ministry of prayer.

If you have not had anyone come forward to pray in a while, ASK GOD to bring someone to you! Why not? God may use those kinds of prayers to urge just the person He wants to come forward for prayer. Let's desire to be used and anticipate what God will do when we ask him this request.

Whenever possible have your Bible in hand when you stand up front. You may be

able to use a Scripture verse to encourage someone who needs it. You might even have the privilege of sharing the gospel with someone. Simply use John 3:16 and you will be able to share with anyone! (1 Pet. 3:15)

Be consistent in your own personal prayer time. We all have to stay alert in prayer. The apostle Paul speaks about this in the New Testament (Eph. 6:18).

Never forget that you are engaging in spiritual battle (Eph. 6:12). You are on the front lines of ministry. Take the authority that is yours as a child of God and boldly go to battle on behalf of those who need your support.

"I pray that...he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit." – Eph. 3:16

God bless you as you serve Him!

DeKalb County Hospice Live Music Program

This summer the EFC Worship Ministry has partnered with DeKalb County Hospice in the launch of their new *Live Music Program*. The purpose of the *Live Music Program* is to use music in a therapeutic way to help patients at the end stages of life or in critical life situations.

Our first introduction to this program involved playing music for the cancer patients at the cancer center as they received their chemotherapy. Both hymns and classical music were played in both the waiting room and the cancer treatment room. While we were originally scheduled to play for just one hour,

the staff asked us to stay longer and we played for nearly two hours.

It was obvious that many of the patients knew the hymns that we played. This was encouraging and confirmed the special role that EFC is playing as a partner in this special program.

Many favorable comments from the patients as well as the staff of the cancer center were given and we look forward to how God will continue to use the gift of music to minister to people in their deepest needs.



Brad Osborn plays for cancer patients at the Cancer Center