APPENDIX 3

An Invitation from Sharon

Though I would not have chosen the pathway on which God has placed me, I am a credible witness that the Lord does bring beauty from ashes. He continues to keep His promises, often through the faithful encouragement of others. What a privilege we have to "call back" that He is faithful and will never break the promise of His presence. I pray this study reminds you of the privilege to encourage others in a way that helps turn their hearts toward Jesus. As you walk by faith on the pathway on which He has placed you, may you hear the cries of those coming behind you who are so desperate for hope. May your message be that "He went with you in the storm and kept you safe in the cleft of the Rock—Jesus."



If you have gone a little way ahead of me, call back—
Twill cheer my heart and help my feet along the stony track;
And if perchance,
Faith's light is dim,
Because the oil is low,
Your call will guide my lagging course as wearily I go.

Call back and tell me that He went with you into the storm
Call back, and say He kept you
When the forest's roots were torn;
That, when the heavens thundered, and the earthquake shook the hill,
He bore you up,
And held you
Where the very air was still.

Oh friend, call back, and tell me for I cannot see your face, They say it glows with triumph and your feet bound in the race; But there are mists between us

And my spirit eyes are dim, And I cannot see the glory, Though I long for word of Him.

But if you'll say He heard you when your prayer was but a cry,
And if you'll say He saw you through the night's sin-darkened sky—

If you have gone a little way ahead,

Oh friend, call back—

Twill cheer my heart and help my feet along the stony track.

Author Unknown, as quoted in Lettie B. Cowman, *Streams in the Desert.* Edited by James Reimann (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016), December 19.