

Project 52

God is good. God is faithful.



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One morning in Roanoke

On a recent journey home from the Roanoke Gospel Outreach Center in downtown Roanoke Virginia, we pondered a question that was asked during our time there. What would the Body of Christ be capable of achieving and what would it look like if we could just learn to love one another? We were talking about with the full-out 1 Corinthians 13, agape love of God. What sparked the question was a conversation at lunch about our experience earlier that morning at the outreach center which serves the homeless, the handicapped, the addicted, the rejected, the prostitute and the destitute with the love and gospel of Jesus Christ. Jerry was asked to speak there on a recent Sunday to celebrate their 20-year anniversary.

When we arrived at the former gay bar, we weren't even out of the van when a developmentally disabled man named Bobby came bounding out the door and started waving at us to come in. He couldn't wait to tell us his name and give us a hug. (which he did about 10 more times over the course of the morning). We had a difficult time

understanding him except for his name, but his 'calling' of God was crystal clear – Bobby was born to be a greeter! Even Pastor Scott from the center told us Bobby just loves people, that's what he does. Bobby couldn't wait to introduce us to everyone in his church, and that he did, person by person.

We met Earl, an elderly man, toothless and in a wheelchair. Earl had a permanent grin from ear to ear. He wore a t-shirt that read "Joy" on the front with a scripture that I was unable to make out because of the wear. Earl had the joy of the Lord and at one point he spoke to me about how he believed he will have teeth and new legs one day. We got to talk about Jesus and heaven, and the fact that Jerry could relate to being without teeth! We all had a good laugh. As Earl got ready to go, he asked us "what do you call a Christian in a wheelchair?" Then he blurted out "a holy roller!" and went on his way. That, was Earl.

We met Aaron, his wife and 5 children. Aaron came to a relationship with Christ through this ministry. He now serves in it one weekend night a week and Sunday mornings as he is able. His wife led worship and so do his children on occasion. Their oldest boy is 8 years old. To see a life transformed by the power of the gospel and the love of Jesus Christ is a beautiful thing.



Jesus...
Risen Savior!

Storehouse Hubs

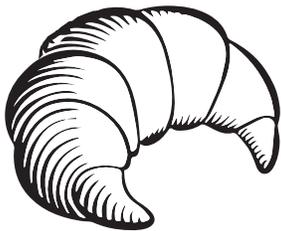
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We met Lisa, also in a wheelchair, holding onto a gauze covered tracheal cuff. She was asking questions and seeking answers as Jerry spoke that morning, especially along the lines of our response as Christians when someone wrongs us. I got to spend time with Lisa outside, after the service and we were able to share scripture together. I was a little horrified when she brought out a cigarette and lit it to smoke, then asked me "Miss Tracy, why do I still want revenge and why do I still smoke if I'm a new creation?". Talk about being caught off guard! As I stumbled my way through 2 Corinthians 5:16 and 17, and Romans 6, we talked about our sinful nature and the fact that we must die to ourselves because Jesus told us to pick up our cross and follow Him. We talked about being in Christ, (Colossians 3:3) and that when Jesus died and was resurrected and ascended to heaven, that he disconnected us from the "power source" of sin- that in Christ, filled with the Holy Spirit of God, sin no longer has power over us except that which we choose to give it. Lisa then took her cigarette, still smoldering and threw it to the curb, then took the rest of the pack and lighter and handed it to a passerby friend walking behind her. I just stood their amazed at the work of the Holy Spirit. She hugged me from the wheelchair and said "thank you Miss Tracy you helped me today" but I reminded her the Lord was the One helping her.

As we were on the curb with my bible open, a young woman walked up to us from the bus station across the street. She stood there and said "I'm just hear to listen". The next scripture (I think it was Matthew 5:38 ish) we read must have been a bulls eye to her heart as this young woman broke into tears and melted in my arms sobbing. All I could do was stand there and hold her and pray. We ended up talking for awhile as she shared that her children were just taken away and that she was recovering from a stab wound from her husband. She kept looking over to the bus, and I knew my time was short with her, so I asked if she had ever surrendered her life to Jesus Christ and told her in the fact that she was standing there, was a sign that He was pursuing her because He loved her. She kept looking to the bus, and acknowledged that she had, but not everything, not her 'whole self'. I asked her if she believed the Bible was Truth and if she knew God used it to give us direction for living. I asked her if she thought I was crazy standing in downtown Roanoke

reading it on the curb. I was also able to give her some practical things to do when she got home, one of which was to find a pastor who she felt safe with and could walk with her through recommitting her life to Jesus Christ and would disciple her. I told her if it wasn't the first person she went to, go to another until she found someone she could share her deepest stuff with. She answered all of that as she started running toward the bus – "I don't think you are crazy!... I needed this today! I will!... I hear you!... my heart is open!... and she disappeared behind the bus.

Pastor Scott and his wife Sandy spoke words of life to Jerry and me that morning, and they encouraged us. We hope that we were also able to encourage them. We understand living ministry day to day. It gets sticky and some days are downright messy. We met many people that morning in Roanoke and as they sat at card tables in the center eating their peanut butter and jelly sandwiches after service, I had to walk outside as I was suddenly overcome with emotion.

You see, there was rawness here. In many ways, there was freedom here. There was transparency, love and encouragement. There was no judgment, no pride, no gossiping, no backbiting, no jealousy or competition or hierarchy. There were no airs of perfection, no striving, no chasing signs and wonders, no religion, no media clips, big worship band or sound system. What was most sad to me was the realization that I have much to learn from the "least of these" and yet they wouldn't be welcome in most churches.

Here's what I've concluded from our trip: if those of us on earth in the Body of Christ ever experienced the fullness of God's unfiltered, agape love, we would be rendered incapacitated. I really believe that. I also believe we will be surprised one day, who is in heaven and who is not. My hope is in Jesus Christ and Him alone. Personally, I'll probably be washing Bobby's windows in heaven, hopefully after my walk with Earl and his new legs.

Blessings!

~Tracy

"If you love me, feed my sheep."

John 21:15-19

Reflections on L-O-V-E

The Lord has had me camped out in Matthew 22- 28 this week. I felt compelled to study those chapters and like Jacob, I've wrestled with God. Hmmm, not sure if I am alone in that? After all the wrestling, I believe He revealed to me a nugget of truth that I want to share.

As I studied, He reminded me that He is a God of order and of excellence. (1Cor 14:33-40). He does not operate randomly, and He didn't inspire His Word together randomly. What He revealed to me was that if I/His Church would put first things first, like Matthew 22: 37-39 before we moved on in our "ministries" to the next Matthew chapters, there would be more eternal fruit, and a lot less frustration and striving in the flesh. In other words, there was a reason God put Matthew 22:37-39 before Matthew 23, dealing with the modern day Pharisees; Matthew 25, feeding the poor; and Matt 28, discipleship. Why have I never seen this Divine order before? Lord, forgive me and help us to build on this foundational scripture of our Christian faith: Matthew 22: 37-39: "Jesus replied 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Remember the old slogan WWJD? Well, Jesus ONLY DID what he saw His Father do. He ONLY SAID what He heard His Father say. (John 4:34, John 14:10, John 5:19, John 12:49), and He expects us to do the same, in Christ. To love the unlovable to the point where people are transformed by the Holy Spirit through you, cannot be accomplished in our flesh. It cannot be 'white boarded' and in Christ, it can't be faked. Oh, in the flesh, we can put on a show, but why would we, when it will produce nothing? To love to the extent that Jesus loves, is to die to self, and get set free from the things that hinder His love flowing through us to others. But you don't have anything in you that hinders His love you say? Ok well... maybe, think on these blockages.... unforgiveness, self reliance, 'spiritual' competition, jealousy, judgment, pride, worldliness (building your own kingdom), selfishness, complacency, materialism, lust... are we there yet?

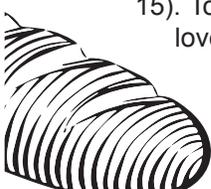
From the viewpoint of LOVE, I'm convinced all other components of ministry will flow effortlessly, as we become less and He becomes More. That is abiding (See John 15). To be like Christ, and to love Jesus first and then love others. Thank you Lord for keeping the Gospel simple for me, for Your continued Grace in the classroom of Truth and Love and even suffering. Will expand on this love theme in an upcoming newsletter...

Jerry has a network of men all over the country that he sends encouraging scriptures or

thoughts to on a monthly basis, and these were some of the responses he received back from sharing this revelation one Saturday morning. We thought we would share as we found God is impressing this message on many hearts and we were very encouraged!



- I say thank you Jesus for this revelation! Rejoice Rejoice Rejoice! Shalom
- Good stuff brother, you shall love the Lord your God. I have been stuck in John personally. Especially John 17. The last verse is amazing. (Jesus prays that the love which the Father loved Him may be in us, John 17:26) then I can love Him with all my heart, mind and soul...
- Jerry thank you for sharing your heart with me! I am going to press into this like you have and pray God would push this deep in my heart that He will take me deeper in truth and love. He is a good Father.
- Thank you Mr. R! I'm going to read through that. I love the simplicity of our calling in Christ. I hope to live it out! I know the Church sometimes gets away from the message, so that is why it is important to get back to the basics, rather than being religious and separating ourselves.
- Oh my Dear Lord in heaven! Thank you for this Jerry. These 2 verses are the very verses God gave me when He told me that this was my life's purpose. The first verse leads to the second and second verse leads to all we do here on earth, provided we continue to live our lives according to the first verse! You have no idea how thankful I am that you sent this to me and that God brought us together. Praying for you now.
- That's an exciting way to look at those chapters. It really is a progression that starts with loving God and loving others. Been convicted of some the same ideas lately. I'm good at thinking about God, but often not so good at loving God



MARK 2:22

“AND NO

ONE PUTS

NEW WINE

INTO OLD

WINESKINS. IF

HE DOES, THE

WINE WILL

BURST THE

SKINS-- AND

THE WINE IS

DESTROYED,

AND SO ARE

THE SKINS.

BUT NEW

WINE IS

FOR FRESH

WINESKINS.”

with my heart and strength. I don't stir up my affections towards Him or relate with Him too much of the time. He can transform our hearts to love all types of others when we are loving Him. Thanks for the good Word.

- Men of God, it's simple: Love God and love your neighbor as yourself. God is love and love is God.
- Human effort achieves nothing. All of our efforts apart from abiding in Christ are frivolous. When we truly abide, we then truly bear real fruit. Real fruit always points to Jesus not to man. Our good works, good deeds are but filthy rags in the presence of His Holiness. The Lord is refining me. Deeply, tenderly, and daily. Oh How I long to be with Him.
- Love God, love others, it all starts there. If everyone started there, the rest would get pretty easy .. my theory. Most Christians

A Great Cloud of Witness

Hebrews 12:1: Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.



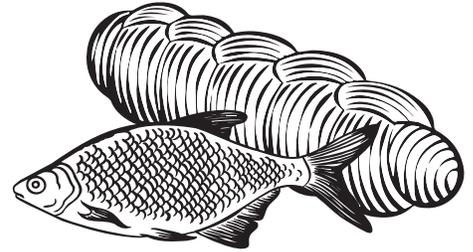
It has been challenging trying to 'unpack' a recent 10-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land. We are sure it may take months, however, I tried to come up with my "top God moments" of this very special trip. First of all, we were gifted this trip from a dear friend and supporter of Project 5 2. Her husband had been a long time volunteer of our ministry and made numerous trips to

do love others as "they love themselves" **and there lies the problem.** If we really understood how much God loves us and if we loved that in us, then loving others is easy... for that is what would flow out.

Study the Love chapter again in 1 Corinthians 13 and be blessed friends!

~ Jerry and Tracy

PS. The heart picture was taken in Shiloh, Israel. It was found on top of bedrock in the area which they believe the tabernacle was built, and remained on for 369 years!



Appalachia with us over the years until about 18 months ago, when the Lord called him home. We miss him dearly and are so grateful to his wife for her continued friendship, support and prayers for the ministry.

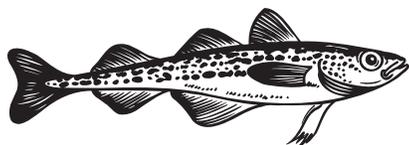
In Israel, my number one memory was along the Jordan River. The rebaptism of Tracy and I as a couple, coming together in covenant for the rest of our married lives. I also had the privilege to baptize four men and be a part of numerous other baptisms in our group. What a tender time it was, as we pictured Jesus coming to John the Baptist on the same river banks to be baptized by him, in the same river. Wow!

Another nugget of a 'God-moment' happened a few minutes before our group was waiting to be baptized. An Egyptian minister looked to be baptizing an Ethiopian Christian man right next to where we were standing. Evidently there were no family members or sponsors other than a Korean woman standing on the balcony videotaping, and another woman snapping a picture of the baptism as she walked by. Only the pastor and the young man were in the river. As the pastor baptized this man and brought him up out of the water, he turned to me and my friend Stewart and said "these are your witnesses today!" The newly baptized man broke out in tears... and so did Stewart and I. We stood there sobbing uncontrollably with great JOY for our new brother whom we had never met! What a heaven-moment it was, as God ordained '4 nations' to convene in that one

moment of time, for this man's baptism, on the Jordan river in Israel - only to be sent back out and probably never see each other again, until heaven one day. Only God!

I have thought about that moment many times since our return. My heart has been tenderized again for all people. The trip to Israel was a tool in God's hands to expand our vision of His coming Kingdom, and I was blessed to witness what I witnessed that day. To God be the Glory!

~Jerry



Jackson Kentucky Families Canned Food Drive

Perishables
Milk
Cereal
Bologna
Fresh fruit
Fresh Vegetables
Hot dogs
Juice
Hamburger
Chicken Nuggets
Dinner rolls/Bread
Did we say bologna? ;)

Non Perishables
Cereal
Soup
Canned fruit
Canned meat
Canned Vegetables
PB & J
Ramen Noodles
Mac n Cheese
Spaghetti sauce
Pasta
Capri Suns
Rice
Dry beans/ Any beans!

Hygiene Items, etc
Brushes/Combs
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Floss
Mouthwash
Kleenex
Soap
Shampoo
Lice treatment
Sunscreen
Laundry detergent

Ambassadors of LOVE to the nations



For those of you who know me, you probably know that my heart is for unity in the Body of Christ, across denominational, racial and cultural lines. It is truly part of my spiritual DNA and it was deposited when I met Jesus for the first time at a Promise Keepers event in Boulder, Colorado. For as far as my eyes could see was a wave of 48,000 men from dozens of states and countries all gathered together in the name of Jesus Christ. I believe unity among His Bride is the heart of our heavenly Father as well (see John 17 for the full report). This unity Jesus prays for in John 17 is not something we can

produce in our own strength. In fact, I believe it will never happen in the church at large. I do believe however, it will happen among the remnant of believers who have died to self and stood till the end. So we can't produce unity, but what we ARE called to do, is LOVE. We are not called to change the darkness, but to shine the Light of Jesus Christ!

We want our reading audience, sponsors and prayer partners to understand and be aware of the work God continues to do in our hearts, and desires to do in all hearts to enable us all to stay in the "love lane" of Jesus Christ. Love is



2017 Delivery Contacts

Jackson, KY

Email John for trip info.
happy@thehappychurch.org

Harlan, KY or Louisville, KY

Email Jerry for trip dates & details;
jerry@pro52.org

Myra, KY

Email Cindy for trip dates & details
cindyzorn@gmail.com

Harrison, OH

Email Steve for trip dates & details;
handsofhopemin@yahoo.com

Ironton, OH

handsofhopemin@yahoo.com

Virginia

Email Jerry for trip dates & details;
jerry@pro52.org

New York

Email Jerry for trip dates & details;
jerry@pro52.org

our greatest witness! To love Him and then love others with Philippians 2 kind of selfless love is truly key to this Christian walk, especially in Israel where it is extremely difficult to live as a Messianic Jew (Please pray for the Messianic Jews in Israel). If we don't get the LOVE piece, all else we do will just be....noise. (1 Cor 13) More on our trip in the next issue! ☺

In Israel, I had the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with many. From ultra orthodox Jews (praying with them in the back of the plane on our flight over), to Muslim tour guides, to Israelis, Franciscan priests, store and restaurant owners, Messianic Jews, new disciples and anyone God put in our path as Divine appointments. They are there all around us if we make ourselves available. Our love and thanks to our Heavenly Father for this life transforming pilgrimage!

~ Jerry and Tracy



Philippians 2:3-4
“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests but also to the interests of others.”

Prayers, Praises and Needs.....

- We praise God for his constant faithfulness for provision and resources!
- Praises for traveling mercies everyday!
- Trusting God for more cases/ semis of Bibles
- Please pray that God will grant us wisdom concerning the expansion into new Appalachian areas
- Please pray for our many volunteers
- Please pray for churches to understand and execute Acts 2; Acts 4; Matt 25 and Matt 28
- Please pray for souls to come into the Kingdom along the Appalachian trail and everywhere God sends us
- Personal needs: Finances for Jerry's dental work; Finances for extra medical expenses

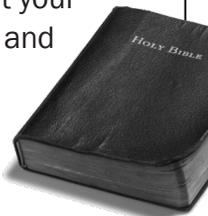
Meditate on Isaiah 58 and be blessed!

Agape love,

Jerry and Tracy

B 4 Project—Borrowed Bibles to Build the Body

Wanted: All new or gently used Bibles that are collecting dust in our churches or home book shelves. Project 5 2 will collect all B4's !!! Also. all hotel shampoo, soap, conditioners, personal hygiene items. Will use both Bibles and hygiene items at homeless shelters, drug and alcohol rehab centers. And also abused women's homes. Start your own Bible collection campaign and once you have collected 50 or more Bibles. Call or text Jerry for pick up logistics.



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Project 5 2's Mission
 (Living out Isaiah 58 & Matthew 25)

- Be the hands & feet of Christ by redistributing freely-given material wealth of others to the poor, specifically along the Appalachian Trail.
- Be the hands & feet of Christ by serving and redistributing goods to those who are neglected locally (the Tri-State), specifically orphans.
- Be a teaching mechanism to the Church, ministries, and others on serving the needy kingdom through principles.



As we strive to be good stewards of the resources given us, we ask your help. Would you rather receive the newsletter via email? Please let us know by emailing us at office.project.52@gmail.com

Thanks!



*Project 5 2 is a faith-based 501C3 distributor of food, clothing, and supplies to the needy in the tri-state, Appalachia regions and beyond. Founded in 2008 in West Chester, OH.

Dedicated to Jesus.

Run by God.

Directed by the Holy Spirit.