

HEDGE

Magazine for Deacon's wife - Dutch Caribbean Union - Second semester 2021

**What kind of shepherd are
you and I of God's flock?**





HEDGE

This magazine is a reminder for us that God stands beside us and according to Job 1:10, He is surrounding the ministerial families and the wives of the deacons and their respective families.

May each article help to set a hedge around our homes,

Beside that, we have the responsibility to be thankful and to serve with love. From those who have received much, much is required.

CONTENT:



NOTE: All unnamed article is contribution of the editor

TAKING CARE OF SHEEP IS A DISCIPLINE

Dear deacon's wives:

When we think about how much the LORD, Chief of all shepherds around the world, has done for each one of us, this surely will move our hearts, and we will say, "FATHER, all for Thee!

Our opportunity, our chance, our choice comes ONCE in life, and that is NOW that we are here. Now that we are breathing, we can make a difference. Now that we can see and hear and walk and talk, we can minister alongside of, and together with our husband and children.

And you know, my sister, there is nothing sweeter than giving unselfishly of ourself to serve God and His cause. Without making distinction between sheep and lambs and goats. Not caring if they are young or old, nor if they have experience or not. Nor that they cooperate, or they are headstrong and walk in harms way. If the LORD had and is still having patience with us, it is our duty to have patience and understanding for those around us, who are in our fold, at the church and also at home.

"Now it's up to you. Be on your toes— both for yourselves and your congregation of sheep. The Holy Spirit has put you in charge of these people— God's people they are— to guard and protect them. God himself thought they were worth dying for" (Acts 20:28. THE MESSAGE)

May God bless and strengthen you!

Kindly,

ANNA MARIA MANUELA CROES





The shepherd's love

**“Duty makes us do things well,
but love makes us do them beautifully”¹**

GOOD shepherds love their animals from the heart! They know their sheep need their constant care for practically everything in life. They are watching their animals day and night, without neglecting none, not the male, nor the female, nor the little lambs, nor the fat mother pending to give birth. All the sheep depend on their shepherd. They spent many hours together, and this has created a bond between them. For the shepherd it is not a burden to take care of his sheep, to have patience with them, to correct them, nor to persevere in his routine, because he LOVES them.

HE SPENT TIME WITH THEM. Day and night the shepherd is there with his animals. He knows which obeys readily, which is foolhardy, which is weak, and which is the leader among them.

HE PROVIDES FOR THEM. He is sad when there is no food to give them. He feels it when they are crying of hunger. He makes all the effort to go out seeking good food for them to eat, grass that doesn't have parasites in it. He takes them also where there is still water for them to drink without drowning, since rough waters can go into their nostrils that are so close to their mouth. And sheep can't swim. If their wool gets soaked and they fall into the water, its weight can make them drown, if the shepherd is not attentive.

HE KNOWS THEM. If the flock is not too big, the shepherd many times gives each one a name. He knows that if the sheep stumbles or falls on its back, it cannot stand up on its own. He will stay like that, and becomes prey for the wild animals if the shepherd is not quick and turns it back on its feet. The shepherd knows also that they can get scared by themselves and have a heart attack by just imagining that a dog or wolf will attack them.

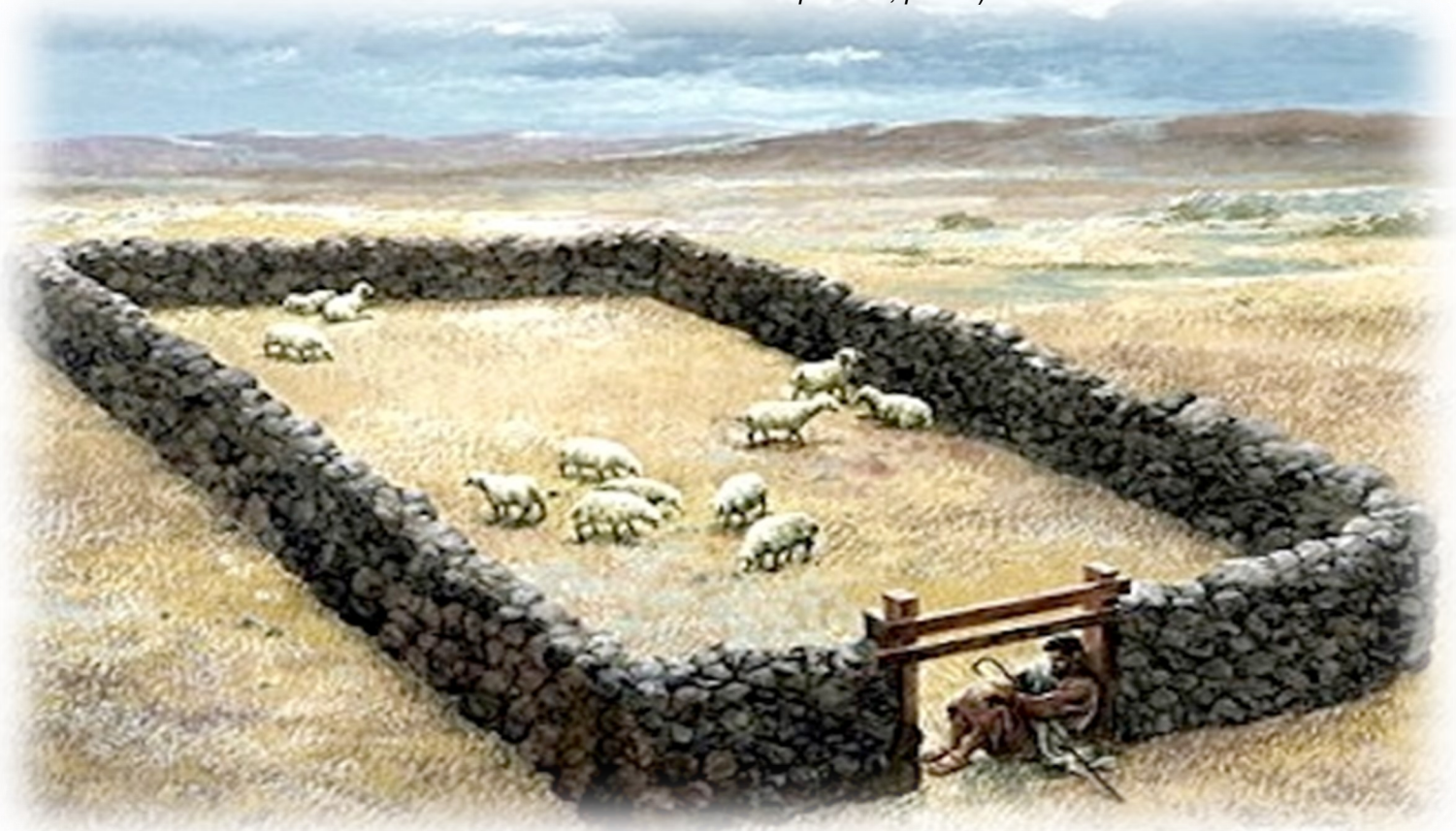
THE DOOR. The shepherd sleeps in the entry of the door to the sheep pen. Nothing can go in or out without him notices it. He can protect only those that are inside.

IN THE CHURCH. Comparing this with the charge that deacon's spouses have together with their husband:

- If they are taking care of the flock by obligation and not by love, it can become a burden and tedious. But if it is because of love, it is as if they are doing it for Jesus, and they will do it willfully, joyfully, gratefully.
- They are attentive for each one of the 'sheep' in their flock, young ones, old ones, male, female, those who cooperate and those who misbehave.
- They spent time with them, in their service and programs. They visit them. They talk with them.
- They provide the attention, the kindness, the spiritual nourishment, the advices, the warning.
- They know that Jesus is the Supreme Shepherd, owner of all the sheep and lambs, and one day they will have to give account of their welfare and fulfillment of their calling.

"Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good... Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder." Romans 12:9-13)

¹ *Sword Scrapbook II, p. 154).*



SHEPHERDESS

RACHEL was a shepherdess (Genesis 29:9).

- The shepherdess doesn't let her lambs go astray.
- She guards them and keeps her flock together.
- When an enemy comes to take her sheep, she fights for them.
- She is on guard to all who would attack her flock.
- She will take her lamb out of the enemy's mouth.
- She is on alert and not taken to idleness.
- She builds a hedge of protection for her sheep by her diligence in watching over them.
- When a lamb goes astray, she searches until she finds her lamb.
- She rejoices when her lamb is found.
- She makes sure her sheep are fed.
- She anticipates their needs.
- She knows her lambs by name.
- She knows each of their cries when they are in distress. She runs to them.
- She gives them a sense of belonging.
- She makes sure they have a place of rest and play under her watch.
- When they are weak, she carries them in her arms.
- She will climb the highest mountain to get to them if they are stuck.
- When they are sick she nurses them back to health.
- She leads her sheep.
- They know her gentle voice and they follow her.
- Her lambs know she is to be trusted.
- She instructs her sheep, blesses them, and gathers them together.
- She leads them down the right path with loving discipline.
- The shepherdess stays with her sheep.
- She is not out frolicking in the next field, while they run astray.

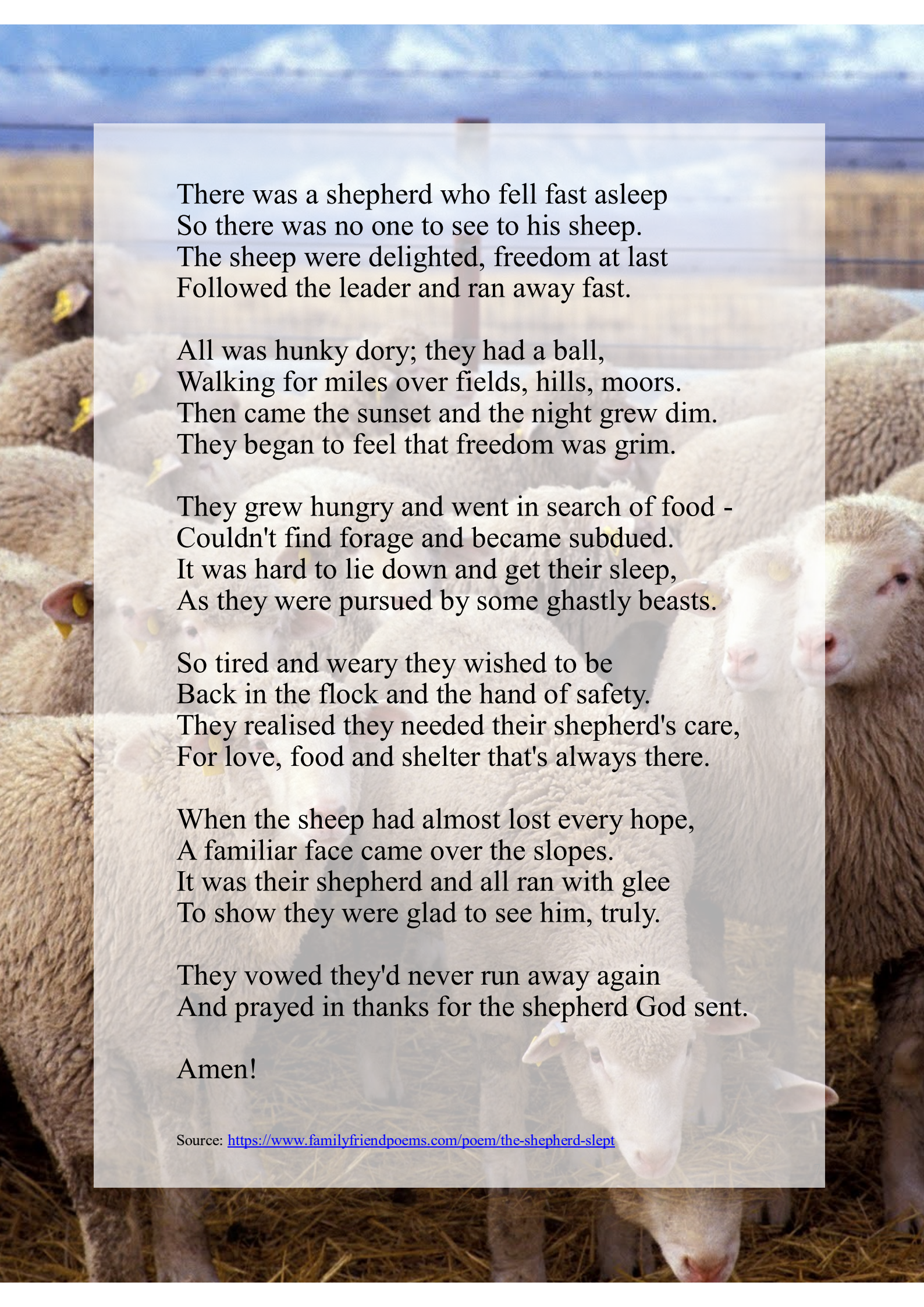
- The shepherdess is good to her sheep.
- She shows them mercy and love.
- She is generous and she blesses them beyond measure.
- She prays diligently for her sheep.
- She is their shepherdess for life.
- She cultivates her field.
- She removes the rocks and thorns.
- Their dwelling place is free from fear.
- She is greatly loved by her flock.
- They are always around her.
- They feel joy when they see their shepherdess.

She has a long term vision for the future of her flock, given to her by the Master Shepherd.

She provides them a place to call home so they will be strong and healthy.

"Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." (Psalms 23:6)





There was a shepherd who fell fast asleep
So there was no one to see to his sheep.
The sheep were delighted, freedom at last
Followed the leader and ran away fast.

All was hunky dory; they had a ball,
Walking for miles over fields, hills, moors.
Then came the sunset and the night grew dim.
They began to feel that freedom was grim.

They grew hungry and went in search of food -
Couldn't find forage and became subdued.
It was hard to lie down and get their sleep,
As they were pursued by some ghastly beasts.

So tired and weary they wished to be
Back in the flock and the hand of safety.
They realised they needed their shepherd's care,
For love, food and shelter that's always there.

When the sheep had almost lost every hope,
A familiar face came over the slopes.
It was their shepherd and all ran with glee
To show they were glad to see him, truly.

They vowed they'd never run away again
And prayed in thanks for the shepherd God sent.

Amen!

Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/the-shepherd-slept>



The shepherd's patience

PATIENCE

is fruit of the Holy Spirit. We need it every moment, every day anew in our lives, for everything!

Just like the shepherd needs a lot of patience to bear with his sheep who are slow, hardnecked, who just walk off the cliff, and if he is not paying attention all the others follow after him, so church leader's spouses need to have a lot of patience with all type of people, with all kind of character and customs that they have to attend to and still love, because we are called to do so. God needs our service, our support and fidelity.

Patience comes through perseverance and endurance, and it allows you to respond to frustrating circumstances with grace and self-control. In Psalm 40:1 David said: *"I waited patiently for the Lord to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry."*

Patience comes from having a solid hope in God's plans, especially His eternal plans for you. When you know that your long-range future is settled and secure, you can be more patient during today's frustrations.

In James 5:7, 8 we are encouraged: *"Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand."*

Whether you're waiting for crops to ripen, a traffic jam to unsnarl, a child to mature, or God to perfect you, you can grow in patience by recognizing that these things take time and that there is very little you can do to speed them up. A key to understanding God's will is to understand God's timing.

DIVINE PROMISE: "Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that He has promised." Hebrews 10:36

Taken from: DIVINE MOMENTS for WOMEN, p. 211

**"I've
disappointed
You, again!"**





The shepherd's correction

“O God, take your shepherd staff and show your people the way; protect them as your own dear and precious flock, give them a place to hide...”

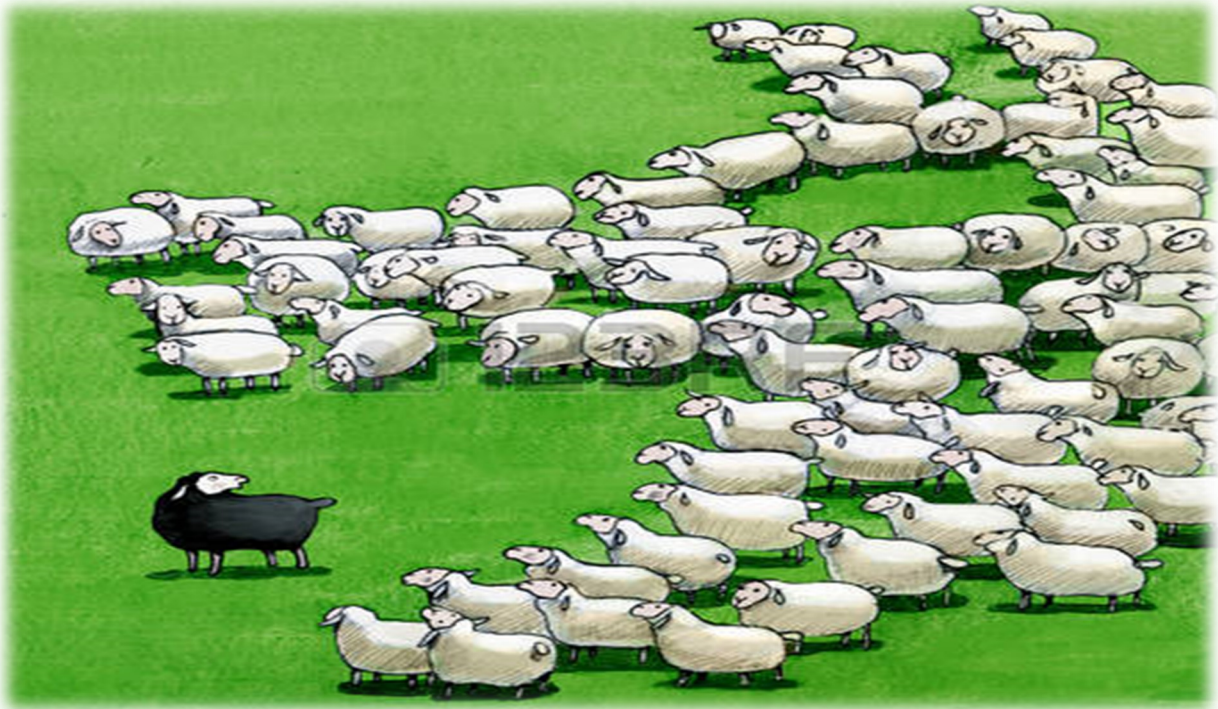
(Micah 7:14)

A

sheep is a meek animal that relies very much on its owner. We can learn many lessons from the shepherd and his sheep. I'll share just a few.

Members chosen in the church to be leaders are like shepherds. The one in charge of the flock sees to it to attend them in all their needs. There is nothing hard for him to do for his sheep. He/ she is constantly and full time at the disposition of the sheep. They are servants. Every moment the sheep trust their shepherd in all circumstances.

It's the shepherd that watches and is alert for the sheep to feel secure and he defends them against all wild animals. The trust that the shepherd inspires his sheep with is the trust that leaders must inspire the members with, who are the sheep.



Another interesting aspect of the sheep is that they unite together; that's the source of their strength. For a church to be strong, the members must bind together. Union gives strength is a sure statement. When a sheep is on its own, he feels vulnerable, but when they are many, that's a stronghold. For us to accomplish our goals, to fulfill our mission as God asks us to, we must unite more than ever to be strong together as one force. Indeed, union gives strength.

Written by Sumiré Kastaneer- Willems who is a deacon's wife. At the moment she is an instructor in the Pathfinders's Club and the leader of education in the Philip church, Curaçao

ANCIENTLY as now there was little security outside of the walled towns. Marauders from the roving border tribes, or beasts of prey from their hiding places in the rocks, lay in wait to plunder the flocks. The shepherd watched his charge, knowing that it was at the peril of his own life. Jacob, who kept the flocks of Laban described his own unwearied labor in Genesis 31:40. And it was while guarding his father's sheep that the boy David, singlehanded, encountered the lion and the bear, and rescued from their teeth the stolen lamb.¹

Sheep need constant care and protection.

They aren't the smartest creatures and have no natural defense mechanism. They rely on their shepherd to keep them out of harm's way and rescue them if they get into trouble.

THE SHEPHERDS METHODS ²

Foresees Danger – The shepherd trains the flock to know and follow his voice. This is his first line of defense. To wayward sheep, he administers discipline and takes preventative measures to correct fatal tendencies.

Oversees – The flock is the focus of the shepherd. He is responsible for their physical well-being. So he sets the pace, aware of the particular needs of each sheep. There are ewes – heavy with new life, lambs – inexperienced and frisky, young rams – stubborn and territorial (always pushing), the aged and sickly – those needing extra attention, and the wayward – who oppose everything (even their own best interests). Shepherds study the breed. He learns the strengths, weaknesses, and personality of each one. A thriving, peaceful flock is his blessing and reward.

WEAPONS OF THE SHEPHERD ³

A staff, a sling and a bag – these were the things that David brought to the field of battle. These tools of the shepherd represented his only weapons.

THE ROD:

- It is like a policeman's club. It is often made of oak wood and has a knob on the end of it. Into this knob nails are sometimes driven so as to make a better weapon.
- It is very useful for protection, and no shepherd would be without it.
- It was no doubt the rod that David used in protecting his sheep from wild animals (1 Sam. 17:34-36). He mentions both the rod and the staff in his Shepherd Psalm (Psalms 23:4).



STAFF:

- It is a stick five or six feet long and sometimes but not always has a crook at the end of it.
- It is used like Western men would use a cane or walking stick. It is useful in handling the sheep, and also for their protection.

SLING:

- Composed of two strings of sinew, rope, or leather, and a receptacle of leather to receive the stone. It was swung a time or two around the head and then was discharged by letting go one of the strings.
- The shepherd, in addition to using his sling against wild animals or robbers, found it very handy in directing the sheep. A stone could be dropped close to a sheep that was lagging behind and startle it into coming along with the rest of the flock.
- Or if one would get away in another direction, then a stone would be slung so as to drop just beyond the straying sheep, and thus bring him back..

THE MINISTRY OF CORRECTION IS ESSENTIAL IN THE FAMILY OF GOD ⁴

Quite often, you can correct a member of the body whom the pastor or the elders cannot effectively correct, because you know the person better than they do. He/ she is your friend, so he/ she's more likely to listen to you than to someone he doesn't know. But it's still not easy to do.

Correction is not a nicety; it's a necessity. If our lives veer off-course and continue in that wrong direction, it can result in shipwreck of our faith. Because of that fact, God wants every believer to be involved in the ministry of correction. Often a brother or sister is off course and doesn't know it. God calls us to correct that person in love.

Some hindrances to correction are:

- Fear. *Eze. 3:17-21; Acts 20:28*
- A misunderstanding. *Matthew 7:1*
- Awareness of personal sins. *Gal. 6:1*
- Laziness.
- Relative morality.
- Uncertainty.

Ask yourself some question first:

- Is my life an example? *1 Tim. 4:12*
- Do I have an adequate relationship with the person? *1 Tim. 5:1, 2; 1 Thes. 2:7-11.*

- Do I have the facts? *Prov. 18:13, 17*
- Do I have the right motives and objectives? *Matt. 18:15; Gal. 6:1; Col. 1:28.*
- Do I have the right wording? *Matt. 18:15*
- Is it God's time for me to go? *Psalms 38; 51.*
- Am I prepared to risk rejection and attack?

Procedure for correction:

- Be as private as the wrong. *Matt. 18:15-17.*
- Be cautious and wise. *1 Tim. 5:2; Gal. 6:1*
- Be direct and open. *Gal. 2:11*
- Be humble, not judgmental. *Gal. 6:1.*
- Be gentle, but firm. *1 Tim. 5:1; 2 Tim. 2:25*
- Be able to point him to God's word and to the necessary steps toward restoration.
- Be persistent if necessary. *Acts 20:31; James 5:19, 20.*

¹ The Desire of Ages, p. 479.

² [The Job Description Of A Shepherd – APOSTOLIC INFORMATION SERVICE](#)

³ [Manners & Customs: Shepherd life; the care of sheep and goats | AHRC \(ancient-hebrew.org\)](#)

⁴ [Lesson 15: The Ministry Of Correction \(1 Timothy 5:1-2\) | Bible.org](#)

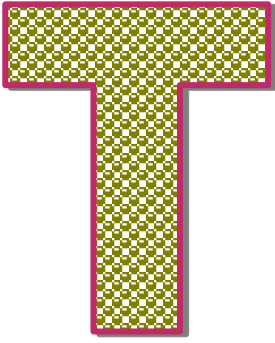


The shepherd's



By: Claudette | Anastatia

PERSEVERANCE



he life and work of a shepherd has its sacrifices, its griefs, but it has also its joys and happiness. There are different lessons we can learn from a shepherd and perseverance.

- What the shepherd does is that he stays 365 days with his sheep. He doesn't forsake his flock.
- The shepherd builds a yard of protection for his sheep to spend the night, to save them from the wolves, also from strong winds. Depending on the direction of the wind, he stacks up grass around the pen to cut down the wind that beats them too much.
- There are also dangers from within that the shepherd must pay keen attention to.
- The shepherd goes through seasons of rain and snow. He endures all kind of bad weather with his animals.
- He has no days off nor holidays. He is constantly on alert for the welfare of his flock.
- He finds himself with sheep that are submissive and let themselves be guided, but there are also those that want no guidance nor discipline. The shepherd must love and reach both groups.

Isaiah 53:6 the first part says: *All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way.*"

Matthew 9:36 *"And seeing the multitudes, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd."*

Jesus felt compassion for the people. He says in John 10:11 *"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."*

**The shepherd has a sensitive heart for the flock.
He gives his life for his sheep.
When danger approaches he fights to protect his flock.
The sheep know their shepherd and they love him.**

In the book The Desire of Ages, p. 479 we read: *"While the shepherd leads his flock over the rocky hills, through forest and wild ravines, to grassy nooks by the river-side; as he watches them on the mountains through the lonely night, shielding from robbers, caring tenderly for the sickly and feeble, his life comes to be one with theirs. A strong and tender attachment unites him to the objects of his care. However large the flock, the shepherd knows every sheep. Every one has its name, and responds to the name at the shepherd's call."*

We can consider the deacons in our church as shepherd of sheep, who are the brethren in the church. But writing to deacon's spouses, we don't want to separate the work of both from each other, because together they labor to take care of the Lord's flock.

As we have seen it is a work of sacrifice. There are moments of feeling grief. There are also moments of joy and gladness. As the shepherd protects, watches, and builds a sheep pen for the protection of his animals, so also the deacon's wife must help take care of the flock. She must be attentive to protect from dangers from without, but also from dangers from within.



“There are women who must work in the Gospel Ministry. In many ways they can do a better work than the ministers who sometimes neglect to visit the flock of the Lord. Whenever possible, both the wife and husband must unite in the work.

There is an open way for consecrated women. But the enemy rejoices when these women whom the Lord can use mightily to help many people, dedicate their time and effort to only one creature that needs constant care and attention.” Manuscript Releases 325-326. (HD 250 4).

My dear deacon's wives, God has a valuable work for you to do. Sometimes there may be no more grass; you must go out to look for another grassy field with fresh feed for the sheep. Don't leave the sheep without food. Seek new methods for the sheep to be well fed, but keep to the same principles.

- The principle is basic, but we can change the method to make it attractive, without nullifying the principle.
- Have fresh feed at hand to nourish old and young.
- Each sheep has his/ her peculiar traits. They must be attended to and cared for according to their need.
- But, we have to know our sheep, and they must also know us.

Isaiah 40:11 says: “Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, in His arm He will gather the lambs, and carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes.”

Jesus is our good example.

May God greatly bless you.

Claudette Anastatia is a Sabbath School teacher and a small group leader in Tera Kòrà church, Curaçao.

Tiresome?
Feels bored?
Disgusted?
Conformed?
Good?



By: Margaritha Maduro- Elizabeth

The shepherd's routine





When the word routine comes to our mind, right away we think of something that has become a custom, is it not so? If you notice, in general people like to make things a routine.

Maybe for things to move on smoothly or because of laziness to not bother themselves in seeking another way to do things.

Now, when we think of a shepherd, let's concentrate on a caretaker of sheep, the majority of shepherds have a routine. Why? Sheep and lambs are very tender animals, that need constant attention, in the sense to guide them where they can daily find food and fresh water. God's word tells us in John 10:11 "*I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.*" The shepherd needs a lot of patience and tact to guide the flock. He/ she must not feel bored.

God also has His shepherds and His sheep, even though we have to remember that Jesus is the Chief Shepherd, God has also His shepherds and sheep, and we have to work together as a team to guide the sheep, who are our church members. Our principal task is to feed the flock, to strengthen those that are discouraged, pay attention to those who are broken in heart and spirit, bring back the wandering ones, seeking the lost, and all this not by force or because of obligation.

The good shepherd will leave the whole flock to go and seek that one sheep that is lost. The shepherd must be attentive so not to allow any wolf to come close and attack his sheep and lambs. The shepherd knows his sheep by name, he guides them and goes in front of them.

We know for sure that as a deacon's wife in the church, you love this ministry, for you are part of it, helping the deacon (*shepherd*) in this important ministry.

The psalmist and shepherd, David, tells us in Psalms 23:1 *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want anything.*" So if we need wisdom to act in whatever situation, let's draw near to God in prayer, with a humble heart and with frankness, and be assured that He will answer us according to His divine will.

A "routine" Christian, who does everything automatically, without thinking, without emotion and feeling, such a Christian does not have the joy in what she's doing and this hinders her in developing spiritually. She serves God and man as an obligation.

Sometimes the "sheeps" can be stubborn, and don't follow instructions. But patiently and prayerfully, pleading to God for wisdom, the shepherd can make it and achieve success in the ministry that God has trusted to her.

"Shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory." (1 Peter 5:2-4)

Written by: Margaritha Maduro Elizabeth, an elder at the Mundu Nobo church in Curaçao

IRRESPONSABLE



By: Mirugia Leocadia– Zink

SHEPHERDS!

1 Corinthians 4:2 "In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy."



WHO IS A SHEPHERD?

A shepherd must be a courageous man to defend his sheep from any danger they may confront, he must be generous and love animals. He must be expert in knowing where to guide his sheep to appropriate places and provide good food, avoid giving them poisoned grass. He must not seek his own ease, but is always vigilant to protect and favour his flock. All these qualities lead to two things: *knowledge* and *love*.

A good shepherd must know each one of his sheep and he must let the sheep get to know him. This is possible only when there is closeness and daily contact with the sheep. He has to dedicate time, a lot of time to look and see which are the needs of each one of his sheep and what each one can do and value them.

A shepherd lives exhausted, he spends his time for his sheep. For his sheep he even endangers his life. He even exchange his life into food and medicine for them.

But sometimes we find the shepherds who come to work just because they are paid. They just fulfill the working hours, but they don't love the sheep. They don't take care of them as they should. They work so they can be paid at the end of the month and that is sufficient for them.

But what happens when a sheep finds himself into trouble? He blames the animal that it is the sheep that went into the wrong direction, but he never acknowledges that it was because of his neglect that that happened. His love was for his salary that he receives at the end of the month, instead of the love he should have had to take care whole heartedly of the sheep the owner trusted him with.

We can compare this with the responsibility of a deacon.

A deacon in the church takes care of, he advises, he orientates, he instructs and has the greatest joy in his life when he sees a soul commit their life to Jesus. The young people seek him, the adults are attentive to what he says, the older folks receive comfort through his words. He is the first one to arrive at the church and the last one to leave.

Now, as the deacon's wife, what role do you have in the church?

Role of the deacon's spouse should be the same as the deacon. They should work together for the well being of the church. They are a team that will take care of the sheep in the church, after the pastor. She must also take care of those recently baptized, so they can feel accepted into the church family.

Duties of a deacon's wife should have the same virtues as the deacon's, which are:

- Should be a consecrated person.
- Should be dedicated to the church cause.
- Should be mature in her relationship with the brethren in the church.
- Should speak with a high spirituality.
- Should be a respected and quiet person.
- Should practice prudence, tenderness and good manners.
- 1 Timothy 3:11 says "*she should be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things.*"

As a deacon's wife, she together with the family should be instruments in God's hands. Return their tithes and systematic pact and instruct others to do the same. Should always pay attention to be present at every meeting and worship service.

And as 1Timothy 3:8-13 says: *“Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless.*

“Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

This test is what identifies the deacon and his wife. Oh that it were so that they are found faithful in doing the Lord’s work with dignity. Remember always that our recompense will be in the kingdom of heaven. And as the Lord saith: *Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was Me— you did it to Me.*”

May the Lord greatly bless the work of the deacon and his wife so they can do a loving work for God’s cause.

Mirugia Leocadia-Zink is the treasurer and leader of Prayer and Health Ministry in Aruba Mission.



