

# ..my Shepherd

The Lord is *my Shepherd, I shall not want.*

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Officer Lieutenant William Bones  
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In the one-sixth gravity of the moon, he poured the wine, watching it curl gracefully up the side of the chalice. From a slip of paper he read the biblical passage, "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing." (John 15:5, RSV). And then he took communion.

So it was the first food eaten by man on the moon was done in the name of our Lord.

### **HIS MYSTERIOUS WAYS**

For Robert and me, rain was always heaven sent. During our courtship there was not much money for entertainment; however, we always enjoyed walking together, particularly in the rain. The rain poured continually on our wedding day. For the next 21 years of our marriage Robert often talked of stopping for gas in my little town of Watkinsville on the way to our wedding. Since Robert was from South

### **The Moon**

Several years ago, July of 1969, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin climbed out of the lunar module Eagle and took their historic first steps on the moon. Several months later Buzz Aldrin told about a little know "first" that also took place that day.

Before lift-off, Aldrin was looking for a way to honor God's presence in the Apollo 11 space mission. He talked about this with his minister, Dean Woodruff, of Webster Presbyterian Church in Houston. When in their discussion the Christian sacrament of communion was mentioned, a plan emerged.

Two Sundays before the moon shot, Aldrin participated in a small, private communion service at Webster Presbyterian, after which Dean Woodruff broke off a corner of the communion bread and gave it to Aldrin along with a tiny chalice and some wine. Aldrin sealed these in plastic packets and safely stowed them in his personal preference kit (each astronaut was allowed to take a few personal items with him).

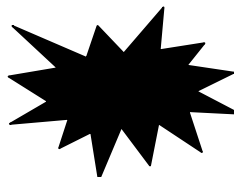
July 20, 1969, was a Sunday. At 3:17pm (Houston time) the Eagle touched down. Aldrin took out the communion elements from their flight packets and put them on a small table in front of the abort guidance system computer. Then he called Houston, and asked for a few moments of silence.

Georgia, no one knew him. The owner of the gas station laughed and told Robert about some poor nut that was getting married in this downpour. Some poor nut indeed!

For our wedding, Robert had had an inscription engraved inside my ring, but I didn't know how it read until I removed the ring as he checked us into our honeymoon suite. There I saw the words, *Because You Walked With Me in the Rain.*

Then one night Robert died suddenly from a heart attack. Soon family and friends gathered around me, but after they left I didn't want to go to bed. I felt so alone. I wandered outside and stood on the front porch. The night was quiet, the sky was clear. And then, for only a few remarkable seconds, there came the familiar, comforting, reassuring sound-of-raindrops splattering on the sidewalk before me.

Sara Snipes  
Lawrenceville, Georgia



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### THREE SONS

The three sons of a lawyer, a doctor, and a minister, respectively were talking about how much money their fathers made.

The lawyer's son said, "My father goes into court on a case and often comes home with as much as fifteen hundred dollars."

The doctor's son said, "My father performs an operation and earns as much as two thousand dollars for it."

The minister's son, determined not to be out done, said, "That's nothing my father preaches for just twenty minutes on Sunday morning and it takes four men to carry the money."

### A MILLION DOLLARS

A minister was asked to inform a man with a heart condition that he had just inherited a million dollars. Everyone was afraid the shock would cause a heart attack and the man would die.

The minister went to the man's house and said, "Joe, what would you do if you inherited a million dollars?" Joe responded, "Well, pastor, I think I would give half of it to the church."

And the pastor fell over dead.

### WHAT PRAYER CAN DO

I've found that God's solution to a problem is not always what we would have guessed. Consider Schultz, a young weimaraner who had a nasty encounter with a pickup truck. "He'll never be any good in the field again," Schultz's owner insisted. But I brought him home anyway, a little surprised at myself. It had been a frustrating period for me.

After 16 years as an industrial worker, I had started teaching high school science while working on my doctorate in biology. For my dissertation I had been trying to study the bobwhite quail at a nearby wildlife area. Trouble was, the quail were elusive and my field studies were going nowhere. "What am I supposed to do?" I asked my family. We all agreed to pray about it.

One day I thought it wouldn't hurt to take Schultz out in the field with me for a little

### MISSION STATEMENT

**To Encourage the Faithful**

**And to**

**Save the Lost**

companionship. I discovered that far from being an invalid, he was a first-rate bird dog. He sniffed out the quail, then presented a perfect, beautiful point with raised front paw and straight out tail, nose aquiver.

I never would have finished my doctorate without Schultz. Maybe he was trying to pay us back for taking him in. But he didn't owe us anything, as far as I was concerned. Shultz was more than a dog. He was an answer to my family's prayers.

Bob Priddy, Mount Vernon, Ohio

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 NIV

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**The Lord is my shepherd  
All the time.**

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