

Terri McFarland Ministries

March 2016 Newsletter

www.terrimcfarland.org

The LORD is my Shepherd...

...I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Experiencing a shepherd in their element is a wonderful thing. What seems to be a simple job anyone could fill is really one of deep compassion, sensitivity, wisdom, patience, trust and a fierce desire to protect. Sheep may not be capable of grasping all of these amicable qualities in their shepherd, yet the necessity of each trait is worthy of their life.

My first encounter with a skilled shepherd and their sheep was a few years ago while traveling in Scotland. A young man demonstrated how, through various calls and whistles, he was able to make his sheep go left, right, circle up and even respond by name. It was the latter part that was remarkable. One by one the youthful shepherd called his sheep into a straight line and if that wasn't enough, he then communicated to his sheep to change places. This was all done with an individualized call. A guy in the crowd tried to make similar sounds to get the sheep to move and nothing happened. The sheep only responded to their shepherd's voice. He had earned their trust.

Oh, how I long to know the whisper of my Shepherd in such an intimate and responsive way. There are times I am confident I hear His voice and I jump at the chance to follow, still there are other moments where what I see ahead makes me doubt that my loving, caring Shepherd is calling me there. Green pastures, still waters, restoration, and paths of righteousness all sound great...it's the other places.



Follow Me...do you hear it?

Praise Report:

- We bless God for your prayers for our family in the passing of our brother, father, and grandfather, **Mark McFarland**.
- I am humbled and grateful to have the opportunity to teach our **Women of the Word** study on Ephesians. It is changing my walk!

Yea, 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.

The beginning of 2016 brought sadness, joy, excitement, love, grace and a faithfulness that through it all, encourages my soul. In February, my brother Mark ended his health battle and is now in the heavenly places with Jesus. After reading **Psalm 23** at his memorial service, pastor George DeJong described the moment when Mark, on his journey home, heard his Shepherd calling him out of His flock by name. Recognizing the familiar voice, Mark followed.

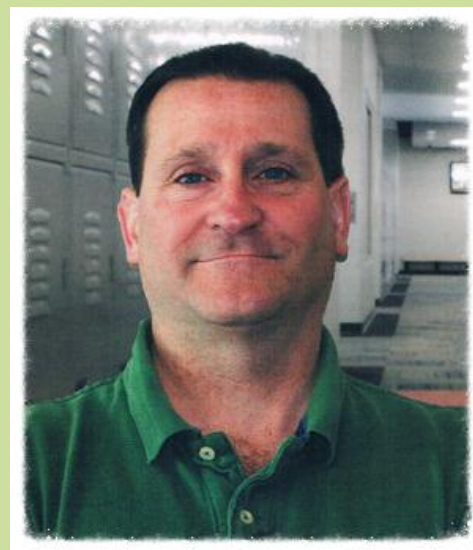
We miss so many things about Mark. His humble, serving heart, his ability to talk to anyone, his desire to help others, and his faithfulness to friends and family. He learned to be the hands and feet of Jesus by watching it lived out in our parents. His family now journey's through this valley knowing our Shepherd is with us in our sorrow. His protection (*rod*) and direction (*staff*) offers a calming wave of peace to our spirit.

My heart smiles knowing our Shepherd, **Jesus, walks beside us in the valley pouring out mercies that are new every morning.** How comforting it will be to hear our Shepherd's voice tenderly calling us by name as we take our last breath. In a time of media frenzy, it is difficult to hear a cell phone let alone a still small voice. Yet, each of us on that day will have our name called. It is our prayer that each one of us are in His flock, that we know His voice, and are forever willing to follow His call.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Psalm 23

Together, may we trust His faithfulness even when we can't see and all we hear is His voice saying...*Follow Me.*



*My big brother, **Mark McFarland***

Check out our website:
terrimcfarland.org
for our new promo video!



My husband chases after God's heart!

Ministry Update

Three years ago this month I married Keith Richard Umlauf and jumped into the role of wife and mother of three teenagers. Space does not allow a description of the challenges we have faced since that day. :-) Through it all, prayer warriors have walked together with us on this journey offering compassion, grace and support. This, after all, is the most important ministry call on my life!

I am grateful for the loving embrace of our Father...who is so Good! At times when I feel so alone in a new place, wondering if I will ever fit, the precious Holy Spirit carries me. My heart is encouraged by Keith's passion to follow the LORD's call on his life...*no matter what*. There have been many painful roads Keith has had to walk through as he unpacked his past. **I could not be more proud of my husband!**

As the summer of 2015 ended, I began to teach a *Women of the Word* Bible study. We will finish the book of Ephesians just before Easter. The Word continues to come alive in many ways offering heart-altering moments for me and for those who are drawing near to God through His Word. **There is truly no substitute for the power, healing, and wisdom pouring out of the Word.** What a fitting time to conclude as we look at the power available to us as children of the King! We seriously have access to the supernatural strength that rose Christ from the grave...all because of His Blood! May we continue to choose *to put on the full armor of God, resist the devil, & stand firm* as we praise the One Who conquered death so we could truly live!

Our God is Greater!



For contact info, ministry updates and scheduled events go to:

www.terrimcfarland.org



Our Women of the Word study.

Please Pray for:

- Wisdom in decision making, as college is right around the corner for **Graham, Olivia & Austin**.
- Our niece Alexa, as she concludes her college journey and steps into new job responsibilities.
- Upcoming speaking & singing opportunities in 2016.

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