
3 Shadows

1 message

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Clark and Ann... building bridges!



25. February 2026

Dear Friends,

Psalm 23 - the famous "shepherd psalm" attributed to David - has been a lot on my mind over the past months. We've been thinking about the famous line, "**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil!**" When you get close enough to see the "shadow" of something, you know that it's not far away. This has taken on new meaning. I'd like to share 3 of the current "shadows" that have been looming in our lives.

Shadow 1: Death of a friend

Our friendship with Mary Ellen Stewart was one of our longest and closest friendships. She and Ann met at the University of Idaho even before she came to faith in Jesus. She joined us in the student work in England, where she met her husband, Pete.

Mary Ellen died of acute blood infection a bit over three weeks ago. I was honored to be asked by Pete and her sons to lead the graveside service. Psalm 23 came, of course, instantly to mind and I shared some thoughts from the poem.

Hebrew poetry is a bit different than poetry in English (or German, for that matter!). It does not rely on rhyming some much as parallel thoughts.

Some psalms also are intricately constructed - for instance, the poet would put a word or phrase in the exact middle of the poem that was the key to understanding it.

In Psalm 23, there is a phrase that is in the exact middle of the poem: "You are with me!"

This is key to the entire psalm. Whether laying down in verdant pastures or going through a dark valley shadowed by death, "You [LORD] are with me!"

Shadow 2: A sobering reminder of the world situation...

came when a close friend was not allowed to enter China with her husband. The China situation, as we all know from the news, is complicated and sometimes peace seems balanced on a knife's edge. Christians in China are under increasing pressure to acknowledge someone other than Jesus as "Lord" ("Caesar" was the implication for the early Christians).

Please pray for our friends and also for the brothers and sisters in Christ in China, that they will have wisdom, faith, hope and love as they confront these realities.

Shadow 3: A brief update on my health

A new bone marrow biopsy has shown that although the primary myelofibrosis is continuing, there is no sign of leukemia. **[Praise the Lord!]**

My hemoglobin level had fallen below "8," and the doctor ordered a transfusion. According to the blood test results from Friday, that helped, and the level was 8.9 on Friday. ("Normal" level for men my age should be 15-16.)

To try to treat the anemia, I also started a new medication. (It is called "Aranesp.") The goal of the medication is to stimulate my body—through the kidneys—to produce more red blood cells (= hemoglobin).

My main struggle is loss of energy: a fifteen-minute walk is strenuous. This has improved as my hemoglobin level rose after the transfusion, but it is still like trying to drive your car on fuel that has been half diluted.

Walking in these shadows challenges our faith.

We are enormously grateful for your friendship and prayers.

Please pray with us:

- For wisdom and courage moving forward.
- That we will quickly obey God's leading.

- For peace when we must overcome pain and fear.
- For VICTORY:
 - To complete the Bible-projects that we sense God wants us to do.
 - To strengthen the next generation to share God's love.
 - To study and grow in the understanding of God's Word.
 - To disciple the generation following them to intelligently live and teach the Bible.

**Warmly in Christ,
Clark and Ann**

with "Philosophia International" and Haus Nazareth (in Berlin)

PS: If you knew Mary Ellen, please join her family and us for a celebration of her life on Saturday, March 28 at "Faith Community Bible Church" at [9950 W Ustick Road](#) in Boise at 10:00am.

Here is a link to a webpage in her memory: <https://everloved.com/life-of/mary-stewart/>

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