



## Monday Matters - June 11, 2012

### The Voice of the Shepherd

With Father's Day rapidly approaching, I was giving thought to how my grandchildren listen to their dad and how they will follow what he does and how he acts. Sometimes they are like two peas in a pod. As their dad and mom have heard God's call to the mission field, it's wonderful to see and hear the grandkids listening to the voices of their parents and following in their footsteps. (See quotes from three of them).

I'm reminded of the story Philip Harrelson used in a sermon back on August 6, 2010.

*There once was a shepherd that lived in the Scottish highlands. This shepherd had a daughter and he would take her with him when he went out on the moors to take care of the sheep. The thing that the little girl liked best was to hear the call of shepherd. His voice sounded so free and beautiful as carried across the valleys of the moors.*

*As the years passed the little girl became a beautiful young woman and went off to one of Scotland's great cities--Edinburgh or Glasgow. It was there that she was determined to build a life. On her arrival, she would write back home to her parents every week. But as life began to take her by the hand, her letters soon dropped off in their frequency and soon there were none.*

*Rumors begin to filter back home to that shepherd and his wife that their daughter had started hanging out with some unsavory characters and they were having a very negative influence on her life. One day one of the boys from back home ran into her in the city streets and she acted as if she did not even know him. When the old shepherd heard this, he gathered a few things together and dressed in his rough shepherd's clothes went to the city to find his daughter.*

*For days on end he looked for her. He looked everywhere; the slums, the rows of houses, the markets, the taverns, and everywhere in between to no avail. So after all of this searching he became very discouraged with the thought that he had lost his daughter to the evil city.*

*As he started the long trek back home, just as he was on the outskirts of the city, he remembered that his daughter had always loved to hear the voice of the shepherd calling out to the sheep.*

*So he turned around and on this quest motivated by his sorrow and his love, he began to stalk the streets. His voice rang out the shepherds call. The citizens of the city all looked at him as if he had lost his wits. It wasn't too long as he walked the streets of one of the degraded neighborhoods that inside of one of those houses, his daughter sitting among the vermin who had led her astray, heard his voice. With great astonishment on her face, she heard that call of the voice of the shepherd, the voice of her father calling out to her. She leaped up and rushed out to the street and ran into the arms of that old shepherd, her father. It was then that he took her back home to the highlands of Scotland and brought her back to God and to decency and modesty.*

### Quotes of the Week



"I'm most excited about meeting people who are going to help us get people saved in Alaska, so that they can go to heaven"  
-- Leif Nelson, age 8

"I'm most excited about being a missionary because you get to tell people about Jesus. God's training me to be a missionary as a kid so I can be one when I'm grown up."  
-- Juliana Nelson, age 6

"I like going to Sunday School class because there are snacks and things to eat. Mostly I like raising my hands when it's time for worship."

-- Soren Nelson, age 5

*This is a moving example of what happens to those who can hear the voice of a shepherd.*



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**Monday Matters Contact Information**

Ron Nelson, CCA  
P.O. Box 397  
Folly Beach, SC 29439  
[noctelopus@bellsouth.net](mailto:noctelopus@bellsouth.net)

**Bethel Dream Center**



Anthony & Kristin Nelson  
P.O. Box 243  
Nicholasville, KY 40340  
Phone: 859-940-0772  
[nelson.expedition@gmail.com](mailto:nelson.expedition@gmail.com)