Help along the way

I came across a rather obscure passage recently that really spoke to my heart. It is found in II Samuel chapter 17 and takes place at the end of the chapter. The setting is King David’s flight from Jerusalem when his son Absalom was coming to kill him. You probably remember the story of Absalom’s rebellion, and how David barely escaped the palace with his life. As David was fleeing, a group of men approached him, and offered him help. Let me share the passage with you. "Shobi, Makir, and Barzillia brought beds, basins, and pottery items. They also brought wheat, barley, flour, roasted grain, beans, lentils, honey curds, sheep, and cheese for David and the people with him to eat. They reasoned ‘The people must be hungry, exhausted and thirsty in the desert.’”

Now, none of us would probably name our children after these men, but I bet we would like our children – and ourselves – to follow in their footsteps. What a wonderful act of kindness! How sacrificial and thoughtful! How needed people like this are, what a blessing to the Body of Christ is such people as these. Do you know any Shobis, Makirs, or Barzillians? I am sure you do. Have you ever been a Shobi, Makir or Barzillian? I pray so. Think of the timing of these three men. David was exhausted (his men too), discouraged and facing a hopeless situation. They were fleeing, they left their families, he had lost the kingdom and they were without rations. When all was hopeless, God sent some men, and that unexpectedly, to encourage them, refresh them, and help meet their needs. He sent them, so David and his men could feel and sense the hand of God when they most needed it.

We have all heard of David, but who has heard of these other men? But there would be no David; there would be no writer of Psalms and slayer of Giants, without these men. May their tribe increase! This day, or better yet, this life, let us look for ways to be Shobi, Makir and Barzillian. Let us look for the weary warriors, and exhausted saints. Let us be the hands and feet of Jesus. I am sure, that you, like me, have had those special servants of God come into our lives just when we most need them. What a refreshment and blessing they are. I could list for you those special women and men who have encouraged Bev’s and my life, their reward will be great in heaven. We would be nothing without them.

Perhaps this day God will have you be Shobi, Makir and Barzillian to someone. Let us be on the lookout for those who are passing our way and are in need of help, or some word of encouragement. Remember Jesus’ words? “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 25:40)