

TIME FOR A TRIP, SOME TRIPS AND TROUBLES

Trips

The month of June has rolled around and finds me here in the states. I returned to states in late April so as to be ready to travel in May where I had a full schedule of speaking dates. I traveled seven states and have driven over four thousand miles. So it was a very busy month. But then, all of my months tend to be busy ones, so May, in that respect was quite normal for me.

Time

My first trip was to southern Ohio for the faith promise rally at the Zion Church of Christ in Pomeroy, Ohio. My car had some serious mechanical issues and I almost had to cancel, but a generous sister in the church offered to pay for a rental car and I was able to make the trip. I stayed there for three days for the entire weekend rally. It was a great home sharing with those faithful brethren and with brother Dave Lucas, their minister and our IT/PR director for the mission. I got back to Rittman and took my car into the shop. Three days later and a bit over \$5,000 poorer, (ouch, that hurt!) they had fixed the valve phasers and I again had a vehicle to drive.

Time Travel

The next weekend I visited the church where I grew up, right here in Rittman, Ohio. They had just celebrated their 100th anniversary the weekend before so it was a nice visit and gave me a week of no long travels.

Travel

That weekend, I headed to Virginia to meet with Mark Stroud, a good friend and a board member of Hasten International Medical Mission. We discussed the work in Colombia and made plans for the future of the work. Then as a special treat for me, brother Mark, knowing my love for the outdoors, treated me to several hours of four wheeling through the mountains of southwestern Virginia. It was a delightful afternoon. The next morning after being treated to an amazing breakfast and a rich time of fellowship, I got back in my car and headed to Clearwater, Florida.

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Tony & Grace

About ten hours later and just one quick stop for gas, I arrived at the home of brother Tony and Grace Caban, a good friend and dear brother who is a member of the missions committee at First Christian Church there in Clearwater. He, also aware of my love for the outdoors, had made plans with his son to take me ocean fishing. While it was a beautiful day to be out on the water, the fish were not cooperating. So catching that 300 pound marlin will have to wait for another day! But we all enjoyed a great day in our Good Lord's great creation!

Talk

Then that evening it was down to business as the missions committee had been invited to his house for an evening meal and a meeting with me where we discussed the work in Colombia. The next morning it was off to church where I had a time to share in the worship service then a fellowship dinner afterwards with a more detailed presentation and a time for questions and answers. Needless to say the food was great but the fellowship even better. This congregation has faithfully partnered with us in the work in Colombia for more than thirty years now.

Teach

Then that afternoon it was off to the Orlando area where I spent a few days with Paul Odham, a person who has traveled to Colombia during more than ten years to help us train teachers in how to work with children who have learning difficulties. We had a good time sharing and discussed potential future training sessions. I spent three days with Paul and Patty for a relaxing time visiting gun shops, rock shops, and thrift stores. I didn't buy anything, but I had a good time just "hanging out" with Paul and his wife.

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Travel

On Thursday morning I was up early and on the road by four AM as I had an eighteen hour drive to get back up to Ohio. That makes for a long day and a very long drive. I stopped only two times for gasoline and was back on the road as quickly as possible. I got back by ten that evening and hit the sack exhausted.

Talk Sign

The next weekend I spoke at the Buckeye Christian Church, in Grove City, Ohio, just south of Columbus. I was both pulpit supply to give the minister a weekend off but also presenting the mission work for their missions month and faith promise commitment month. I was thrilled that they have a deaf congregation they sponsor and I had a great time struggling to remember my sign language from when we had a deaf ministry in Colombia. My skills are quite limited but at least I could greet them and let them know I was honored to have them present. They were thrilled that I knew some sign language and quite graciously corrected me as I bumbled along. Afterward I was treated to Skyline Chili and then headed back home.



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Travel Troubles

For the final Sunday in May I spoke at the Indian Run Christian Church for their Faith Promise Sunday. My car broke down on the way there but fortunately they were able to send someone to pick me up and take me the rest of the way to the church. This is the church where the elders serve as my board, so it was an honor to be able to share with them and to contribute in some small way to their missions commitment Sunday. After the service Terry Bailey, their minister, drove me back to the place where I had left my car and dropped me off. I tinkered with it a bit and was able start it up and to make it back home at a reasonable hour.



INDIAN RUN CHRISTIAN CHURCH



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Time to Speak

So with that, my month of May had drawn to a close. I have a couple more speaking dates then unless I were to get several more invitations, I will head back to Colombia for the Summer. then in late July and early August, I am the keynote speaker at Lake James School of Missions which is one of the flagship schools of missions in our brotherhood. It is an honor and privilege to be asked to speak there. I have done so several times in past years and am looking forward to being there this year again.

Touch Base

So if any of you would be interested in having me for a speaking date in the second half of June or July, drop me a note quickly and we can schedule a date. Otherwise I will head back to Colombia. I can also schedule dates for August right after the School of Missions to take advantage of that trip back up to the States. If your church would be interested in a missionary speaker for either of those two time frames let me know and we can schedule a speaking date.

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Trip and Trouble

In the area of prayer requests, we have few. First of all, a bit over a week ago my wife took a nasty spill at the camp when one of the dogs went running through the dining hall at 100 miles an hour and simply bowled her over. She went down like a ton of bricks and has been in significant pain ever since. The x-rays showed no broken bones but she will be going in this week for more tests to see if she injured her rotator cup. Please be in prayer that she has no significant injuries and will heal by simply resting her arm and shoulder for a while.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?mibextid=wwXlfr&v=2174292323414672&rdid=bNoNyOHehjQUnEPd>

Other prayer requests is that the Lord provide the funds to finish the last cabin so we can have 16 more beds at the camp and handle larger groups. Finally, for my safety as I drive and visit churches here in the States.

Thanks!

We finish by thanking all of you who have partnered with us in ministry and in service in Colombia over the years. Truly this is a joint ministry and all that has been accomplished is your work as much as mine. We praise the Lord for your faithfulness and generosity as we strive to serve together in this ministry of evangelism and church planting in Colombia over more than five decades now.



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