

December 2018

Herb & Debbie Lamp

What does it take to be a Shepherd?

“A person who herds, tends, and guards sheep; a person who protects, guards, or watches over a person or group of people.”

(www.freedictionary.com). The Bible uses the shepherd metaphor not as an exercise in literary artistry, but rather to teach about *how best to care for one another*. Our model, of course, is Christ, the Great Shepherd, whose care we experience as His beloved sheep ourselves. As He nurtures and provides for us, we then learn how to care for our own flocks.



This past month we have endeavored to shepherd well. Our flocks, as member care pastors, are the global servants who work around the world for the Kingdom of God. Recently I was asked what it takes to be a shepherd of people? My answer, there's no curriculum, just long-term apprenticeship. What really matters is that you have a heart of compassion to know people, because you can learn the skills along the way. If you do, you can begin tomorrow. God promised in Jeremiah 3:15 that he would give his people *“shepherds after my own heart.”*

To give you an idea of how your partnership with us for shepherding workers works, just imagine traveling to just some of the countries we (virtually & literally) visited this past month in our shepherding roles: Albania, Cambodia, China, Egypt, England, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Japan, Mexico, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Romania, Senegal, Syria, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine, USA. Next month, likely, we'll revisit some of those same places, but others as well. Wherever we go, the goal is the same--to help missionaries retain their health and spiritual vitality through listening deeply, perhaps asking probing questions to tenderly expose lies they've come to believe and to reveal the truth, provide equipping, suggest resources, and, above all, PRAY with and for them. As you know by now, we can't tell you their stories because they very personally share in confidence, but one day you will know how your financial gifts and prayers have impacted them and the world for Christ!



How apropos! Shepherds were the first to hear

In Luke 2 we are reminded on that first Christmas night, there were shepherds living out in the fields, guarding, protecting and watching over their flocks. Angels appeared to them and gave them the good news: a Savior has been born. Those earthly shepherds were the first to hear of the Divine Great Shepherd who was coming to

tend, protect, provide and save His people. In John 10, Jesus tells us that his sheep knows his voice. In actuality, the sheep who always stay near the shepherd, and are his special favorites, hear his voice most often and most clearly. We have a feeling that you are those special sheep of Jesus. Thank you for staying close to Him, hearing His voice, and joining us in caring for global workers who are out living in the (harvest) fields as shepherds themselves. Merry, joyful Christmas!

Your Prayers and Support Encourage these Workers

If our Lord Jesus has blessed you financially this year and you would like to take a more active role in shepherding missionaries through us, please know of our deep appreciation and gratitude. We write these updates primarily for you to pray for us, but **you can also financially give toward our ministry** through the Barnabas website www.barnabas.org/give and look under our name, Lamp. Yes, we do need additional funding. A good year-end giving month would be wonderful, so we can plan and budget correctly for the upcoming year. Thanks for considering a special gift.

Praise and Prayer Notes . . .

- ❖ **Praise the Lord for His shepherding in all of our lives.** The Lord is our Shepherd indeed. Thank Him for the provision (monies necessary, good health & strength), guidance (who to visit when), and protection (safe travel on planes, trains and scores of Grab taxis!) that He has given us all and the many global workers throughout 2018!
- ❖ **We have another full month of shepherding with global workers in December.** Please pray with us for these global workers. The Holiday season can be both a very busy time as well as a lonely time for workers on the field. Pray for God to show up in their lives and ministry and the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ to be proclaimed and believed in.
- ❖ **Our January calendar looks full already too, so pray that we might have a few days off at Christmas to rest, refresh and enjoy the holiday.** We will be staying home this year and will miss being with Mari and Josiah and Erin and the grandkids. But Hannah and Chris will be with us with the grand-dog, Quinn. Herb's sister, Barb, will come down from the Boulder area too.
- ❖ **EWI-Brazil 2019** registrations are coming in now. We need at least 6 women to register for the Facilitating Relational Learning class. I hesitate to use the words "desperately" need, but the future of EWI-Brazil is hanging in the balance. So, far three women are signed up for FRL. Please pray for 3 more!

Merry Christmas!

Herb & Debbie

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