

## A Lesson in SHEEP Calling

Dr. Bill Donahue is a popular conference speaker, prolific author and leadership consultant. He is an associate professor at Trinity International University in Deerfield, Illinois, where he develops emerging leaders.

He tells the story of a lesson he learned while visiting a farm where two of his students lived. When their father, whose name was Tom, asked if Donahue would help call in the sheep, he enthusiastically agreed. Sheep calling must be a little like preaching, he thought, as he watched 25 sheep graze.

“Go ahead,” Tom dared Donahue. “Call them in.”

“What do you say?” Donahue asked. Tom responded: “I just say, ‘Hey, sheep! C’mon in!’”

“No sweat,” Donahue said to himself. “A city kid with a bad back and hay fever could do this.”

But before he could call out, Tom cautioned: “You are 75 yards away, downwind and they have their back to you. Yell! Use your diaphragm like they teach you in preaching class.”

Donahue took a deep breath and put every inch of stomach muscle into a yell that revival preachers around the world would envy: “Hey, sheep! C’mon in!”



The creatures didn't move. Not one even turned an ear.

Tom smiled sarcastically. “Do they teach you the Bible in that seminary? Have you ever read, ‘My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me’?”

Raising his voice only slightly, Tom said, “Hey, sheep! C’mon in!” All 25 sheep turned and ambled toward Tom.

“Now, don't you ever forget,” Tom said to Donahue, “you are the shepherd to my kids.”

(more)

The story has application to those of us who work in Life Care and Century Park – in both personal and professional terms. Each of you, because of the gifts you have been given and the role you play – in your family, the community, and the job you hold – is watched carefully; you become a model in what you say and in what you do. You are the example to numbers of others, some of whom may surprise you.

And the task of being a shepherd goes beyond the associates for whom you are responsible; it extends to the residents and families we serve. It can be an uncomfortable position, but it offers great opportunity to bless those around you.

*I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own* (John 10:14 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter