

Green Pastures

VOL. 01 - ISSUE 01
SEPTEMBER 2020

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall
not want. He maketh me to lie
down in green pastures
Psalms 23:1-2, KJV*



A CHRISTIAN YOUNG ADULTS MAGAZINE

FEATURING

Pastor Femi Olawale, Pastor Femi Debo-Omidokun, Pastor Niyi Adejugbagbe



RCCG Overcomers' Chapel, 26 Auriga Dr, Ottawa, ON, K2E 8B7

The Green Pastures magazine is a product of the RCCG Overcomers' chapel Young Adults, and we are especially thankful for Pastor Niyi Adejugbagbe who inspired this project. The goal of this magazine is to charge the faith of readers and inspire a continued journey with God. Through this project we aim to create a platform where young adults can share on their Christian journey and learn from others; to encourage and be encouraged. This is a community project! We are open to receiving your feedback, write-ups, testimonies and experiences. If you would like to be a part of this project please feel free to send us an email titled "Green Pastures Magazine" at: overcomersya@gmail.com

This first issue of Green Pastures was made possible through the contributions of Anjolaoluwa Lasisi, Bamise Dairo, Busola David, Edidiong Ekanem, Inem Udofia, Michael Davies, Olutomiwa Divine Agbana, Praise Okunola, Taiye Davies, Toba Oluyomi, Tobi Ojo and Yvan Kammel.

Each month we will explore a different theme through our articles; to start things off, this month's theme is 'green pastures'! We have received three profound articles from Pastor Femi Olawale, Pastor Femi Debo-Omidokun and Pastor Niyi Adejugbagbe. We hope you are blessed as you read and interact with our magazine.

Pastor Femi Debo-Omidokun

Psalm 23:1-6 is probably the most beloved psalm in the Bible. It's filled with comforting descriptions of green pastures, still waters, a banquet table, and an overflowing cup, all of which point to restoration and God's abundant goodness and mercy. However, right in the middle of the psalm is "the valley of the shadow of death" (Psalm 23:4). We may be tempted to think this verse doesn't fit the context, but it actually conveys a core truth about the believer's life. It's important to state that although our Shepherd constantly guides and cares for us, we will experience periods of hardship, suffering, and darkness, as it's just part of living in a fallen world.

Nevertheless, one fundamental thing we must not lose sight of is the fact that our God gives us amazing promises in the midst of the dark valleys. We'll never walk through them alone, because the Lord promises to be with us. Even when we can't feel His presence, He is there. And His Word is our primary means of comfort—nowhere else can we find the relief we seek. All our coping methods will leave us empty, but the truths of scripture assure us of God's love and strength, which enable us to endure and even grow through difficult experiences.

As the good Shepherd, Jesus protects and guides His lambs through every trial. Even in dark valleys, we cannot be snatched from Him (John 10:29). His rod beats away predators trying to drag off one of the flocks, and His staff's crooked neck pulls a wandering sheep back from danger. If you're presently traveling through a dark valley, remember that the Lord is with you. His goodness and mercy are still following you because your Shepherd never forsakes His beloved lambs, rather;

He not only leads you always into green pastures, but makes you lie down and you're abode in the lush meadows.

I will however like to bring clarity to the words "Green Pasture", being the main theme of this magazine, which denotes something spectacular for God's children. The Merriam Webster Dictionary defines a pasture as, "Plants (such as grass) grown for the feeding especially of grazing animals; land or a plot of land used for grazing; the feeding of livestock; grazing." This paints a picture in our minds of a wide-open field full of tall, lush green grass, perhaps some flowers and a few trees. This basically makes you think of a beautiful, serene meadow, as we also commonly take the Bible's green pastures to mean that God supplies all we need in amazing abundance.

Taking a clue from the areas around Jerusalem, the hillsides are mainly dirt and sand. There's not a lot of lush, green grass. All you find are a bunch of rocks, which today could be referred to as life challenges, and maybe a sprig of grass popping up here and there. So, what could David have been referring to when he says God makes him lie down in green pastures? Just like what we have here in Canada, there are certain times of year when it rains often [Spring], and there are times when it's a bit dry [Summer]. Psalm 23:2 is referring to those dry and hot seasons with heat waves, not just in the environment but in our lives as well. If you're observant, you will notice that grasses turn brown and look challenged during the summer period, except there's adequate irrigation system to keep them green. Also, if you take a look at the grass after it rains, even in summer, you will see those sprigs of grass looking beautiful and inviting. These are the green pastures the Bible talks about. The grass during the rainy season looks beautiful, green and fulfilling, but you can imagine how sparse it gets in the dry season. The shepherd leads the sheep through the sprigs until each sheep has had a chance to eat. It's not a lot of grass sometimes, but it's enough for each day's meal as long as they're green because they nourish the animals, and eventually humans.

This is how God shepherds us. He doesn't lead us to lush green cattle pastures where we have everything in abundance. No, God leads us along the right paths through the little sprigs giving us just enough for today. Tomorrow, He will lead us along other paths to supply our daily need. Some days He may bless us with a lot of sprigs, and other days there may only be a little. But there will always be enough for what we need to live a life He ordained for us. Now, when we are honored to not only graze at green pastures, but lie down in green pastures, the shepherd creates enclosures where the sheep can rest at night in safety as well as eat. In this sense, the green pastures are a place for us to rest under the shepherd's (God's) watchful eyes. God doesn't "make" us only



ON GREEN PASTURES

Pastor Femi Olawale

Sheep grazes in pasture and when well prepared it becomes a desirable place to feed and to reside perpetually. A brown and dry pasture is an undesirable place and it is of no use to the sheep. A good shepherd prepares and preserves the pasture in a most attractive and desirable condition suitable for the sheep.

God is the chief shepherd and we are the sheep and people of his pasture: For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. . . . (Ps. 95:7). He makes us lie down (comfortable position) in green pastures: he leads us beside the still waters (Ps.23:2).

As sheep are comfortable in green pasture, so it is that green pasture is our metaphorical place of comfort with heavenly supply where we never lack any good thing. God is our shepherd ensuring our place in the meadow. It becomes a place of comfort because the blessing of the Lord makes rich without any sorrow (Pr.10:22).

Beloved, there is no other pasture that could be as green as that of our father. It is green because a thousand and tens of thousand can fall on our sides, but we will never fall (Ps.91:7). Green, for he has commanded the windows of heaven to open over you and the earth to yield her increase into your life (Mal.3:10). His uncompromising presence (Ish.43:2) in the midst of the challenges of our time guarantees your lying comfortably in the meadow. The best place to be is on the Lord's side, in his vineyard full of good pastures and his trees are full of saps (Ps.104:16).

The pasture remains green as he continuously commends his blessings, green for our going out and coming in is guaranteed by him (Ps.91:), green because Help is ever available (Ps.121:1-2), pasture remains green as we remain under his watchful eyes.

No sooner Adam and Eve disobeyed God that they found themselves in a brown, dry and thorn filled field. It was all labour and toiling without any rest (Gen.3:17-19).

Here is wisdom: stay with him and green pasture is guaranteed.

lie down, but He offers His peace and contentment every day to those who seek it.

One of the many reasons why God's people get into trouble is the fact that they at times follow the wrong voice and depart from His leading. Believers and particularly, young people are to listen to and obey only the good Shepherd, Jesus Christ (John 10:27). The Bible is clear on this, He alone can meet our needs (Ps. 23:1-2), guide us in righteousness and establish us in green pastures. "You have bedded me down in lush meadows, you find me quiet pools to drink from" MSG (v. 3), He only protects us from evil (v. 4) and blesses us richly (v. 5-6). And we can trust Him fully because He laid His life down for His sheep (John 10:11).

Consequently, we need to also realize that humans are a lot more like sheep than we care to admit. In this life, we don't really know where we're going, even when the landscape looks familiar. But the good Shepherd has our journey perfectly planned out and covered. Our job is to keep within the range of His voice instead of straying into pastures that look green and tasty but are full of poisonous vegetations that results in both physical and spiritual death.

Friends, please be aware that the path before us may not always appear safe and easy, as Psalm 23 speaks about the valley of the shadow of death. Additionally, the trip to the green pastures and still waters we long for may also take much longer than we'd like as the Shepherd at times goes the long way around. In other words, His promised provisions frequently do not come in exactly the form or time frame that we anticipate. But, as long as we're following His voice, we are right where we should be, He's able to lead us into the green pastures, where we will find joy, peace, and fulfillment in life.

Through experience, a sheep learns to identify its master's call. We also must learn to discern Jesus' directions by knowing His voice. We must read His words and teachings, particularly in the Gospels and Paul's letters. Then, when another voice tries to lead you astray, you can say with confidence and persuasion, "The Lord is my Shepherd!" God's sheep, whom you are must be eager to obey His commands. When He calls, come! As He leads, follow! He will take you to green pastures where you'll experience peace, purpose, destiny, and the next quality, confidence.

Therefore, permit me to conclude by letting you know that the key thought of God's promises is this: Because the Lord is my Shepherd, I shall lack nothing! No uncertainty should frighten me as He will never leave me nor forsake me. This means in Green Pastures;

- *I shall not lack rest or provision—why? He makes me lie down in green pastures*
- *I shall not lack peace—why? He leads me beside quiet waters*
- *I shall not lack restoration or encouragement when I faint, fail, or fall—why? He restores my soul*
- *I shall not lack guidance or fellowship—why? He guides me in the paths of righteousness*
- *I shall not lack courage when my way is dark—why? Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil*
- *I shall not lack companionship—why? You are with me*
- *I shall not lack constant comfort—why? Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me*
- *I shall not lack protection or honor—why? You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies*
- *I shall not lack power—why? You have anointed my head with oil*
- *I shall not lack abundance—why? My cup overflows*
- *I shall not lack God's perpetual presence—why? Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life*
- *I shall not lack security—why? I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

So, I affirm to you that when you lie down in green pastures, beside the still waters, God will not only refresh you, but He will restore your soul. Hence, Rest in Him! He will cause your cup to run over in Jesus name! Shalom!

Pastor Niyi Adejugbagbe

The Lord God of the heaven and the earth knows how to provide for His own in all situations and

circumstances of life. Man has a natural tendency to be afraid due to his limited ability to provide and or to sustain the source of provision. God has never left any of His own without a plan. He knows what we are passing through and He always provides a way of escape for us. The Psalmist recounts the ability of God that never fails when he says, "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters." Psalms 23:2. The original master plan of God for mankind was revealed in the design of the Garden of Eden. Everything Man needs to survive and enjoy life was provided in the Garden at his disposal. However, sin drove him out of heaven's supply, and he became a wanderer and fugitive, scavenging for his daily bread. However, the Almighty God through Christ our Saviour had mercy on us and provided a way of escape for us through Christ Jesus. "They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them." Isaiah 49:10.

More often than not, man wants to do the leading by himself with his limited ability. The 21st century has taught us 'DIY', coupled with large databases of world class search engines, and we tend to run our lives with these great technologies. However, our God is still in the business of leading His own to the greener pastures needed for support and survival. We must not be blinded by technology and philosophy of men; we must commit our ways to God and ask Him to lead us in the right path of life. "Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take." Proverbs 3:6. The Psalmist testified of God making him to lie in green pastures. It doesn't matter what we are passing through, when we seek God, He would make us to lie in green pastures, making a way of escape for us. "When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you." Isaiah 43:2.

Every greener pastures we need to fulfil destiny is only provided in God through Christ Jesus. We only need to remain in God, do His will and look up to heaven for strength and grace to finish strong. "Yes, I will give them good pastureland on the high hills of Israel. There they will lie down in pleasant places and feed in the lush pastures of the hills." Ezekiel 34:14. It is my prayer that as you look up to God in this season, He will lead you and make you to lie in green pastures, in Jesus Name.

RECOMMENDATIONS

BIBLE VERSES

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-18

2 TIMOTHY 3

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23

MARK 10:27

MUSIC

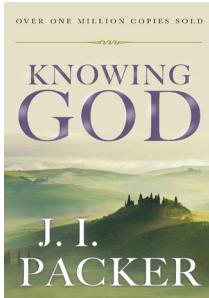
We have worked together to compile a playlist filled with Christian songs to fuel your faith and keep you singing and dancing along the way. The "Y.A Music Series" playlist is available on both apple music and spotify.

Updated monthly!



RECOMMENDATIONS

BOOKS



1. KNOWING GOD

J.I PACKER

"Once you become aware that the main business that you are here for is to know God, most of life's problems fall into place of their own accord."

2. BATTLE OF THE MIND

Joyce Meyer

3. THE BELIEVER'S AUTHORITY

Kenneth E. Hagin

4. FOLLOWING GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE

Kenneth E. Hagin

5. THE PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE: WHAT ON EARTH AM I HERE FOR?

Rick Warren

PODCASTS

1. PRAY THE WORD WITH DAVID PLATT
2. THE NAKED BIBLE
3. JOYCE MEYER RADIO PODCAST
4. THE BIBLE RECAP

YOUTUBE CHANNELS

1. THE BIBLE PROJECT
2. THE GOOD CHRISTIAN MUSIC BLOG
3. MOMENT OF TRUTH SERIES - OVERCOMERSRCCG

APPS

1. BIBLEPROJECT PLAN (WITHIN THE BIBLE APP)
2. ABIDE BIBLE & SLEEP MOTIVATION
3. PUREFLIX
4. FAITHPLAY
5. ECHOPRAYER

TESTIMONIES

YVAN KAMMELU

I have a very special testimony. First, I would like to appreciate God for His mercies. During this lockdown, I was led to get deeper in my relationship with God, and I have not looked back since. I have rededicated my life and have taken my relationship with God to a whole new level.

Here is my testimony:

I am a freelance worker and due to the situation with COVID I have been unemployed since March. Fortunately, I was able to pay my bills and other living costs through the government subsidy. However, at the beginning of a prayer and fasting session in July, I wrote down that I wanted to return to work and to contracts that are far greater than what I had previously signed for. As I applied for the CERB in July, I declared that this would be my last government allowance. After a following prayer sessions, I wrote down a note of thanks to God reflecting on my journey with Him over the last 3 months, and wrote down that I was expectant of Victory, Abundance and Multiplication. I prayed and went to bed. The following afternoon at around 5PM I received an email from my agent for the confirmation of a contract that pays DOUBLE what I have previously received. My Victory, Abundance and Multiplication began manifesting. The following week, I was confirmed for another contract that was far bigger than any job I had done prior! After that week, I received a call from the same company to return for another contract! Wow, I had never booked contracts back to back like this, not even before the lockdown. Yet, God provided during an unprecedented time. To God be the glory!

The amazing thing is that I know this is just the beginning and I give my Heavenly Father all the thanks. What He has in stock for me this year, is something unimaginable. Akamdinelu, my hands are raised up to Him!

TOMIKE ARIBALOYE

Testimony of God's favour:

I applied for a paid research internship in the month of June. However, the available spaces for the job I wanted were limited and my chances of getting the job were quite low. So, I decided to apply for a lower paying job, but surprisingly there was no space in the lower paying job either. Hence, I decided to trust God to help me acquire the previous job I had applied for despite how competitive it was. To the glory of God, I was accepted for the first internship I applied for.



TOMIWA DIVINE AGBANA

In 2019 I was in a very peculiar situation. I had applied for a new study permit but it was denied 10 days to the expiration date of the current Study Permit at the time. The rejection letter required me to leave the country on or before the 10-day period.

I talked to my Parents about it and my Dad felt we had no choice but to book my flight ticket back home to Nigeria ASAP. I was reluctant about it and prayed for God's will to be done. I visited the International Student Advisor at Carleton University and she too said we had no hope but to go home. I was losing faith and eventually came to terms with what I thought was the only way.

With about 8 days left my mom reached out to me and instructed me to say goodbye to my

choir director and ask Pastor Femi Olawale to pray a prayer of journey mercies for me, she also added that I should explain to my pastor in detail what my situation was. I did as she said, I spoke to Pastor Olawale and he said, "No we have to fight the decision and reapply even if it means getting lawyers involved," he suggested we get a refund for the flight ticket because I wasn't going anywhere. I did as I was told, through many prayers from family and friends, rigorous paper application process and guidance from immigration lawyers, we submitted the new application a day before the expiry date, that is day 9 of my 10-day countdown to leave the country empty handed. 4 months later (August 2019), I got my study and work permit extended 2 more years! This was surely the hand of God. The lawyers were not even sure I'll be accepted. We did everything by Faith. Experts said there was no way, but I'm living proof that the God of Miracles still does miracles today.



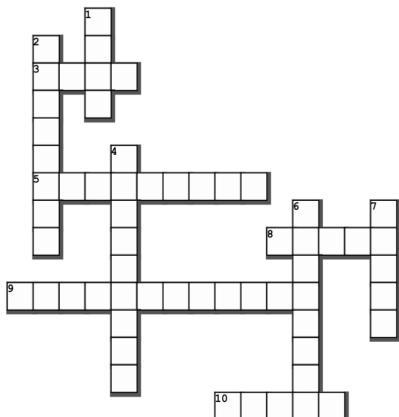
THE OVERCOMERS' YOUNG ADULT AND DIVINE PIONEERS RETREAT

The Overcomers' Young Adults and Divine Pioneers Retreat is a phenomenal event that occurs yearly. It occurs over the span of a week and involves a getaway from the hustle and bustle of the city life, to a remote place with much needed quiet and beautiful scenery. Here, you put aside every distraction from the radio frequencies and connect to the heavenly frequency. Every soul that has ever attended will testify of their spiritual encounters; Spiritual enlightenment, breakthrough and deliverances, healings, and much more. Also, the retreat has always been a great avenue to socialize with other youths and make new friends. Although the circumstances of this year disturbed the plans for the retreat, we look forward to seeing you in subsequent retreats as you come to encounter the Lord. Here's a quick throwback to awaken memories and invite new attendees to a once in a lifetime experience!

PUZZLES

NEW TESTAMENT

Complete the crossword below: Names and cities in the books of the Bible.



ACROSS

- 3. HEBREWS 11
- 5. 2 CORINTHIANS
- 8. GALATIANS 1
- 9. REVELATION 3
- 10. JOHN 1

DOWN

- 1. JUDE
- 2. PHILEMON
- 4. ROMANS 15
- 6. ACTS 28
- 7. MATTHEW 20

OLD TESTAMENT

L	L	A	C	W	J	S	P	R	O	V	E	R	B	S	W	O	R	D	S
E	Z	K	B	O	W	G	O	Z	W	M	G	V	P	X	DANIEL				
O	N	R	S	J	A	N	J	B	Y	E	U	N	C	E	JOEL				
J	Z	H	T	J	S	I	M	C	A	F	W	G	K	Q	NEHEMIAH				
X	U	L	C	X	I	K	R	E	N	D	X	P	O	L	SECONDKINGS				
A	G	R	M	M	D	D	K	H	A	R	I	O	P	Z	HAGGAI				
J	U	I	C	M	I	N	I	M	G	Q	H	A	H	F	JOSHUA				
V	W	K	P	M	V	O	B	C	U	H	U	P	H	D	OBADIAH				
A	Y	M	A	H	N	C	R	Z	A	H	G	K	X	A	JOB				
T	T	P	Q	A	T	E	U	I	Y	S	A	Y	H	N	NAHUM				
G	R	Z	W	N	V	S	M	O	A	U	L	N	A	I	PROVERBS				
G	O	U	A	A	X	E	W	T	O	O	P	Y	A	E					
D	Y	P	C	C	H	X	Q	O	H	T	Y	B	I	L					
J	T	P	P	E	I	A	G	G	A	H	O	Z	W	N					
I	P	X	N	B	Y	F	W	D	I	J	Q	K	L	W					

BIBLE TRIVIA

1. Psalm 117 is the shortest book in the Bible, with just 2 verses.
2. Hebrew is the original language of the Bible.
3. 'Amen' is the last word of the Bible.
4. The world's most "stolen book" is the Bible.
5. "Mahershalahashbaz" is the longest word in the Bible (Isaiah 8:3).



POEM

The Lost Sheep

OLUTOMIWA DIVINE AGBANA

I have strayed, the beauty of the green fields and streams have distracted me,
the chatter of surrounding flock have faded ever so quickly,
the night is drawing near ever so early.
Oh sun hold thy beam for my master searches for me.

Perhaps if I wander to the mountain tops he would see me there,
Perhaps if I wander to valleys low he would hear me there.
Oh fear hold your horses for my master searches for me.

His voice do I desire all day long, Master hurry for the cares of this world seek to swallow me up.
Out of the multitude will he remember me?
Out of the most beautiful will he consider?
If the night reaches her glory will he cease to wonder about me? Will he cease to search for me?
If the wolves and terrors of this world should capture me, would you fight for my freedom?
I shall wait patiently till I hear your voice.

My heart aches, something is missing
There is only ninety nine, where is the one?
I remember the one, since when you were a lamb you captured my heart, where is the one?

Hear my voice, I will find you before the dark plays her tune so no man can work.
If you go to the mountain tops I will pursue, If you go to valleys low I will pursue,
My hands shall not rest till they embrace you, My heart will not be at peace till I find you.
Oh wait for me young one for I am nearly there.

Oh hear my voice, I shall play the melody you love, perhaps you would hear me and come to me oh lost sheep.
Oh hear my melody, I shall sing the words only you know, perhaps you would hear me and come to me oh lost sheep.
Oh hear my heart, the wolves and terrors of this world are no match for my love for you.
Oh wait for me young one and seek my voice for I am nearly there. I am The Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep knows me, I shall lay down my life for my sheep.

TAIYE DAVIES

Thanks be to God and our Lord Jesus Christ
Who has saved us from having to go through a tempest
Of chasing and striving to the way of man
Which only leads to death in advance

OLUTOMIWA DIVINE AGBANA

Where the Shepherd leads I will follow
In his arms there is no sorrow
Such a love I could not borrow
Where He leads us we will follow

Announcements

TRAILBLAZERS FELLOWSHIP

EVERY MONDAY AT 6PM

TUESDAYS PRAYER MEETING

TELECONFERENCE 6PM

THURSDAYS BIBLE STUDY

VARIOUS LINKS 6:30PM

WORD CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 17TH - 19TH



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT CHURCH ACTIVITIES & EVENTS BY VISITING

WWW.RCCGOVERCOMERSCHAPEL.ORG/CHURCHONLINE