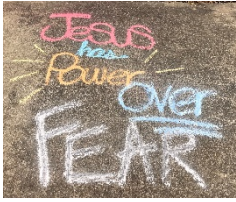




Joe McDonald Ministry

Isaiah 6:8

The Evangelism Trail – May 2020



Granddaughter Mallory
chalk art "Jesus has
power over fear."

There is good news and there is better news this month! In spite of the situation we find ourselves living with, we are staying busy with projects. We've helped build a deck, fence, work bench, lay sod and still get to teach our fathers training at The Mission of Hope and hold a Tuesday morning chapel service there this month. That's the good news. The *better* news is Dick Russell's has opened up and back in business. Now Dick Russell's is Patti and my favorite restaurant in Mobile. It's a regular stop on Sundays after church and if we get there before noon, we can still get grits with our breakfast. So I know now that no matter what happens this summer, we can always get to Dick Russell's, forget about life's problems and order breakfast, and we can get our grits, too!

We feel very fortunate none of our friends, relatives or acquaintances have had this virus. The chance to get back to our church, Luke 4:18 Fellowship, will hopefully happen in the next couple of weeks. Watching on a laptop is just not the same as being there. However we did our first "drive-in" graduation with our grandson, Joey Jr at his school this month. Our granddaughter in AZ, Olivia, graduated high school with a "drive-in" graduation that we didn't get to attend. Our granddaughter here in Mobile, Kathleen, is graduating from South Alabama and she won't get to have a graduation ceremony.

Sadly we lost my late Dad's cousin Clarence McDonald on Saturday May 16th. I am thankful for him, his family and that I was blessed to participate in his funeral and graveside service. He's been a friend for many years.

In the March Evangelism Trail, I mentioned about Gabby, the young lady in Mexico with Leukemia that the missionary family in Guatemala were trying to get her to St Jude's for treatment. Sadly, Gabby went to be with Jesus on April 29th. I heard that most of her time she was alone due the hospital restrictions for this virus. I pray someone from her family was with her when she went home to be with the Lord. Pray for our leaders that God gives them wisdom to know when to reopen all countries and let us start getting our lives back in His control.

Be a Sheep with Attitude-Patti McDonald

Professional Mom, Patti McDonald here to bring encouragement and inspiration to moms and caregivers.

My topic today is the 23rd Psalm from the Bible. This usually comes up at funerals and that's not a bad thing, however, have you ever stopped to meditate on the serene comfort of this passage? "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want." This is only the first verse, of course, but think about it. The very God of the Universe is our Shepherd.

You must know a little bit about sheep to understand this passage fully. Back in the day, (even in modern times in some countries,) the shepherd looked after his sheep as full guardian of their being. He rested in the exact place that the "enemies" could enter to protect them, and this also



Daughter Sarah artwork

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kept the flock from wandering. According to Max Lucado, “Safe in the Shepherd’s Arms,” the flock can’t even sleep without the preparation and help of the Shepherd. Even for them to have green pastures, the shepherd had to find and prepare the best fields, removing rocks and briars that would hurt them. Sheep must be fed, and all manner of their needs met for them to rest. We need our Shepherd for this as well.

When the Psalmist speaks of green pastures, still waters and a robust table set “in the presence of my enemies,” he is telling the great care that God has for us. When we are disturbed, hungry or sick, our Shepherd moves in to woo us to himself. He is our comfort. He is our all.

Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand” John 10: 27.

I choose to be a Sheep with Attitude because I choose to follow my Shepherd, Jesus. The world will have you follow the crowd to the trucks headed to the slaughter. Sheep have a way of following the leader, much to their detriment, sometimes. I am choosing Who to follow. I choose the Shepherd who died in my place. He will take care of me, no matter what!

Come with me and follow Jesus, you will know the care of THE GOOD SHEPHERD FOREVER. “I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD, AND KNOW MY SHEEP, AND AM KNOWN OF MINE” John 10:14

The LORD the Shepherd of His People - A Psalm of David.

“23 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.”

Patti

Thank you for your faithfulness and your continued financial and prayer support for the ministry and the work we will be doing again, soon. Pray for our business owners and churches that this interruption of lives will end in a positive manner in the next few weeks. We love you and pray for you daily.

Joe and Patti



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