



Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. Isaiah 1:18

Divine Appointments

God never moves without purpose or plan

Sometimes being a Christian feels like living in the Twilight Zone. Strange, unexpected things happen that make you wonder about the ebb and flow of time and space; the answers to prayers appearing from out of nowhere, two people meeting accidentally in a place that they have never been before, once-in-a-lifetime occurrences that sent echoes through the future. (Okay, enough with the strange talk.)

While we were in Marienville, Pennsylvania which is out in the middle of nowhere - literally. In fact, if you visit its Wikipedia page, you'll read its claim to fame, "Marienville is a major point on a well-known ATV trail." No cell reception, no Walmart nearby; basically a good place to disappear from the rest of the world. But it was there that we met a family who had been praying for a very important part of their world and ours. The family is from the area around Burton, OH. Why is that significant? Because our home church is preparing to church-plant for the very first time there in Burton, a town of 1,500 people. The family that we met way out in the middle of nowhere had been praying for someone to start a church and witness to their family members there for some time! Coincidence? I think not. Such is what you call a "Divine appointment." God brought us right over to Marienville so that their list of 18 people would get shared with those who are going to start an independent Baptist church in Burton. We serve an amazing God!

And just as God will use Grace Baptist Church to be the answer to someone's prayers by starting a church in Burton, Ohio, God will use Grace Baptist Church to be the answer to someone's prayers by starting a church in Belgorod, Russia. It will be exciting to see just who God brings along our way as we seek to serve over in Ukraine and Russia.

Cherith Ravens

God is always faithful to supply.

I cannot but keep thinking about the many instances in which God has unexpectedly worked to provide our needs. Sometimes, God uses people and I like to call them "ravens" - instruments, imperfect people utilized by our Lord to meet a need just like the birds did for the prophet Elijah during the time of famine.



May I share with you a couple of stories that happened recently that really encouraged us to see God's loving care? I'm going to.

Last month, there was a homeless man that was visiting the church we were presenting at. He gave us nine dollars. That may seem like nothing to most, but it was much to him. If I had no house, no car, no job, and no guarantee of my next meal, I probably would not be giving away my last nine dollars to someone. But he did to help us arrive in Russia with the Gospel someday. That blew me away! Here was the widow's mite given to missions.

Another instance like this happened on the fifteen of July. Our family traveled to Columbus, Ohio to meet a pastor where a friend of ours attends church. Our friend was not there, but we were given a chance to talk with the pastor. Unexpectedly, he gave us forty dollars to help put gas in our car and buy us a meal. That sure was a blessing - especially since our gas tank was on empty! So as we headed back home, we turned onto the interstate and decided to take the very next exit with gas stations. As we approached the exit, the light went on but we could see the gas station. As we fueled up, our stomachs (including Vivian's) started getting hungry so we needed to find somewhere to eat soon. Only thirty seconds away was a Steak & Shake so we parked and went inside. As we opened the door into the restaurant, my ears picked up the words "missions trip" from the cashier. As the cashier came by our table, we struck up a conversation with her and gave her a prayer card. She was so excited about what the Lord was doing for us and with us that she gave us what was probably her entire tips for the night which totaled thirty-five dollars! What was also exciting to us was that on her break she sat down with us and wanted to know more about the need in Russia and Ukraine - and what our plans are for reaching them. Every cashier and waitress that we talked to after that made comment about how excited they were too for us and wished us well in our missionary endeavors.

God is unbelievably awesome. Perhaps, Elijah's acquaintances had their doubts when he told them how ravens had airlifted meat and bread to him, but the wizened prophet never forgot it.



Family time is important while putting the miles in to raise your support. Around the July 4th holiday, we decided to spend some of our day visiting the historical battlefield of Antietam in Maryland. This picture was taken from the top of an old observation tower near a place called Bloody Road. Antietam is the final resting place of more soldiers than the War for Independence, War of 1812, and Mexican War combined!



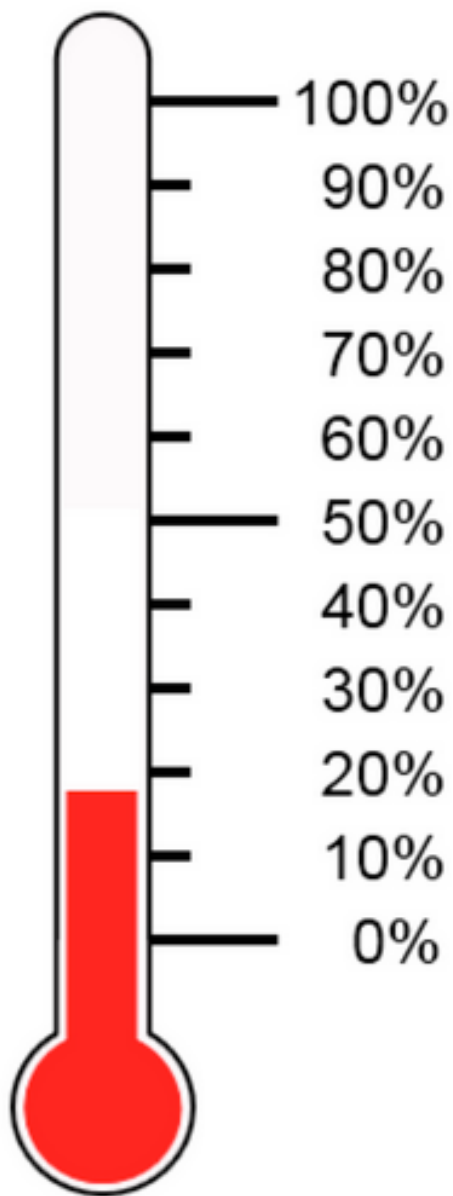
Again we were blessed to be part of another church's camp week. Forest Area Baptist Church in Marienville, PA invited us to participate in their first ever day camp. During that third week of July, we enjoyed being "astronauts" - or should I say "cosmonauts" - before heading up to our meetings in New Hampshire and Maine.

Pictured is a young lady named Jasmine that Katrina led to Christ during that week. Pray for the other young people that also made professions of faith.



We praise God for Maplewood Baptist Church in Martinsburg, West Virginia who volunteered to help us purchase our own video projector! This will come in handy when a church we are visiting is not equipped with one and will be very useful for church ministries over in Russia.

After doing some research into an item like this we are nearing our final decision. Currently, we are thinking about a Viewsonic PJD7820HD (pictured above), but we are open to suggestions. Anyone have experience or knowledge on the subject that they would like to share?



Prayer Requests

For safety as we travel.

For additional churches to commit to faithfully supporting us.

For more open doors of opportunity to witness and share the Gospel.

For wisdom as we make decisions.

Praises

We praise the Lord for keeping us safe so far on the roads traveling from church to church.

For the continual opportunities to present at churches and share our ministry.

For providing our needs.

For new churches committing to support us financially!



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"Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation: But as it is written, To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand." - Romans 15:20-21

