



Project 52

God is good. God is faithful.

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Life is But a Vapor

James 4:14; Isaiah 40: 7-8

As we finish up another season of Thanksgiving and Christmas, we complete our 15th year of full time ministry and we are grateful for so many partners, the ministries that God has connected us with, and volunteers who donate their time and resources. We could not possibly do this ministry in our own strength, and God has done it by bringing connections with His Body to us, to help us all along the way.

Men like Dan Monahan, who was a faithful friend/driver/evangelist, and CJ Gray who prayed over our family over 17 years ago that God would use the Reiner family to help usher in God's Kingdom and give Jesus glory. CJ was a great ministry leader at Genesis Life and Recovery who we have served faithfully over the past 15 years. Men like John Geissler who also prayed with us, in Sidney Ohio over 15 years ago to launch us. John founded and ran Agape Distribution another great food and supply partnering ministry that feeds many in Sidney Ohio. John also traveled to over 45 countries in his career and shared the Word of God and made disciples wherever he went. Tom Huber was another friend and brother who charged our batteries, encouraged our faith and traveled with Jerry. He was a fire-starter for Jesus no doubt.

The Lord has called these four brothers home this past year. We are missing them dearly, but their legacies certainly live on. These men have influenced Jerry as an evangelist, food broker, friend, follower of Christ, and they have been instruments in the Hand of God for our lives and ministry.

James 4:14: *yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.*

Isaiah puts it this way in Isaiah 40:7-8; *"The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it, surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God will stand forever."*

Our time on earth is truly but a vapor. So, how are we spending it? Are we investing our time, energy and resources making disciples and sharing the Good News with those who need it, or are we, as John Piper puts it, "collecting seashells"?

Maybe it's because we feel we have personally entered our 4th quarter of life, that we are feeling an urgency for obedience to the Father, but seriously, are we spending our lives on ourselves or investing life in others? Jesus puts it this way in Matthew 6:19-24: **"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, (our earthly possessions and acquisitions are always corruptible, vulnerable and temporary) but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and there thieves do not break in and steal. (conducting oneself in anticipation of God's judgment and reward). For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.** (Treasure can be anything, not necessarily only money. It can be a gift, talent,

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2).



skill, anything to us that is a strength; anything that causes us to lose sight of Jesus Christ and the Gospel. It takes much introspection and the Holy Spirit for us to see this). **The eye is the lamp of the body. So if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad your whole body will be full of darkness.** (What we allow into our mind and thought life will either produce a right character and desire, or defile us with wrong desires and pride; Spurgeon: "There is no such thing as seeing spiritual things while the soul's windows are fastened up with shutters of worldliness") **If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.**" (Jesus is not saying it is wrong to be rich, he is saying it is hard to be rich and a Christian, rich and spiritual; it not impossible but hard, because it enslaves the heart and mind, especially in the materialistic world we live in). Ref: Precept Austin Matt 6:22-23 Commentary; Wiersbe, Spurgeon

Lord, please allow us to continue the legacies of these 4 men embodied in Project 5 2, help us not to be polluted by the world, but help us keep our eyes on You and your Kingdom like these men did. Amen



John



CJ



Dan



Tom

This January issue of our newsletter is dedicated in honor of these 4 men who were truly Kingdom builders, Jesus lovers and others focused. Well done good and faithful servants.

Life Giving Words

Susan Reichart, Pine Valley Camp, Ellwood City PA

One day at the end of a camp week, the kids were singing and celebrating at dinner in the Rec Deck. It wasn't long before a massive Conga line formed and everyone was "snaking" around the tables, from the youngest child to Mr. Matt! I actually got a bit weepy at the sight of all those kids and staff, connected at the shoulders and determined not to break apart. In a world where Satan wants to break us apart and divide and isolates us with words, camp is a place where words connect, strengthen and bring joy. I was watching the kind of spontaneous joy that comes from spending a week being showered with life-giving words.

When I set out to express to you each fall the sights and sounds and joys of our recent summer, I fumble with the very words and memories that I treasure so much. Writing words on a page can feel so black and white when, in contrast my memories burst with vivid colors in my mind and can be so hard to tell in words what we experience in our life at camp. Most of these brilliant snapshots in my mind actually revolved around words spoken, words cheered, words prayed, words sung, words listened to, words whispered. An in all the stories told, it is the words that pour forth one person to another that capture life in all of it fullness at camp.

A few of the words we hear from campers.....

"I want to accept Jesus and live for Him."

"I never knew anybody could love me."

"This is the best week of my life."

"Will you teach me how to pray?"

"Can I have a Bible?"

"This place feels like a home."

"My counselor listens to me."

"I am not afraid because God is with me."

"I want to be baptized."

"I don't even miss my phone."

"I feel free."

"Mr. Matt, I want to have your job one day; that is my goal."

From a former camper signing up his children for camp with tears streaming down his face "I can't believe you are still here. This place changed my life."

From a 90 year old office volunteer.. "This place has brought so much joy and meaning to my life. I love these children."

Words connect us. We tell our stories to one another, all day every day and most importantly, we tell the stories of Jesus from God's Word. Transformation can happen when we hear and speak these words. God's Word changes us. I wish with all my heart that you could hear what we are privileged to hear every day at camp.

Isn't it amazing that Jesus is the Word and that he is still dwelling among us, changing us? He is teaching us to give the simple but profound gift of loving words to each other.

Who will inherit your words? They can be a gift that keeps you connected to each other and the Lord.

2022 In Review

For Project 5 2, every week is like Christmas to us. We are never sure where the call will come from to move whatever kind of product. Sometimes it stretches us to find the exact need for the quantity of product we receive, but God is always good to us, and He is always faithful in guiding us. After all, it is His ministry.

One of the calls we have received this year was for help in moving 20 pallets of surgical gowns, another call was for help in moving 40 pallets of marshmallows. Then there was the call for 2 semi-trucks of cereal. These type of calls are over and above the regular food calls we receive for help with a food pick up at Whole Foods or a restaurant or to help a family in need.

Acts 2:44, 45 speaks of the Fellowship of Believers. We like how the Amplified Bible reads: "And all those who had believed [in Jesus as Savior] were together and had all things in common [considering their possessions to belong to the group as a whole]. And they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing the proceeds with all [the other believers], as anyone had need." Just to clarify, this is in no way a political statement, it is the Word of God describing what One mind and One Spirit looks like for believers.

We are honored that other ministries call us. We are pretty much off the grid and under the radar and Tracy and I like it that way. In Philippians 2, Epaphroditus served Paul faithfully for many years, so did Timothy. Years ago, I felt the Lord's prompting, asking me if I would be ok with an Epaphroditus kind of ministry and I accepted, and now we serve as a conduit from God's hand to many front line "Pauls".

We serve 3 communities in West Virginia through a small First Church of God, and 2 pastors, Bruce and Brenda Adkins who are trying to make an impact for Jesus in their area. We serve a Christ centered rehabilitation ministry in Indianapolis, who take in men and women who have hit rock bottom and are being given the tools and discipleship necessary to get them back on their feet. We also serve a street ministry called A Mission of Love in Indianapolis, along with a sweet family with 2 precious special needs children. We are thankful for our friends Pete and Regina for their assistance in transporting Bibles, food and socks to those regions in 2022.

We were blessed to serve Pine Valley Camp again this summer in Elwood City, PA. We were able to bring food, pool toys, hygiene items and a lot of cereal for the inner city children of Pittsburgh in June. Most importantly, over 900 Bibles were donated to bless each camper who came to Pine Valley. This is an amazing place, and Matt and Susan Reichart are always looking for volunteers! The ministry of Christ is poured out on every level at this camp, and it is a beautiful thing to see. Healing, encouragement, lots of love, memories and sometimes a new perspective are just some of the things the campers take home with them after their week at Pine Valley.

Whole Foods stores continue to be a blessing to Project 5 2. About 30 ministries pick up food, [and sometimes flowers!] from 3 different stores in Cincinnati and distribute it throughout their communities in the Name of Jesus. Thank you Keith, Brittany and Josiah for your help, [patience with us!], and diligence in seeing that very little goes to needless waste at Whole Foods ! You are a blessing to us and many areas of Cincinnati ! God is good and faithful!

Scott and Sandy Lyons run Roanoke Gospel Mission in Roanoke VA. They are special to us and truly run a front line ministry to many homeless and the forgotten. We love, love, love the work they do, and the ministry God has entrusted to them. God has gifted them for the job no doubt, and they minister with a small team in downtown Roanoke on the weekends. We were able to deliver Bibles, socks and food this fall to RGM but missed Scott and Sandy as they were on their way back from a much needed vacation. Thank you Aaron for meeting us there. You all are surely a Lighthouse in downtown Roanoke.

We are very thankful for Bible donations that come in all year long. Thank you to June, Jean, Diana and the Snyder family as well as the West Chester Church of the Nazarene who have been collecting Bibles for us for over 14 years. We are dedicated to helping eastern KY rebuild and many Bibles are going there even as we write this newsletter. We still have Bibles earmarked at the warehouse for Florida hurricane victims and churches and we are waiting on the Lord's leading there.

Thank you to Pastor Bill Bowman and the staff at New Life Ministries. Pastor Bill donated a semi of food to help the flood victims in the Jackson KY area in October this year. We were able to serve about 250/300 cars with perishable and non-perishable food items, vitamins, socks, Bibles and more. Many folks were still grieving loved ones who died and were still missing. The stories of people still living in tents, trailers and churches left us humbled as we knew we would go home to our own beds, in our own house that night. We were able to pray with a few families and cry with a couple of them too. We just wanted them to know that God had not forgotten them. The cars lined up down the highway was an incredible sight to see as we did no advertising except to one ministry who hosted us. We are thankful for the team who came to help us in Jackson (Dana and his crew, John, Pete and Missy!) and the guys at the Methodist Mountain Mission, who helped us. We could not have done that without each of you! To Jesus be the Glory.

It is always a joy to serve R4 1 Ministries and their partners in Clarksville TN. These guys truly understand Acts 2 and 4 and John 17. Through them, we were introduced to the Joshua Movement, another homeless ministry we have partnered with in Nashville, TN. Through R41 we were able to send cases of Romans / John booklets to the Ukraine with one of their pastors to encourage those he was serving there.

This year brought a special highlight for the Reiners, as I had the special honor to baptize a dear brother, Rick Martini, at our church -Sacred Mission. Both Rick and his wife Lynne were baptized at that service and we feel honored to be

2022 In Review Cont.

friends.

It has been a whirlwind of a year, and we just finished distributing toys that were so generously donated to us. One of the ministries that we were able to bless is H.O.P.E. -full Pastures which is, a therapeutic farm for vulnerable, traumatized children ages 5-21 in Hamilton, Ohio. Check them out at hopefullpastures.org.

We are so blessed to have the best volunteers and drivers who help deliver donations in the city. All are evangelists and strong men in their faith and we are thankful. Thank you Bob, Matt, Greg, Al, Pete, Brian for your weekly/monthly sacrifices in serving the hungry in the tristate and beyond. We are looking forward to 2023 as we hunker down this Christmas Season to hear from the Lord and walk out next year in obedience.

How Dry is Your Desert? How Dark is Your Wilderness?

Tracy and I had the opportunity to double date with our dear friends John and Donna Snyder this past month. Dinner was lovely and the movie "I heard the Bells on Christmas Day" was thought provoking and inspirational.

Sure we studied his poetry in our youth English Lit. classes, but neither of us had known much about Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's life's journey. I would like to highlight (condensed version), some of his life's successes and his trials and parallel them with the life of another famous historical figure from ironically the same time period, Abraham Lincoln. Through both of these people, their perseverance and long suffering, God in his sovereignty used their talents to inspire and change a nation.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, American poet and educator (1807-1882)

- Published over 1000 writings, his first published in 1839
- Most widely known American poet and an international literary figure by the time of his death.
- Many of his works helped shape the American character and it's legacy, especially Paul Revere's Ride.
 - Studied over a dozen languages
 - Married in 1831
 - 1834, He was appointed Harvard Professorship
 - Wife miscarried 1835
 - Wife died 1835
 - Remarried in 1843 and eventually had 6 children
 - Wife died in a tragic fire in 1861 where he was severely burned on his face, arms and hands
 - Severe despair and depression lasting years
 - 1863, son Charley ran off to fight in the Civil War and was severely wounded twice as Henry was called to Washington to care for him each time. Continued to fight depression and despair

- Christmas Day of 1864 Longfellow sat down and wrote the words of the poem "Christmas Bells" expressing his hope that peace would return to the country.
 - Music was added to the poem and it later became the Christmas Carol we now know as "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day".

Now for Abraham Lincoln, American lawyer, politician, and 16th president of the United States (1809-1865). I've always admired Abraham Lincoln for his perseverance as his was a tough journey.

- Mother died at age 9 (1818)
- 1832 lost job, defeated for state legislature
- 1833 failed in business
- 1834 Elected to Illinois State Legislature
- 1835 Close friend, possible sweetheart, Ann Rutledge died
 - Fought depression
 - 1836 Had a nervous breakdown; Received license to practice law in IL state courts
 - 1837 Instrumental in moving IL state capital from Vandalia to Springfield
 - 1838 Defeated for House Speaker but served as Whig floor leader
 - 1840 Argues first case before IL Supreme Court and re-elected to IL state legislature
 - 1841 Established new law practice
 - 1842 Admitted to practice law in U.S. District Court
 - 1843 Defeated for nomination to Congress
 - 1846 Elected to Congress
 - 1848 Lost renomination
 - 1849 Rejected for land officer, but admitted to practice law in U.S. Supreme Court
 - 1849 Only president to own a patent
 - 1854 Defeated for U.S. Senate
 - 1856 Defeated for nomination for Vice President
 - 1858 Defeated for U.S. Senate
 - 1860 Elected President
 - 1863 Delivered the Gettysburg Address
 - 1865 Civil War ends

Now let's shift briefly to a few Bible characters (literally and figuratively) who God granted perseverance and used powerfully, after their own "desert" experiences:

Moses wandered 40 years in the wilderness, yet led the Israelites out of captivity to freedom

Abraham struggled to have his own son, but became a father of many nations

Job went through earthly "hell" from chapter 1-41, but God restored his health, wealth and honor in chapter 42.

Hannah experienced years of infertility and depression and hopelessness only to have God open her womb and Hannah to give birth to the prophet Samuel, who anointed

David the King, whose lineage the Lord Jesus Christ would descend from.

Joseph spent 13 years in prison before he was elevated to 2nd in command with authority over all of Egypt, under Pharaoh.

John the Baptist spent most of his life in the desert preparing to be the forerunner to Jesus Christ. Spent years in the wilderness even as a young man by himself before he started preaching a message of repentance to people for the forgiveness of sins and offered water baptisms. His ministry was short lived, but fulfilled prophecy. (Isaiah 40: 3-5)

Paul, apostle of Jesus Christ encountered hunger, thirst, shipwrecks, snake bites, prison time, and chains and shackles, yet he stayed the course as a soldier of the Cross. In the midst of the unknown, and tortures, beatings and setbacks, he planted churches, wrote at least 13 letters that are included in the New Testament and he disciplined other young men while doing so.

Jesus... was born in lowly circumstance, and later spent 40 days in the desert before starting a 3 year ministry at age 30. He spent 3 years walking and humbly leading 12 ordinary men, while loving others, serving, healing, and teaching before He died an excruciating death on a rugged cross on our behalf. He poured himself out and willingly became the only perfect Sacrifice for our sins, so that we might have eternal life with our heavenly Father. What a resume.

If God has called us and we raise our hand, then we should expect a desert experience. (If you haven't raised your hand, then that's something to consider also). Examine your life. The wilderness, is actually the classroom in which He does his best work. We can have confidence that the Lord is at work according to Psalm 25:10: "All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies."

He knows how to draw us to Himself and He will provide the strength and endurance we need by His Holy Spirit. He has not brought us there to starve and wither!

God continues to mold, shape, prune and discipline those who are willing and surrendered that He might produce fruit in us. Yes deserts are difficult, no denying that, but it should not seem strange to us as followers of Jesus. In that desert, He will prepare us to be able vessels for His use in what lies ahead; He will prune us to look more like Christ his son. (John 15:2) ; He will show us what is in us; and He will show us who HE is. (Matthew 6: 25-33) Look at the previous testimonies! Not one desert trial was in vain.

So hang on, press in and even rejoice if you are going through a wilderness experience.

(Romans 5:3-5) Be encouraged even in the dry darkness of the desert, the stillness of the wilderness and the silence

of His voice. God is at work and He is doing something far greater, and working something of fruitful eternal value in you that you won't realize until you step out of the desert and in time to come. We speak from experience and want you to be encouraged today with a few scriptures:

James 1:2-4: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let the perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything".

1Thessalonians 5:23 : "Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it".

Philippians 1:6 : "...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus".

** (Also Lamentations 3:22-24; Psalm 1:1-3; Jeremiah 17:7-8; Romans 15:13; Matthew 13:23; 1 Corinthians 13:7; Matthew 7:13-27; Luke 6:43-45)

May God be With You,
Jerry and Tracy

If you are going to be used by God, He will take you through a number of experiences that are not meant for you personally at all. They are designed to make you useful in His hands, and to enable you to understand what takes place in the lives of others.

~ Oswald Chambers

Fifteen years of service and partnership with the Rose Garden in Northern KY.



Thank you to those who came to help us with the Eastern KY food drive and we were so thankful! John, we appreciated your help more than you know!



Tracy with her old friend Joyce from Jackson, KY!



Eastern KY delivery for flood victims.
Thank you Bill Bowman
@ New Life Ministry for this huge blessing!



The Happy Church supply center for the eastern KY flood victims...



Our first grandchild was born in October! Meet our miracle Mara Mae!





Thank you General Mills !



On The Road Again...



Another Bible and supply give away to tri-state ministries at the Child's Hope International warehouse



Ministries of Love, a street ministry in Indianapolis, IN



Thank you MMM for hosting the food drive in eastern KY !



Another wholesome pick up from Whole Foods Market !



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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, Bibles, 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.