



The Gospel To The World Of Trucking

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Teaching and Equipping Truckers To Be Fishers Of Men According To Matthew 4:19 Newsletter for August & September 2011

Dear Friends:

As you read you will find the first part of this newsletter a bit different than the norm and I know you will like it. Why God has me writing this way this month I do not know. All I know is I asked Him what to write and this is what He told me to write. As I said, you will like it so here goes:

A pencil maker told the pencil 5 important lessons just before putting it in the box:

- 1.) *Everything you do will always leave a mark.*
- 2.) *You can always correct the mistakes you make.*
- 3.) *What is important is what is inside of you.*
- 4.) *In life, you will undergo painful sharpening's, which will only make you better.*
- 5.) *To be the best pencil, you must allow yourself to be held and guided by the hand that holds you.*

We all need to be constantly sharpened. This parable may encourage you to know that you are a special person, with unique God-given talents and abilities. Only you can fulfill the purpose, which you were born to accomplish. Never allow yourself to get discouraged and think that your life is insignificant and cannot be changed and, like the pencil, always remember that the most important part of who you are is what's inside of you and then allow yourself to be guided by the hand of God.

Just as the lead is in the wood of the pencil, so we are in Christ as he is in the father when we receive Jesus Christ as our lord and savior. John 17:20-23

I can almost hear a lot of you saying a hearty "Amen" about going through "painful sharpening's". (John 16:33) We do not like to think about it but God does say in His Word that we will go through trials and tribulations to turn us into what/who He wants us to be. One of you sent that to me in an email and I just knew God wanted me to share it with you.

Over the years I have had contact with people in Kenya and Uganda. Now in the past few weeks I have been in contact with more people from Kenya and each time I am told how hungry the people in Kenya and Uganda are for God's Word. One man told me that when someone is given a Gospel tract on the street the recipient does not throw it down like most do here in America, rather they read it and put it in a safe place so as to protect the Word of God. In Kenya they do not have enough room for everyone who comes to church so they have to have as many as three services back to back so everyone can hear God's Word. As I say that I think about how long the people outside are having to wait to get in because in Africa they do not have short services like we do here in America, NO! They go for as long as three hours or more. Please join me in praying that the people of America will wake up out of their slumber and get hungry and thirsty for God's Word and a sincere relationship with Jesus Christ—the real Jesus Christ, not the pretty Jesus society has made up, rather the Jesus from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21.

Since the first of this year God has been having people contacting me who I have not heard from for some time. The past few weeks I have received several phone calls, emails and even a contact on Facebook, all of them telling me how they are doing in their relationship with the Lord and they are doing good. These are people I had ministered to in the past and lost track of due to different things in life that took us different directions. I understand what the Apostle John meant in 3 John 4 when he said, "*I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.*" What a joy it is to hear that these, my spiritual children, are walking with Jesus Christ—in the truth. Now just think of this, these are your spiritual children too because of your support of this great ministry of God. (Romans 10:13-15)



Saturday, August 20 we saw a very quiet Trucker's Afternoon Of Jubilee at the Rice Hill Pilot truck stop at Exit 148 off I-5. For some reason we found it impossible to get the drivers over there even for the FREE FOOD when they were not in the truck stop. Our chaplain, Jim Stepp, went out on the lot to invite the drivers and came back to say that he found six drivers to invite but they had to go because they were on a tight schedule and that is no excuse as those of us who have been drivers understand.

Ron and Kathy Green of Reflections Of Love music ministry were with us again. They are with us so much that we made them a part of our SWiM Team which is what we call our ministry team because we are "*swimming against the current of the World with the Gospel of Jesus Christ*".

Speaking of "The current of the World" we had two come over on Saturday who were into some form of false teaching—"the current of the World". One believes in the false teaching of Harold Camping who sets dates for

Christ's return. He was not insistent but the other one was insistent in his false beliefs. He said that on the sixth day God created all the races, then God rested on the seventh day and on the eighth day God created Adam because He had no one to till the soil - and that was just the beginning as it got much worse from there. No matter what we showed him from God's Word this man said we were wrong - even when we showed him that there were only six days of creation and that God created all people groups from one man, Adam, (Acts 17:26). He finely admitted that his whole purpose for coming over was to straighten us out.

It is interesting that we would have these disciples of false teachers come over at this time because I just finished teaching our church, Chemult Bible Fellowship, verse by verse through 1 John, 2 John and 3 John and God, through the Apostle John is warning these churches He is writing to about the false teachers and He has some very firm words about dealing with them. Now we must understand that God is not speaking through John concerning dealing with non-believers but those who CLAIM to be believers but are teaching a false gospel, NOT the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These teachers make it sound like they are really into God's Word. As I have been thinking about what this driver said in hindsight I can't help but wonder if he has read the entire context of the verses he was using or if he has read the entire Bible through at least once. This entire experience is proof how important it is for us all to KNOW God's Word and to be like those who searched the Scriptures daily to make sure that what the apostles were teaching was true, (Acts 17:11) because things are not always the way they appear when presented by false teachers.



Chaplain Jim and Mary-Kay Stepp also sang a few songs as we ministered to drivers who came and those who stayed in or near their trucks and listened - either way the drivers were getting the Gospel message. Through out the afternoon we could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit getting stronger and stronger. Twice I gave a presentation of the Gospel complete with the invitation to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and I prayed for the drivers. I had Ron Green close the day with a word for the drivers and prayer and the Holy Spirit was so strong that as our sound man, Bruce, started playing Amazing Grace I had to ask him to turn up the volume and all I could do was walk out of the tent, close my eyes, raise my hands to the Lord in worship and praise and sing with the music.

This was one of those days when we had checked the weather to see how hot it was going to be and found the forecast was for rain. We prayed and it turned out to be hot and clear - 93 degrees. God changed the weather again so we could minister in His name so He can be glorified

through Steering Wheel Ministries, NOT so we could say "look at how good we are".

Thank you for your continued support of this great ministry, Steering Wheel Ministries, that God has here reaching truck drivers and the community of Chemult for Jesus Christ. With out your support we cannot do this. In behalf of those God is reaching through us, thank you for giving to the Lord.

Yours in Christ's Service,

Merwin Rhoades ~ President/Founder/Chaplain



For accountability purposes, Steering Wheel Ministries is honored to be an Affiliate Member of *United Evangelical Churches*. You can visit their web site at www.uecol.org

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