

## *“Scattered on a Day of Clouds and Darkness”*

Some individuals reading this article have had their adult child disclose that they identify as transgender. Maybe the disclosure was in person; perhaps it was a text, email, or letter. Hearing the disclosure may have been traumatic, and they vacillate between rejecting, accepting, or even ignoring it. No matter the response, for some, there may have been a profound loss around who they thought their adult child was and the future they envisioned for them. For me, I felt that I was losing my adult child - a quasi-death. My grief was unacknowledged mainly because there was no place for it; no one called, sent flowers, or brought casseroles to my house. Logically, I knew my child was alive and made in the perfect image of God, but I felt scattered.

As Christians, we have a loving shepherd who tenderly cares for his sheep and offers us rest and good pastures. *“As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness”* (NIV, 2011, Ezek. 34:12). This biblical promise refers to our heavenly father searching for and rescuing us during life’s storms. As I was reflecting on this verse, a smile drew upon my lips as I recalled a song I had sung many years ago in youth group:

### *“His Sheep and I”*

*In God’s green pastures feeding by His cool waters lie  
Soft in the evening walk my Lord and I  
All the sheep of his pastures fare so wondrously fine  
His sheep am I*  
*Chorus*  
*Waters cool (in the valley)  
Pastures green (on the mountain)  
In the eve (in the eve)-ning walk my Lord and I  
Dark the night (in the valley)  
Rough the way (on the mountain)  
Step by step (step by step) my Lord and I*

When you feel scattered on a dark day with many clouds, recall our heavenly father’s promise in Ezekial and pray relentlessly. Pray that your

## ***“Scattered on a Day of Clouds and Darkness”***

adult child’s heart is softened and that God will provide you with generous portions of mercy and strength.

*By Remi Smith, founder and CEO of Compassionate Caring Ministries, whose mission is " to bring compassion, love, and support to parents whose adult child identifies as transgender."*