

The Encourager

H.O.P.E. Ministries International Newsletter
March 2007 - January 2008

Glancing Back While Gazing Forward

by
Dave Kistler

Many times this past year, I've heard the comment from a well-meaning friend, "Your wife looks so young, she could be your daughter rather than your wife." I need not tell you how much delight Betsy gets from statements like that. My question to her is, "What does that say about me? Do I look old, or what?" Betsy is always quick to graciously mention that I, now, have to face the fact that I AM getting older. As much as I hate to admit it, she's right! In addition to the increasing number of gray hairs that now occupy a spot on my scalp, I've noticed that I possess another symptom of "getting older"-that of "remembering" the past, and actually enjoying doing so.

While drawing intense enjoyment from a backward look IS symptomatic of old age, it is also something that the Scriptures encourage. In I Thessalonians 1:3, Paul said, "*REMEMBERING without ceasing your work of faith and labor of love and patience of hope...*" Again, in II Timothy 1:5, Paul states, "*When I call to REMEMBRANCE the unfeigned faith that is in thee...*" Yes, Paul was older at the time, but his joyful "recollections" were more than the musings of an aging servant of the Lord. They were to him, the source of great thanksgiving and praise to God.

As I write, I am "remembering", with great joy, the innumerable blessings of this past year. Through forty-two meetings and tens of thousands of miles of travel, our family has had no accidents or even a single "near miss". Our vehicles have performed admirably, in spite of the many rigors and hazards America's roads present. (I hear every Ford fan saying, "Well, of course! That's what Fords do!") Pastors have been

Continued Next Column



greatly encouraged. People have been challenged and changed through the preaching of God's Word. Best of all, hundreds of souls have come to know, personally, our Wonderful Savior. Two incredible weeks were spent in Washington, DC (62 saved). An opportunity to minister in China looms on the horizon as a result of our DC Crusade. We participated in our second Fourth of July Festival in Valdese, NC, with thousands in attendance, and at least 12 saved. Hundreds of message CD's have gone out to eager listeners. Thousands of John/Romans have been distributed, the results of which will only be known in eternity. Friendships with great pastors and dear saints have either been initiated or strengthened. A 20th Anniversary CD collection, ONE ROAD TO HOME, featuring 83 musical selections from the past twenty years, has been completed. And, we've accumulated scores of memories that we'll cherish for eternity. Many of you, who are now reading this article, are a vital part of all God has done this past year. With Paul, I can boldly say, "*I thank my God upon every REMEMBRANCE of you.*" (Phil. 1:3).

Continued on Page 2

Glancing Back While Gazing Forward Cont...

With Paul, I can also say that I take great enjoyment from *"REACHING FORTH unto those things which are before (ahead)"* (Phil. 3: 13). The coming year (2008) is filled with many "firsts" for us. There are many churches in which we will minister for the first time. Our crusade team will minister outside the United States (St. Vincent, Feb. 10-15). Our racing outreach partnership with Ron Brindisi (Racing To Give HOPE) will, Lord willing, commence. H.O.P.E. Ministries will host its first ever Caribbean Cruise (Dec. 4-8, call for details). New friends and investments for God and eternity will be made. And, we may experience the glory of seeing, for the first time, our Savior face to face. Perhaps our Lord will return this year. Along with Paul, I excitedly say, *"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high (upward) calling of God in Christ Jesus"* (Phil. 3:14).

♪ Betsy's Notes ♪

While parked at a church for a week of meetings in the Shenandoah Valley this past summer, I noticed a beautiful cemetery adjacent to the church property. The road that wined through the peaceful resting place disappeared over the rolling green hills. I decided to do my daily 6 miles of running and power walking in the cemetery the next day. Early the next morning at about 7 am, I began my exercise routine around the beautiful winding road that circled the cemetery. A brilliant orange disc of sun was rising above the crest of the hill. Everyday after that, I went to the cemetery at the same time each morning to exercise and noticed that the sun rose at exactly the same time. I was reminded that God made the sun to routinely rise every morning. He has a purpose for the sun, to light the world and give us warmth and energy. If the sun decided not to rise one morning, it would change the whole course of our existence.

As I watched the ball of light rise in the cool blue sky, I began to think about how routine is such a part of our everyday lives. Someone once said that "The secret of your future is hidden in your daily routine". God has given all of us certain tasks to do each day. It's routine to get up early for work and school or to be

Continued Next Column



awakened in the middle of the night by a crying child, hungry for its night-time feeding. It's routine, Moms, to tackle that endless mountain of laundry every week, or to do the chores of cooking, cleaning and maintaining a household. We all get weary in well doing. However, as we begin a new year, may we all remember that *"Whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, do all to the glory of God"*. *"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men."* (Col. 3:23) Above all, may we make the consistent reading of God's Word and fervent prayer a part of our daily routine in the coming new year.

Vision: St. Vincent

By Dave Kistler

In 1995, I had the unique privilege of visiting the Caribbean island of St. Vincent for the first time. During the two weeks that I was there, I preached every night on that 20 mile long by 7 mile-wide island. One-hundred and thirty-three souls came to Christ during the two weeks. Without doubt, the highlight of the trip was conducting the first service of what would ultimately be a church plant in the 5000-6000 person community of Baroullie. Since that first service, where approximately 30 were saved, Missionary Alan Berry has built the Tabernacle Baptist Church.

Continued on Page 3

Vision: St. Vincent Cont...

The week of February 10-15, 2008, our H.O.P.E Ministries team will have the privilege of taking our tent to the community of Baroullie (which now numbers between 6000-8000) for an evangelistic crusade. According to Brother Berry, we should have thousands attend each evening, with the potential of hundreds coming to Christ. Our tent will be located on a large soccer-type field right in the middle of town. Not only will our crusade be the biggest thing in town, it will be the only thing going on in town.

St. Vincent is an island steeped in false religion. Religious bookstores abound on the island, with the advertisement on their signs, "Spiritual Baptist Book Store." What is being advertised is a blending of anemic Baptist doctrine, a drug induced state and spiritism. Reggae music had its origination on the island with, now deceased musician, Bob Marley as its chief proponent. The people speak a dialectic version of English, but understand us perfectly since they watch American television regularly.

Since this is the first time that we will conduct a crusade outside the United States, there is much, logistically, that must be done. Dr. Larry Gaetano (a H.O.P.E. Ministries board member) and a medical mission team from Faith Baptist Church in Toms River, NJ, will be accompanying us on the trip. This is the first time that we have attempted both a crusade and medical missions outreach. We need your earnest prayers for God's provision of the financial resources for the trip (approximately \$17,000 total: which includes transport of our tent to the island, travel for our team, lodging for the week, etc.). Above all, we need God's power on the music and preached Word, that hearts might be open and attentive to the message of the gospel. Will you partner with us, financially and in prayer, that God's glorious kingdom might be advanced on this beautiful, but needy island?

Greatly Used of God

By Dave Kistler

George Washington Carver was born in 1860 to a mom who was a slave and a dad who died before George was born. His mom was so poor that she couldn't afford a pencil for her son. So, at age 7, he designed his first invention-a pencil holder that would allow him to grasp the only writing instrument he had, a 1/4 inch long pencil. He used that invention and pencil

Continued Next Column

for years. Because of his mother's rich faith, George was saved at an early age. He taught himself to read. At the age of 12, he left home to attend a black school. So eager was he to learn that while other children played at recess, he stayed inside to study. At the age of 17, he applied to a small college. But, he was turned away when the school learned that he was black. Not until the age of 30 was he granted entrance into a college. A teacher at the college facilitated his enrollment into Iowa State College because of his easily recognized brilliance. Upon graduation at the age of 34 with a degree in botany, he immediately became a professor at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. George had such a thirst for God that he repeatedly prayed the following prayer, "Oh God, teach me all about your universe." When, according to his own testimony, God impressed on him that his request was too big, George adjusted his request to, "Then teach me about something more my size--the peanut." God granted him his request. Carver discovered over 300 uses for the peanut, two of which were paint and ink. He also discovered 175 uses for the sweet potato. Late in life, he was approached by Thomas Edison with an offer of a salary of \$100,000 to work in the research and development office of his business. Carver turned him down, choosing to remain at Tuskegee, stating, "The greatest gift a man can give is to pass on to the next generation the things he has learned." Incidentally, Carver is listed at the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture as "one of America's greatest scientists."

George Washington Carver was a man with virtually no advantages in life. He had none of the things that most consider today, to be essential for success. Yet, he was the consummate success and was GREATLY USED OF GOD. We should note that being used of God has nothing to do with one's race, skin color, education, etc., but has everything to do with some basic requirements that God asks of all those whom he uses. What are those requirements? In Acts 16: 1-14, three basic requirements appear.

First, to be greatly used of God, one must PERCEIVE ACCURATELY. According to chapter 16: 1-7, Paul makes the right decisions regarding both PERSONNEL and PLACES. In 16:3, Paul selects a young man to accompany him in ministry. All the Scripture says of this decision is "him would Paul have to go forth with him." No mention is made of how Paul discerned that this young man's involvement was God's will. In verses 6 and 7, the

Continued on Page 4

Page 3

Greatly Used of God Cont...

Bible says that Paul was "forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia" and that ministry in Bithynia was also not "permitted." Instead, Paul was directed to Macedonia (16:9). There is no specific mention of HOW God "forbade" him to preach in Asia or Bithynia. It seems evident that God spoke verbally to Paul only twice during his ministry, at his conversion on the Damascus road and during his instruction in the deserts of Arabia. Here, in chapter 16, there is no mention of God speaking audibly to Paul. Yet, he PERCEIVES ACCURATELY what God wants him to do and not do. How does he do this? And, how does a Christian, today, discern God's will in areas where the Bible has not given specific instruction? The answer is two-fold.

One, to know God's will, one must be WILLING TO OBEY. In John 7:17, the Bible says, *"If any man WILL DO HIS WILL, he shall KNOW..."* That is, to PERCEIVE ACCURATELY God's will, one must be totally willing to obey what God is going to reveal. God never shows His will to the casual or carnal who wants to know in order to decide IF he will do it. Willingness to obey is a requirement for God to reveal His will.

Two, to PERCEIVE ACCURATELY what God wants, one must WALK IN THE SPIRIT. I Corinthians 2:12 says, *"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we may KNOW the things that are freely given to us of God."* John 16, also states that the Holy Spirit was given to "guide us into all truth." An intimate relationship with the Spirit of God is absolutely essential for us to know what God wants. When I married my wife over 22 years ago, I confess that I knew very little of who she was and what pleased her, other than leaving the toilet seat down and not bringing visitors home unannounced. However, after years of walking with her in closeness, I have learned not only her likes and dislikes, but how she thinks and what she wants. So it is with the Spirit. When we walk with Him in intimacy, we will have no difficulty knowing what he wants of us. As I was considering these truths, little did I know that I would experience a living example of perceiving accurately God's will

On August 25th, our city of Hickory experienced a tragic murder, kidnapping, car-jacking and suicide, all in just a few hours. Little did I know that I would end up being a player in those tragic events. On the morning of the 25th, I had a 9:30 am appointment at my mechanics for some work on one of my cars. On arrival at the garage, just a few minutes late, I noticed a man leaving the garage driving a 500 SL Mercedes. He appeared scruffy and atypical of the normal owner of that type vehicle. Also, as I drove past him, I noticed that he glared at me with a wild expression. Other than taking note of his expression, I thought no more of it. However, seconds later, I noticed my mechanic frantically running out of the garage trying to discover where the driver had gone. It was at that point that I realized that the unlikely driver had stolen the Mercedes and had done so after pointing a gun at my mechanic's head. Instantly, I urged the mechanic to hop in my car so that we could pursue the assailant. As we drove frantically looking for him, we notified the police of his theft. Within minutes, the Hickory police called back telling us that they were tailing him and attempting to pull him over. About fifteen minutes later, we were told by the police that a shootout had occurred and that the thief was dead. Not until later in the afternoon did we learn the entire story. This man began a rampage at 8:00 am by shooting and killing his estranged wife at her place of employment. He then proceeded to kidnap his mother-in-law and drive her across town toward the garage. She escaped while he ditched his car and began looking for another one so that the police could not find him. It was at that point that he randomly walked into the garage to steal the Mercedes. Ultimately, when pursued, cornered and shot by the police (after he took several shots at them), he took his own life by a gunshot to the head. As the police were interviewing each of us for their report, an officer said, "You men (the mechanic and me) are very fortunate individuals." Because this man had already killed prior to stealing the car, he had nothing to lose and would have thought nothing of shooting and killing again. The officer went on to say that my late arrival probably kept me from startling the thief and prompting him to shoot both me and the mechanic. Here's the clincher. On my way to the

Greatly Used of God Cont...

garage that morning, I had an overwhelming sense that I needed to stop by a short order restaurant and pick up a soda before going to the garage. That stop delayed me no more than two minutes and probably saved my life. The "accurate perception" was nothing less than God speaking and revealing His will to protect me. Many have been the times when I have sensed similar "leadings" of the Lord, but never have I seen it so poignantly displayed. To be greatly used of God, we, as Paul, must PERCEIVE ACCURATELY.

Second, to be greatly used of God, one must PURSUE AGGRESSIVELY. Years ago, I heard a well-meaning preacher counsel his young preachers to not actively "seek to do city-wide crusades" but rather to "let them come to you." While that may sound noble, it is definitely not how Paul approached the gospel ministry. Note Paul's approach to opportunities for ministry. When he'd perceived what God wanted him to do, he PURSUED it AGGRESSIVELY. Chapter 16, verse 10, says, *"after he had seen the vision, immediately we ENDEAVORED to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering (lit. "absolutely convinced") that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them."* In Acts 17, while Paul waited for his two traveling companions to join him in Athens, *"his spirit was stirred in him when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry"* (17:16). As a result, he had to make his way to the marketplace to declare the gospel to them. This is nothing less than aggressive pursuit of the will of God. This is Paul's manner of life. Note also, that once in the region of Macedonia, Paul made his way directly to Philippi (16:12). His motivation for doing so was that Philippi was the "chief city" of that region and "a colony." Being a colony meant literally that Philippi was a "little Rome." Culturally, economically and governmentally, Philippi was a carbon copy of Rome. Reaching this significant city meant the potential to reach thousands with the gospel. Later, Paul expresses that he must see Rome also. His passion was the AGGRESSIVE PURSUIT of men and women with the gospel. We, too, must PURSUE AGGRESSIVELY if we desire to be greatly used of God.

Finally, to be significantly used of God, one must PRAY ARDUOUSLY. In verse 13, of chapter 16, it says that *"on the Sabbath day, we went out of the city by a river side, where PRAYER was wont to be made."* The small group that had gathered there to pray was made up entirely of women. Yet, these women got what was important--ARDUOUS PRAYER. Later in the chapter, as Paul and his companions were going to prayer, a demon-possessed girl encounters them. The point is, things happen when God's servants pray. Paul had grasped this third, but most critical element of being greatly used. When H.O.P.E. Ministries began, we spent long, necessary hours organizing ourselves for success in ministry. In the process, I noticed that, while we spent much time organizing, we spent very little time AGONIZING. Things just were not going well. During a distressed phone call with a dear pastor friend, I commented on the struggles we were having. He asked point blank, "Are you giving the proper place to prayer?" He went on to say, "Every man must experience the death of his dream, so that God can breathe His life into it." My dream was definitely dying before my eyes. I learned a lesson then that I never want to forget. To be greatly used of God, we must PRAY ARDUOUSLY.

Dear friend, do you desperately want to be used of God. Then, as with Paul, these three elements must be present in your life. D.L. Moody has had the following quotation attributed to him, "The world has yet to see what God can do through the man who is totally yielded to Him. By the grace of God, I will be that man." Actually, the first part of that statement was not made by Moody at all. Moody's close personal friend, Henry Varley, made the comment casually to Moody while in conversation with him. What Varley actually said was, "it remains to be seen what God could do through a man totally yielded to Himself." In response, under his breath and unaware that Varley heard him, Moody stated, "By God's grace, I will be that man." It no longer remains to be seen what God can do through a totally yielded individual, because Moody became exactly that. However, God is looking for totally yielded men today. Will you be that man (or woman) in this generation?



This year has been a quick one! It's hard to believe that a new year has arrived. This year was full of blessings and good times. First of all, I had a wonderful time this past summer. We got to stay home for a while, which was nice. Then we went to Washington D.C. to give a concert at the Pentagon in June. I enjoyed being able to meet and talk with a couple of men in the military. I appreciate what military people do and the sacrifices that they make to protect us. I'm sure you've heard about the D.C. Crusade that we held in June. God really blessed the afternoon and evening services. I had fun handing out John/Romans booklets with my friends. It was good to see all my friends from all across the country.

After the D.C. Crusade, we went to Clayton, Georgia to hold a tent crusade. I enjoyed ministering there with my family and was able to spend time with my good friends. In July, we were able to be at home because we had meetings that were just about an hour away from our house, so we commuted each night.

School started in August. I am in the 10th grade now. High school is more of a challenge because I have more work to do. But it is going well so far. I am still taking piano lessons from Dr. Cheek. He has a lot of expectations for me, so I have to practice almost 2 hours a day. It's not very fun, but I do it because I have to. Once I learn a piece, then it becomes fun.

I'm looking forward to things ahead, like the St. Vincent Missions Trip in February and the Upstate NY Tent Crusade in June. I'll get to see friends and hang out so that will be nice. I'm looking forward to see what God will do in these events and hope a lot of people get saved. Hope everyone is doing well and God bless. *Hannah*



Hey there, friends! There's so much to tell. Where do I begin? I guess since the last time I saw you my life has changed a lot. I am a senior in high school now and super-excited about graduating. I am currently writing new music for a new recording. I can't wait to share with you what God has provided to me in the form of the second greatest gift he has given, music. He has shown me so many new things this year. Lessons learned by experience and by watching others.

It's amazing to see the hand of God open doors that I could have never opened myself. It is truly a blessing to be able to share my gift with you, my friends. I guess it was three months ago when I wrecked on a two wheeled scooter. (That's all I'm saying). I had surgery on my right hand and had plates and seven screws put in. Everything seems to be healing well. I thank the Lord that it wasn't any worse than it was. Thank you to all of you who were praying for my recovery. It was speedy and mostly painless.

At the moment, I am currently traveling. I send my apologies to everyone out west for not coming out this summer. I tried my hardest to come. I promise I will be there next summer. I missed everyone very much. A word of advice is in order for all my friends who will be graduating this year. Keep God first place in your heart always, and don't stray from His Word. To be out of the will of God is to fail in life. If you want God's blessings, obey His Word.

Remember when we were children, and we heard in Sunday school to obey our parents. It still applies, even though we are 17 or 18 years old and it sounds stupid to us now, and though we guys are big and bad, we must still abide by the rules that our parents and most importantly our Heavenly Father have set for us. Think on that for a while. Again thank you for praying for me, and keep it up. I covet your prayers. God bless you all. *Nathan*



Pastor Steve Townsend
Tabernacle Baptist Church
Clayton GA

This past June our church had the privilege of hosting the North Georgia Tent Crusade with Evangelist Dave Kistler. Looking back at all the things the Lord did, I am amazed and humbled by what happened. I would like to share some of the blessings and challenges that we faced in putting together a community event for the purpose of seeing folks saved and encouraged.

I want to say at the very start that the most important way that we prepared for this crusade was saturating it in prayer. Everything that I am about to try to explain happened as a result of crying out to the Lord and having Him provide in miraculous ways. Just as everything rises and falls on leadership, so does everything rise and fall according to how we pray.

In February of 2004 Brother Dave preached a revival at our church. He was preparing to hold his second tent crusade in Washington, D.C. in June of that year. While he was with us in February, I felt led of the Lord to ask Dave about coming and holding a tent revival in our local community. Clayton, Georgia is ninety miles northeast of Atlanta in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Since ours is a rural community, I thought that a tent crusade would be a great way to reach our local area with the gospel. I told Dave that I was concerned about a small church such as ours (we average about 120 on Sunday mornings) being able to conduct a large event such as this. However, Dave and I agreed that "if the Lord was in it," nothing was too hard for Him. We scheduled the meeting for June 2007.

My initial desire was to invite many churches within a large radius of our church. Since our church is situated in the northeast corner of Georgia bordering next to both North Carolina and South Carolina, I considered calling our meeting the "Tri-State Tent Crusade." Even though we eventually settled on designating it as the "North Georgia Tent Crusade," we wanted to promote it as a community and area-wide event. In fact, I wanted our church to be somewhat in the background and I wanted it to be a joint-effort from a number of good churches. I contacted many pastors to ask them to consider supporting us with attendance and even with finances. As it turned out, we received very little support from other churches. However, the Lord proved Himself mighty and sufficient on our behalf.

One of the first ways the Lord directed and blessed us was the physical location of the crusade. Initially I thought that we would put the large tent up on the front of our church property. Our church is located over six miles south of Clayton on Highway 441, which is the main north/south route from Atlanta to Cherokee, North Carolina and points beyond. The church has a large parcel of open land right along the highway, and I thought that it would be a great location. However, the Lord had other plans. In March of this year, just three months before our crusade, Brother Dave and some of his team came to be with us for a Sunday service. Bill Saunders and Fred Stoll, who work with HOPE ministries, suggested having it at a more neutral location. I immediately saw the wisdom in their counsel. We began praying about a location that would be more centrally located in Clayton. I found three possible locations: our local high school football stadium, a parcel of ground owned by a regional grocery store chain, and a parcel of ground owned by and situated next to a local funeral home. The door closed for all three of these possibilities. But the Lord provided. The mayor of our town had recently developed a prime piece of land that he owned right in the heart of our town, situated between the main highway and Main Street. I met with the mayor and asked him if he would allow us to hold our meeting on this newly developed vacant land. He not only gave us permission, but he saw to it that the city would have water and electricity hooked up in time to meet our needs. This location proved to be superior in many ways to the other places that I had previously pursued.

Once we settled on the location for the tent, the most pressing issue was promotion. The Lord provided the resources to allow us to advertise the meeting by several different means. First, a member of our church made it possible for us to take out two full-page ads in our local newspaper. We also mailed a professionally designed postcard to every home in our county. Then for ten days we had ads aired on our local radio station before and during the week of the crusade. We also put posters in as many places and establishments allowable. I also personally contacted many of the local pastors and asked if they would encourage their folks to attend. I was pleased with the response from most of the pastors that I talked to, but I do wish that more of them had attended the crusade during the week. Our goal was to try to build momentum as we approached the week of the crusade, and then when the tent was actually erected, we hoped that it would become the "talk of the town."

One key component that contributed to a great week was designating each night as a special night that recognized a particular group of people. Sunday night we labeled "All Church Night." Other special nights included recognizing elected officials, emergency personnel workers, and members of the military. Thursday we designated as "Teen Night" that included several high-energy games, free pizza, and reserved seating for all the teens that came. Friday was "Family Night," and we set up several inflatable moonwalk games a couple of hours before the meeting, and we served free food to all that attended. The designated nights were effective tools for our people to invite guests.

Another important element was making people feel welcomed as they arrived each night. We had people directing traffic, help with parking, and provide golf cart shuttle service from cars to the tent. We also had designated parking for handicapped and elderly. Our ushers did a good job greeting guests and helping them find seats.

The HOPE Ministries Team did an outstanding job conducting the services each night. The music, the lighting, the sound system, and the Spirit-filled preaching of God's Word by Dave all contributed to focusing on the main point of each evening: namely, the invitation. We made sure that we had trained counselors (men and women) from our church ready each night to deal with those who responded to the message. We set up areas around the tent as counseling stations where folks could talk and pray without distraction after the meeting dismissed.

Hosting a community outreach event involves a lot of praying, planning, promotion, preparation, and more praying. The results are worth it, and "when the Lord is in it," great things are accomplished, all to the glory of the Lord!

Are you Supercharged?

By Ron Brindisi



A supercharger is an amazing invention used in racing. A supercharger placed on a relatively mild engine will transform it into a very powerful engine by rapidly forcing large amounts of air into the engine causing incredible power gains.

I am overwhelmed, humbled and "supercharged" when I consider God's love for mankind. John 3:16, one of the greatest verses of hope in all the Bible says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." How easy it is to pass by the significant meaning of this verse! We must not take it for granted! I have recently pondered these admonitions.

The Creator of the universe has chosen to love me and all of mankind. I am humbled when I consider the responsibility we were given in the great commission of reaching the "fields" of the world. I am "supercharged" as I consider that by the Biblical words I speak to a race fan, or by a piece of literature I pass out, that it has the potential to radically change the course of someone's life for all of eternity! Recently, I attended a service at a race track where over 150 people came and I had the honor of playing my trombone and speaking. I was so moved as one man came up to me after the service to thank me that he had a place where his friends would come so that they might hear the Bible message of Hope! What a privilege!

Have you considered what God can do? You're maybe someone who sets up chairs for Sunday School at your church, Do you realize how important that is? That you are having a vital part in someone hearing the gospel and being changed forever?

Are you Supercharged? Cont...

Here are some pictures that I want you to ponder... what do you see? This is the people God has called me to reach. I am so excited and "supercharged" about what God has given me to do. The Lord has blessed me with the talents and abilities to use this platform in drag racing to affect someone's destiny. In the latest data released, 73.5% of motorsports fans are now driver and brand loyal. I do not want to miss this clear platform and open door of opportunity to influence people who will consider the gospel message because I am a race car driver. Certainly, the fields are white already to harvest! Race to give someone Hope today!

Editors note: At the time of this writing Ron's dad is recovering from a challenging heart issue. We are currently analyzing how to proceed in light of Ron Sr.'s health. However, as a result of this challenge, it has revealed potential opportunities in the future. Lord willing, in the months to come we will have exciting news to share. Ron Jr. continues to attend races and minister laying the ground work for this new exciting ministry. Stay tuned! (DK)



Evangelist Dave Kistler

H.O.P.E. Ministries International

P.O. Box 11415 • Hickory, NC 28603

828-302-2060



2008 Itinerary

| DATE | CHURCH | ADDRESS | CITY - STATE | ZIP CODE | CONTACT | PHONE |
|------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Jan 6 - 11 | First Baptist Church of Westwood Lake | 4301 SW 107th Ave | Miami FL | 33165-4802 | Pastor Marc Mortensen | 305-274-3380 |
| Jan 13 - 17 | Faith Baptist Church | PO Box 824 (6918 Spartan Ave) | Homossassa Springs FL | 34447-0824 | Pastor Laverle Coats | 352-628-4793 |
| Jan 20 - 23 | Faith Baptist Church | 175 Spring Time St | Spring Hill FL | 34608-7069 | Pastor William Tassey | 352-686-5060 |
| Jan 27 - 31 | Northside Baptist Church | 6000 38th Ave N | St Petersburg FL | 33710-1720 | Pastor Tim Kroll | 727-381-3642 |
| Feb 3 AM & PM | Freedom Baptist Church | 118 Cornatzer Rd | Mocksville NC | 27020-7125 | Pastor William Pryor | 336-671-8082 |
| Feb 10 - 15 | H.O.P.E. Ministries St Vincent Crusade | St Vincent Island | West Indies | xxxxx-xxxx | Missionary Alan Berry | xxx-xxx-xxxx |
| Feb 24 (PM) | North Point Baptist Church | 4980 University Parkway | Winston Salem NC | 27106-2861 | Pastor Skip Furrow | 336-972-3612 |
| Feb 26 (10AM) | Pensacola Christian College | 250 Brent Lane | Pensacola FL | 32353-9160 | VP Joel Mullenix | 850-478-8496 |
| Mar 2 - 5 | Old Paths Baptist Church | 444 Guinea Mill Rd | Moyock NC | 27958-9293 | Pastor Jeremai Byrd | 931-639-0314 |
| Mar 9 - 12 | East End Baptist Church | 377 Heath Church Rd | Lexington NC | 27292-9684 | Pastor Tim Gainey | 336-249-4484 |
| Mar 16 - 20 | Faith Baptist Church | 1528 Route 9 | Toms River NJ | 08755-3209 | Pastor Joel Spiecker | 732-349-4035 |
| Mar 23 - 26 | Fern Hill Baptist Church | 872 Fern Hill Rd. | Mooresville NC | 28117-9494 | Pastor Jesse Stroud | 704-528-6436 |
| Mar 30 - April 3 | Sweethaven Baptist Church | 5000 W. Norfolk Rd. | Portsmouth VA | 23703-3417 | Pastor Cary Borkert | 757-484-4067 |
| April 10 | Piedmont Baptist College | 420 S Broad St | Winston Salem NC | 27101-5025 | Charles Pettit | 800-937-5097 |
| April 13 - 17 | Eastside Baptist Church | 310 Eastside Dr | Statesville NC | 28625-5443 | Pastor John Parks | 704-873-6682 |
| April 20 - 24 | Calvary Baptist Church | 7900 Ten-Ten Rd. | Raleigh NC | 27603-8856 | Pastor David Frye | 919-779-9456 |
| April 27 - 30 | Calvary Baptist Tabernacle | 3760 Stokes Ferry Rd | Salisbury NC | 28146-2218 | Pastor Steve Holshouser | 704-637-9682 |
| May 4 - 8 | Bible Baptist Church | 5819 W. Chapel Rd. | Madison OH | 44057-1797 | Pastor Bob Ladygo | 440-428-5433 |
| May 11 - 14 | Calvary Baptist Church | 1354 Cold Springs Rd | Mountain City TN | 37683-4308 | Pastor Frank Stanley | 423-727-7466 |
| May 18 AM & PM | New Home Missionary Baptist Church | 5130 Elmore Rd | Wetumpka AL | 36092-3700 | Pastor Dave Maddox | 334-567-5966 |
| June 8 - 13 | Upstate NY Tent Crusade | 1431 State Hwy 29 | Gloversville NY | 12078-6755 | Pastor Brian Norman | 518-883-4125 |
| June 16 - 20 | Victory Baptist Camp | 1309 Hwy 135 S | Lake Park GA | 31636-2119 | Pastor Keith Smith | 229-435-4080 |
| June 22 - 27 | Greenbrier County Tent Crusade | PO Box 784 (500 Park Center-Kroger) | Rainelle WV | 29562-0784 | Pastor Milton Ker | 304-438-5633 |
| July 4th | Festival on the 4th Celebration | Trail of Faith, 401 Church St. | Valdese NC | xxxxx-xxxx | Evangelist Dave Kistler | 828-302-2060 |
| July 27 AM & PM | Leon Valley Baptist Church (Pre-Crusade Rally) | 7990 Grissom Rd | San Antonio TX | 78251-4714 | Pastor Forrest Jones | 210-684-5822 |
| Aug 3 - 7 | Harvest Baptist Church | 8472 152A St | Surrey BC Canada | V3S6H2 | Pastor Derrick Goette | 604-599-7245 |
| Aug 10 | Greater Portland Baptist Church | 17800 SE Main St. | Portland OR | 97233-5031 | Pastor Rick Adams | 503-761-1136 |
| Aug 11 - 15 | Camp Northwest (Mossy Rock, WA) c/o | 1310 Echo Hollow Rd. | Eugene OR | 97402-1330 | Pastor Greg Kaminski | 541-689-6325 |
| Aug 17 - 20 | Lower Valley Indian Baptist Church | PO Box 252 (4141 Harrah Rd) | Harrah WA | 98933-0252 | Pastor Glenn Hohmman | 509-848-2224 |
| Aug 24 - 29 | East Hill Baptist Church | 25650 124th Ave SE | Kent WA | 98030-8612 | Pastor John Steen | 253-631-2565 |
| Sept 7 - 11 | Westside Baptist Church | 1310 Echo Hollow Rd. | Eugene OR | 97402-1330 | Pastor Greg Kaminski | 541-689-6325 |
| Sept 21 - 25 | Grace Baptist Church | 2499 Waldron Rd | Kankakee IL | 60901-5922 | Pastor John Marvin | 815-939-4579 |
| Sept 28 - Oct 2 | Campbellsville Baptist Temple | 1360 Oldhodgenville Rd | Campbellsville KY | 42718-8103 | Pastor B.C. Gillispie | 270-465-5773 |
| Oct 5 - 9 | Grace Baptist Church | 2649 Q Ave. | New Castle IN | 47362-5382 | Pastor Denny Neal | 765-521-0143 |
| Oct 12 - 15 | Cornerstone Baptist Church | PO Box 400 (6210 S 700 E) | Zionsville IN | 46077-0400 | Pastor Mark Thacker | 317-650-0078 |
| Oct 19 - 23 | Sugar Run Valley Baptist Church | 5886 Sate Route 132 | Morrow OH | 45152-9760 | Pastor Earl McGuffey | 513-899-3471 |
| Nov 2 - 6 | Hudson Baptist Church | PO Box 187 (2328 Hudson Rd) | Hudson ME | 04449-3001 | Pastor Burleigh Shorey | 207-327-1433 |
| Nov 9 - 13 | New Jerusalem Baptist Church | 3203 US Hwy 6015 | Mocksville NC | 27026-6916 | Pastor Donnie Chapman | 336-284-2328 |
| Nov 23 (AM&PM) | Colonial Hills Baptist Church | 7131 Mount Vernon Rd | Lithia Springs GA | 30122-2819 | Pastor Mark Smith | 770-941-2373 |
| Dec 4 - 8 | H.O.P.E. Christmas Caribbean Cruise | c/o 8109 Fayetteville Rd #125 | Raleigh NC | 27603-5635 | Rick Trollinger | 919-696-3629 |

Are YOU on our list?
Sign up – Today!

www.hopeministriesonline.com
offers free electronic notification of key news and events to any who wishes to subscribe. By going to the “Get Email Updates” section under News/Events on the website, you can sign up to be notified by **email** of new *Encourager* editions available for download, updates about H.O.P.E. Crusades and other events, and other future communications. Sign up today and “get in the loop”.



Hope Ministries International

Future Events

Mark Your Calendar!
Pray!!!

February 10 – 15, 2008

St. Vincent Island, Caribbean Crusade

June 8 – 13, 2008

Gloversville, NY Tent Crusade

June 22 – 27, 2008

Greenbrier, WV Tent Crusade

July 4, 2008

Festival on the 4th, Valdese, NC

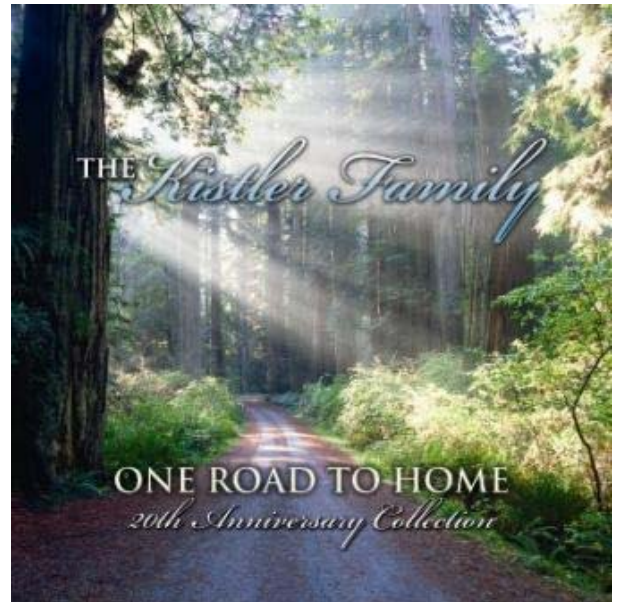
December 4 – 8, 2008

H.O.P.E. Christmas Caribbean Cruise

Sign up for email updates of these and
other future events

www.hopeministriesonline.com

The Kistler Family
20th Anniversary Collection
One Road to Home
Released December 2007
Special Four (4) CD Set



**A Collection of 83 songs
selected from these past
albums:**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness (1993)
Portraits of Praise (1994)
My Tribute (1994)
His Way Is Perfect (1995)
For the Lord and You (1996)
With All My Heart (1997)
Glorious Lord (1998)
Praise You (2000)
He's Been Faithful (2002)
Bow the Knee (2003)
We Are the Reason (2004)
Our Strength, Our Song (2005)
Soul Sessions (2005)
Give Me Jesus (2006)

Available to order from

www.hopeministriesonline.com

We Have the Technology!

(Won't you use it?)

((and save a tree or two?))

For more than ten years, The Encourager has periodically brought to you news of Kistler Family Ministries and H.O.P.E. Ministries International. Increases in the costs of ink, paper, and (especially) postage to provide the approximately 2,000 copies produced for each edition have become a significant expense, thousands of dollars each year. At the same time, the technology to deliver the same content (and more) electronically has become more practical and very affordable.

In 2005, we began to offer a digital copy of The Encourager through www.hopeministriesonline.com for any to come view and/or download. Many have taken advantage of this feature. We want to continue to communicate with you so that you can be informed of the news of H.O.P.E. Ministries and the Kistler family, but wish to be good stewards and produce these communications at the lowest reasonable cost.

We are asking all who have the technology (email and internet access) to sign up for electronic distribution of The "E" Encourager in lieu of the printed copy. By choosing to receive The Encourager by email, we all benefit from the following:

1. Speed - New editions of The Encourager are available to you electronically as soon as they are written. No more waiting for printing and mailing delays.
2. Color – Electronic editions feature full color photos and graphics. The printed edition is strictly black & white.
3. Cost – The cost to provide the electronic edition is minimal, compared to the rising costs of the print edition, making better use of limited resources.

It's easy to subscribe to The "E" Encourager:

1. Go to www.hopeministriesonline.com
2. Under News|Events scroll down and click on Get Email Updates
3. A Registration page will appear
4. Enter your email address (be sure to be accurate) in the block and click on Submit
5. A new Registration screen will appear
6. Re-type your email address in the block (this confirms that it is entered accurately)
7. Enter your name and address information (this is important so we can cross reference to our mailing list)
8. Check the box(es) for the types of notifications you would like to receive
9. Click on Submit

You will receive a confirming email. That's it!

If you do not have email and internet access, we want to continue to provide you with a printed copy as long as we can reduce the number of printed copies sufficiently to reduce costs. If you have any questions on this, or comments or suggestions, please contact us.

The Encourager
H.O.P.E. Ministries International
PO Box 11415
Hickory, NC 28603
828-327-9015
newsletters@hopeministriesonline.com

If you feel led as an individual, family, or church to give to H.O.P.E. Ministries International, please indicate the categories.

___ \$20.00 ___ \$25.00 ___ \$50.00 ___ \$100.00 _____ Specified Amount

Monthly - Quarterly - Yearly - One Time - H.O.P.E. Ministries International
(Please circle the appropriate categories)

H.O.P.E. Ministries International

Name:

P.O. Box 11415

Hickory NC 28603-0415

Address:

Kistler Prayer Journal

Praise - Praise God with us for the following:

- Hundreds saved and lives changed this past year
- A year of great physical health (no long term effects from Nathan's injury)
- Recent reports from pastors of lasting revival following our local church meetings
- Open door for visit to China
- Very successful Pentagon Outreach (June 6-7), Washington DC Crusade (June 10-15), North Georgia Crusade and Fourth of July Festival in Valdese (scores saved at these events)

Prayer - Pray for the following:

- Many to be reached during our St. Vincent Crusade (Feb.10-15)
- Financial provision for the St. Vincent trip (approximately \$17,000)
- Safety over many miles of travel in the coming months
- Continued wisdom and health for the Kistlers, Saunders, Stolls and entire H.O.P.E. Team
- Unique open doors for evangelism in the coming year
- Expanded ministry to military