



A Memorable Month of Ministry

Though all service is a delight, there are seasons of ministry that can only be described as "times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord." (Acts 3:19) Such has been the case the last month. Our third Washington, DC Crusade (June 10-15), though physically exhausting, was a time of great harvest (58 souls saved that we know of) and fellowship (believers from across America laboring together in unity and harmony). I continue to receive phone calls, e-mails and personal comments expressing the significant impact that the week had. In addition, reports continue to come in about our Pentagon Outreach (June 6-7) and the souls saved there.

Our weeks in Washington were just two in a series of four significant evangelistic outreaches over a six week period. Following DC, we traveled to Clayton, Georgia for our first ever North Georgia Tent Crusade. This meeting was hosted by the fine people of Tabernacle Baptist Church, under the capable leadership of Dr. Steve Townsend. Never have we had a single church take on an event of this magnitude and do such an incredible job. Though a number of additional churches participated, Dr. Townsend and his people carried the load organizationally. From the prayer meetings to the publicity, everything was done worthy of our Savior. It was a tremendous thrill for me, personally, to see the people of Tabernacle energized and focused on reaching their community. They went above and beyond in their efforts to build bridges into the city as a whole as well as to individual lives. Souls were saved every night (15 to 18 total) and anticipation grew with each service. Our tent location was great, located between Main Street and the main highway through town. Space does not permit me to relate the comments we heard from those who were saved or made other life-changing decisions throughout the week. Our Lord worked many miracles during the week even with the weather. Pastor Townsend led his people in some very creative promotional ideas that greatly enhanced the effectiveness of the crusade. I have rarely seen Christians work so hard, with such obvious love for each other and the lost. As well, I was thrilled to see local pastors in attendance each night and laboring together for our common Master. We are praying and planning for a similar outreach in that area in 2010.

Following a few days of rest after returning home, we participated in our second Fourth of July Festival in Valdese, NC (July 4, from 6:00-10:00pm). It was our delight to work with NC State Senator Jim Jacumin and his fine staff in this event. The crowds were overwhelming (well over 3000), and the music by our ministry team (Daybreak Quartet and Kistler Family) was outstanding. But the highlight of the evening was the

participation of my dear friend and co-laborer in ministry, Pastor Brad Lapiska (Colonel, USMC Retired). His brief message stressed the sacrifices of past generations of American heroes (particularly the five men who raised the flag at Iwo Jima) and included a straightforward gospel appeal. A holy hush fell over the crowd as he spoke and at the invitation at least 12 responded to receive Christ as Savior. This is all the more significant when you understand that this was a community sponsored event. The town of Valdese is a unique and faith-friendly place. I count it a privilege, not only to minister to my Jerusalem, but also to live in such an incredibly receptive and beautiful location. Pastor Lapiska was overwhelmed at the openness of the people and the kindness they extended to him. Permit me to say that the blending of patriotism and faith that I see here in my community is exactly the same that I see in the rest of small-town America. We love our Savior and our soldiers and are committed to lifting up both. How I wish that CBS, NBC, ABC, FOX News, CNN and the rest could have witnessed what we saw on Wednesday evening. How I wish that our troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, etc., could see the love, appreciation and prayers that were also expressed. The evening concluded with an awesome fireworks display and re-creation of the Iwo Jima flag raising as the Daybreak Quartet sang "God Bless the USA." Wow! What a way to spend a Fourth of July!

I cannot say enough about our H.O.P.E. Ministries team. My family (Betsy, Rachael, Nathan and Hannah), Fred and Flo Stoll, Bill and Janet Saunders, Dave and Brenda Carter, Chris and Debbie Edwards, the Daybreak Quartet (Jason and Nathan Prisk, Joel Wood, and Dennis Fanning), Jeff and Amber Gammons, Merrick and Becki Buffaloe, Joel and Betty Phillips, Jim and Jennifer Hughes, Jose and Lillian Young are the best of the best. They work together with incredible unity and focus. Without them, almost 100 souls would not have been saved this past month. These fellow-laborers are my friends and my family. It is not only our privilege to serve together, it is also our JOY. If you have been to a H.O.P.E. event, you know that we have fun serving our Wonderful Savior. We laugh a lot, as we should. We do so because the joy of the Lord is our strength.

Pray for us and praise God with us for His wonderful works over the past four weeks!

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We appreciate your input, but please understand that due to the volume of email that we receive, we are unable to personally respond to each email.