



August thru December 2016

ON THE "GO" MISSION



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Present or Presence?

Christmas is not always a happy or merry time for many people even for those who believe in Jesus. There are those who have lost loved ones so Christmas has become a difficult time. The things that once made them happy as they remember time spent together now holds sadness with the absence of that person. For the one who has lost his job this is not the most wonderful time of the year. For the people that are living paycheck to paycheck and praying for no surprises this is not the most wonderful time of the year. Why? Because this has become the one season when people spend more money than they have and the impending debt will haunt them well in to the new year. Christmas has become the most commercialized holiday bar none. We have placed so much emphasis on the giving that we often forget *the gift* a gift by the way which is free!

God loves you! He loves you so much. Maybe you know people who don't know about Jesus. The best and most important gift that you could give is to tell someone how much God loves them and how they could find Salvation in His Son Christ Jesus. Give someone a Bible. Give them the opportunity to have what you have as a Believer in Christ. Clothes will go out of style, toys will be broken and forgotten, friends will come and go, those we love will pass away, and the energizer bunny will run out of juice. The Word of God is "the same yesterday, today, and forever". It will never go out of style, die or change.

If you take away the tree, the lights, the decorations, the mad rush and chaos of gift buying you are left with an ordinary night. It is only extra-ordinary because this night a child was born; not an ordinary child but an extra-ordinary child. This child named Jesus was sent by God and He would grow up to save the world from sin by sacrificing His own life for ours. He freely offers to all people Grace so could we would be saved through our faith in Him if we only believe. Why would He do that? Why was He born? Love. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever would believe in Him would not parish but have everlasting life". Reason is love; true, undeniable, unconditional, perfect love.

We must remember the extra-ordinary message of Christmas, which is Immanuel—God is with us. For a lost and hurting world the "The message of Christmas is: God will be with you. God will help you. God will strengthen you." There are many who are in need this encouraging message during this time of year. The time when Christ will call all those who believe to meet Him in the air is drawing near even at the threshold. Don't wait to share a gift that will save someone's life. We all need to remember what this season is all about....

Its not about a Christmas present; Its about *His* presence.



AUGUST

On August 21st we left Massachusetts with our new friends Paul and Jean C. and headed to Maine, USA; Aurora to be exact. We were at a place called Great Pond (a military facility) for 15 days. If you are looking for complete and total disconnect from the outside world this is the place for you. Wonderful though it was...it was really not the place for us. We have discovered that while military facilities are much more economical for us but they do not support or promote/advertise religious or political venues. In nearly every case we have found we must leave the campground itself to do what God has called us to do and this case was no different. This is not necessarily a bad thing but it put a stop to our popular coffee ministry and pancake breakfast Saturdays. However, one day we rented a canoe and paddled to the “remote” campsites (accessible only by boat) and prayed with for people and shared Jesus on a small island over a cup of very strong black coffee! We also met and shared every time we walked the dogs or carried out the trash! We WILL find a way to share Jesus every where we go!

Thanks to a projector machine that was donated to the ministry we began having “movie night”. Though it was in the 40s at night we had a number of people who came! Praise the Lord! This will be a tool we will absolutely use when the evenings are not so cold. It was a great way to draw people in, watch a family friendly movie and have an opportunity to share Jesus!

The last Sunday we were there we were invited by one the campground staff members to come speak at her church! We accepted and arrived at the Amherst Aurora Congregational Church at 10am and were given 20 minutes to share and encourage the people with our calling and God’s Word. Preacher Faye Wolfe and her congregation were kind and very eager to learn about our mission. They also agreed to pray regularly for us as we “GO”. It made the seclusion and the trip there worthwhile! Thank you Lord!



SEPTEMBER

On the 6th of September we left Great Pond and have arrived at Hadley’s Point Campgrounds in Bar Harbor, Maine or as it is more commonly pronounced here Bah-Hahbah. For the duration of the time we were there a National Agility Dog Show/ Contest took center stage so we are limited. It always seems that we arrive in places that limit us however God has always gone ahead of us preparing the way. When we arrived at the park a nice man on staff escorted to our site and then immediately began asking who we were and what do we do. We happily shared and he told us that he was a seasonal worker at the campgrounds and while there at Hadley’s Point he and his wife volunteer at The Common Good Soup Kitchen. I asked him if they could use two more volunteers and he said yes that they have a hard time finding people to help. The following morning Mark and I went to the kitchen, told them who we were and asked how we could serve them. They were very excited that we were there and put us right to work! There are three women that come in every day and bake “pop-overs” a wonderful Maine staple. Pop-overs are these large puffy, light breads that come standard with maple-walnut butter and fresh home-made blueberry jam! For a week Mark and I helped in the kitchen making everything from butter and bread to jam and soup for the 18 or so shut-ins they deliver to. This was not a faith-based operation as we discovered however the community is benefiting from the works of this small group of dedicated people. Even in a place where God isn’t acknowledged we could display the love of Jesus in our lives and allow it to over flow into theirs. It is a blessing and a joy to serve the Lord by serving others. We departing the state of Maine on the 13th of September and headed to Ohio by way of Massachusetts.

While in North Carolina in June during our pancake breakfast Saturday we met a young lady and her family on vacation. Paige was a wonderful young high schooler who was instrumental in actually starting a youth group in her school! She invited Mark to come and speak to her group called One Voice. He excitedly accepted and so we arrived September 28th just in time for the “See You at The Pole” event that One Voice was promoting. It was a great turn out and Mark got a chance to speak to several young people! It was so encouraging to see young people openly worshipping and pray to God in the school house!



OCTOBER

October...where to begin. The intent was to visit Marks Aunt for a week then continue on to Virginia, things did not go exactly as we had planned... it went better than we could have imagined. We went to Marks Aunt Jeans' church Northside Wesleyan Church the first weekend we arrived. Scott Ritz, the Preacher told us about the upcoming Revival event. From major plumbing issues that kept us stationary to the an 83 year old man who we needed to take to the hospital with heart issues, to my stay in the same hospital with kidney stones God made sure we not only stayed but that we were blessed in the process.

We were blessed to not only house a missionary in the RV but to participate in a two week street revival with a group called Time To Revive. We made a lot of new friends, went all over the Dayton area sharing, led many to Jesus and saw many recommit their lives. We did exactly what Mark and I do everyday only with a lot more people.

Part of our daily task each day was to go to the different churches that were on our assigned map regardless the denomination. The goal was to simply offer pray for the pastor, the congregation and anything else we might be asked to pray for. We were to visited every church we encountered along the way. We were very surprised that on more than a few occasions we were not only turned away or not let in the front door but told "no, we're good. We don't need you to pray for us about anything."

This attitude we encountered was very sad to me but not shocking. Mark and I have encountered this same attitude from churches in every state we've visited; territorial, untrusting, guarded and fearful. We have heard from countless people that in great part this is why they stay out of church. This must change and it starts with me as an individual. Great moves of God begin with an individual...you. Be what God has called you to be...nothing more, nothing less.



NOVEMBER

It's mid November and we find ourselves in Texas. Many of you know and have prayed for my mother who had a double knee replacement surgery at the end of the month. First let me say thank you from the bottom of my heart for your prayers and for the inquiries as to her progress. The procedure went very well, she had one week of hospital recovery and therapy then moved to a Physical therapy department for another week. She is now at home with home health/physical therapy and doing fine.

Thanksgiving was a quiet one this year for Mark and I. Since I had chosen to be at the hospital with mother 24 hrs/day through the ordeal we opted to spend it together just the two of us. We enjoyed all the fixin's and gave thanks for all that God had done, was doing and would continue to do in our lives and in His ministry through us. It was a happy day and we were thankful to be a part of it!



DECEMBER

Christmas...It is our most sincere hope that you remember "The Reason for the Season". This month can be extremely chaotic causing us to get so caught up in the season that we forget the reason. We intend to enjoy this season with family and friends remembering the birth of our Savior. We will be back on the road again after the first of the year.

From ours to you and yours have a great, wonderful and Merry Christmas season and a Happy New Year.

Mark and Holly

Keep *Christ* in Christmas and in your hearts all year 'round!



Morning C.O.F.F.E.E. (spring & summer)

Every weekday morning between 7-9am, underneath a 10x15 blue tent we set up coffee and small breakfast breads like muffins or cinnamon rolls. It is a great time of fellowship!



Pancakes in the Park (spring & summer)

Every Saturday between 8-10am underneath the blue tent we make pancakes and coffee. This is very popular and a great way to draw people in to hear and discuss the Word of God.

Outside Movie Night (spring & summer evenings)



Sunday Service (Wherever & whenever possible)

Sunday can be a wonderful time in an RV Campground to share the Gospel with people. Because people are away from home those who would normally be in church might have to go without...that's where we come in and provide that Sunday service. In most cases however Sunday is also when people pack up and start their trips either back home or just farther down the road. SO...when the later is the case we "GO" outside the campgrounds. We have been welcomed at a number of nursing homes and assisted living facilities to provided morning church service! We have even met people from the campgrounds that want to share their talents of music and have accompanied us to sing some hymns! These are great places to witness, encourage and reestablish hope in Jesus Christ. This is an on going ministry!

Video Ministry

Finally, I am to starting to record YouTube videos. Each video will be an 8-15 minute conversation about things that God has placed on my heart or a scripture He has brought to mind. These videos can be found on our website and/or our Facebook page. If you would like to show your support and encourage further videos please subscribe to our YouTube channel.



WHO WE ARE

We are Mark and Holly Shaw and we are On The “Go” Mission! For many years this ministry operated out of our home. We were actively involved in a church as youth pastors, Sunday school teachers. We strongly felt that our local community of Whitehouse, Texas should be our first priority. As Youth Pastors our hearts went out to the young people in our community so we contributed school supplies for any child and/or teacher that was in need of them. We facilitated coat and shoe drives for lower income families. The elderly were also a concern so to ensure the recipients of the “Meals-On-Wheels food program did not give their food to their pets we provided them with daily supplies of food just for their furry and feathery friends. This turned out to be one of the most rewarding ministries! We also worked closely with the community food bank providing them with eggs as well as chickens so they could in turn offer them firstly to those families with children to provide a healthy means of protein. In addition we provided disaster relief both locally and in other states or cities. We took community donations by the truck load to areas devastated by severe weather events or fire and volunteered until further help could come. We provided water and prayer to those who felt they had lost it all. This blessed us as much as it did them. God led the way at every stop and every turn and we are grateful and blessed to have been used by Him in all of those ways. To God Be the Glory!

At the end of 2015 God called us into full-time on-the-road ministry! At the first of the year we sold everything we owned through an estate sale, sold our home and vehicles, pooled our money and bought a 5th wheel travel trailer and truck to pull it with. We basically traded one home mortgage for another only this home is on wheels! Today our mission is the same but our battlefield is different. We have been on the road now since the first of 2016 traveling up the east coast sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in gas stations, grocery stores, laundry rooms and RV parks. We share with the lost and encouraging those who are already Believers. In 2017 we will go a different direction but always “Going Where God leads!” We are honored and blessed and serve at the pleasure of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ the Son of God. The same Jesus who died on the Cross and shed His own blood for our sin AND rose again on the third day just as He said He would! AMEN!



DONATIONS

On The “GO” Mission is a non-profit ministry that is funded by those who believe in what we are doing and are led by God to support us as we “Go”. Please visit www.onthegomission.org to donate. You can also mail gifts of any size to On The Go Mission, 114 Harred Street, Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482. There are a number of ways that you can support this ministry all of which can be found at OnTheGoMission.org. Rest assured your gift will be used in full to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to America! Your tax deductible donations are appreciated by us and the people that we serve.



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