

Tough Times, Tough People

Threats of drought reach across the Prairie ...

Across extended portions of the Prairie farm people are watching the skies and the weather forecasts with rapt attention. It has been one of the warmest and driest winters on record. What will happen this spring?

Of course we could bask in a luscious two feet of snow along the mountains, or enjoy a few days of downpour between the writing and the printing of this column. But with the climate changing the way it is, we are no longer confident about what to expect.

The land is drying under the Chinook winds. There may not be much of a hay crop for the livestock. Will the trees bud too early? Are we going to have to re-activate that twentieth century phrase "Next Year Country"?

This is the time for preparing the machinery, planning how we'll plant the acres, and cleaning the seed. But who knows how to make the forecasts and interpret trends?

I came across a quote in an old notebook, with no indication of author, but with a hearty piece of wisdom that might stand in good for the present.

"The Children of Israel stumbled out into the desert believing God could see them through, and they used that time in a special way.

"Our ancestors clung to the land and believed, and God moved so powerfully among them that even death could not prevent their ultimate triumph.

"If you have been seeing tough times in terms of the extremely difficult challenges of modern life, ask God to use these things as ways for you to know Him.

"When you know God, the saying is true, 'Tough times don't last, but tough people do.'"

O God, give us the grace to recognize your ability to work through us, to recognize the gifts you have given us, and to offer our weakness trusting in your transforming power.

(Written by Joyce Sasse)