



Many of you who read these newsletters are aware of my passion for evangelism and the Gospel. Since the earliest days in

my faith journey, I have been taught the importance of sharing the Gospel. I recall the very first time I had the opportunity to share the Good News. I was young and on my first summer camp to Panama City



Beach, Florida. In the early 1980's, church camps looked a lot differently than they

do now. The beach was a prime location for camp but not nearly as crowded as it is today. Shops and condos were spread out along the beach and the main beach road. Our church youth group was staying a few blocks off the beach at a retreat center. During the week we were learning about how to share the Gospel and preparing to go out and share on the strip!

I remember the anxious feeling I had all week. I was so worried about talking to another person about Jesus. It was a new concept for me outside of church. I recall a unique part of this trip. My dad had to come to the trip later than the rest of us. He drove a van down with additional supplies. On his journey he stopped and picked up a guy hitchhiking to Florida. Now, that was not something we did as a family. However, my



dad was known to pick up folks often when he was driving by himself. I always thought it was a risk, but I also knew my dad could handle it. He was a rough around the edges kind of man with

a very soft and caring heart. He was truly impacted by the Gospel and shared his faith often. His example of taking a risk like this was a motivating factor in my faith journey.



The news of this encounter my dad had spread around the group and was a strong motivation for all of us to be bold and share. When the day came to divide up into groups and go out to share, I was so nervous. I was thinking, as one of the youngest on the trip, I would not have to go out and do most of the sharing. When the groups were revealed, I was partnered with my youth pastor! Oh what a break I thought, and yet it was the beginning of a life-long journey toward today. I vividly recall walking into a couple of shops and watching in awe as my youth pastor made it look so easy to talk about Jesus. He was a great example. Then, he looked



at me as we walked into a shop and said, "Now you go and ask the lady at the register if you can give her this tract and tell her that Jesus loves her." That was it! My assignment was to give her some papers and tell her Jesus loves her. When I engaged her with the tract, she looked at it and before I could say anything, she asked me, "Are you part of the group out sharing the Gospel on the beach?" I was blown away. She had noticed our group all week and the testimony of our commitment to go out and share had opened a door for this conversation. We talked briefly and I left without the tract in my hand and with a sense of, "I can do this," in my heart.

I realize now the point my youth pastor was trying to make. He simply wanted me to put myself out there and try to share. The Lord brings about the rest of the experience in



His way and His time. One of the key elements of evangelism training is the



phrase, “leave the results to the Holy Spirit.” This is so true. The experience of sharing the Gospel is more about

being available for the Holy Spirit to use you than you making anything happen. This experience in the foundational years of my faith journey shaped a worldview that has deep roots in my heart. The encounters we have from day to day are simply opportunities for the Holy Spirit to use our words and experiences to help other find the truth! It really is that simple. Focusing our attention on His work is where the challenge stresses us. We are so easily distracted and lured away by the worries of this world, the deceitfulness of wealth, and



the desire for other things! That is the tangled web of busyness that so easily traps us. We simply become ineffective witnesses, moving from day to day, hoping to find some time to do

Kingdom work while working so hard to survive. The whole time the Kingdom work is right in front of us. As we live life encountering people every day, make disciples by sharing and showing the Gospel. Then we are to follow that up with

teaching and training those we meet in righteousness.

This is our primary mission. Yet, many of us, myself included, fail to focus on this mission and get so easily off track. It does not take long to become consumed by the daily agenda of life that we forget to respond to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. This forgetfulness turns into a listening issue that soon causes us to not hear the promptings. He is still speaking to each of us. We simply need to wade through the stuff of life and listen intentionally for His voice.

Our destination is not PCB this year. The goal this year is to travel to a few locations in the world where the whole Gospel message is needed. I ask



you to intentionally pray about joining us on the field soon to practice listening and sharing again. Getting out of your home context for just a few days will allow you to hear more clearly, share more easily, and show more naturally the amazing love of God that started you on a journey of faith. Our short term missional experiences are as much about you remembering and recommitting your life to the journey of faith you started as they about helping others find their journey. As members of one body, we must work together to encourage and challenge one another in matters of faith. So, accept the challenge and join us as we reach the world and teach the Word!

## 2023 Mission Trips

July 1-8	Guatemala	Community Outreach/Food Dist.	OPEN
October	Slovenia	Community Outreach/Evangelism	OPEN

Sign up to join a trip at [www.1wayministries.org](http://www.1wayministries.org)!

