

- 1 Manchester athlete Diane Modahl was 5-times the British 800 metre champion. In 1994 she was sent home in disgrace from the Commonwealth Games in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Like other athletes, she was routinely tested for drugs, and the Games' officials concluded that she had been taking performance-enhancing drugs.
- 2 Diane fought extremely hard to clear her name and restore her good reputation, yet the Games officials stated that they had been given proof by the scientists who had analysed a sample that she had given.
- 3 It was over a year later that other scientists showed that the initial tests on Diane's sample were unreliable and at fault.
- 4 Meanwhile, amidst her difficulties, Diane gave birth to a daughter whom she and her Norwegian husband decided to call "*Imani*", which is the Norwegian word for "*hope*".
- 5 Four years after being condemned, Diane Modahl spoke on TV. She said that, at times of profound difficulty, we can feel totally alone, and we can ask where God is amidst it all. At her worst time, Diane came across the following words which are called "*Footprints*". As we listen to the words, we can think of difficult times in our own lives:
- 6 **'One night a man had a dream. He dreamt he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand - one belonging to him, the other to the Lord.**
- 7 **When the last scene in his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times of his life. This really bothered him, and he questioned the Lord about it. "Lord, you said that, once I decided to follow you, you would walk with me all the way. But I've noticed that during the most difficult times in my life there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why, in times when I needed you most, you would leave me."**
- 8 **The Lord replied, "My precious child, I love you and would never leave you during your trials and sufferings. When you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."**

This is an excerpt from the page of this date in  
*'Praying Each Day of the Year'*,  
a 3-volume book  
by Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC.

For details:

<http://www.matthew-james.co.uk/>

Could make use of a search engine  
to research this topic further.

This material is part of  
the prayer and education website  
of the De La Salle Brothers  
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[www.prayingeachday.org](http://www.prayingeachday.org)