

2021! We made it to a new year, and what a year it will be. I am very excited to share with you how special this year is to me. It was twenty years ago

that the Lord stirred my heart to trust Him more than ever before and step out on faith. In September of this year we will celebrate 20 years of One Way Ministries! I recall sitting in an apartment in Birmingham in the late 1980's with a



dear friend and dreaming about what the Lord could do with us in ministry. We even went so far as to make a video and develop plans. It looks a bit different today than it did then, but here we are. This year I want to reflect on how we've arrived at this

Distributing food in Mark's Village in Birmingham

point in the journey and remember where we've come from and how the Lord has blessed and guided all these years.

As we begin this year let's go way back. I was a young teenager in Fayetteville, Georgia, involved in my church youth group and playing football. The Lord moved in a huge way in my life through key people around me. I was involved in a church that was very mission-minded. I remember being involved in planting churches, mission trips, and incredible teaching of the Word by men of God. I know there were some tough days back then and things were not all peachy, but I do remember life being pretty incredible from my perspective. My pastor, Jack Overton, was a giant of a man to me, and I respected him greatly. Then one day I saw him pulling the tent up for a crusade event on his tractor and wearing overalls! What? This can't be... I had never seen him in anything except a suit. All I had known up to that point was the consistent teaching of the Word, incredible knowledge of the Word, and his constant presence, oftentimes before the family knew they needed him! This example of a man of God led me to seek after the call God placed on my heart and life with a unique passion.

My years of growing up in Fayetteville were not marked by amazing milestones of great achievement by any means. I had a pretty average life in a suburb of Atlanta with a dad who was a mechanic and a mom who worked for the school system. Yet, in the midst of that life, God

intervened and touched my journey in some incredible ways. In May of 1979, I was taken to another youth event with my parents and my older sister and tried to sit in the back of the church and be quiet. The weekend was not all that special for me because I was not actually a teenager yet and was not supposed to be at the event. I had to go because my parents and sister were involved and they took me against my real desires. However, while hanging out in the back of the room the Holy Spirit reached into the depths of my heart and began to convict and draw me to Himself. The speaker that weekend was a man named Scott, and he spoke of Jesus like He was as real as my own family. I remember finding myself on my knees at the front of the sanctuary trying to figure out what to do when Scott knelt beside me and simply walked me through that confession of Jesus as Lord and words of repentance. For weeks I had been wrestling with what to say to my pastor down front, and then God provided a young man with piercing eyes and a gentle spirit. That night my world forever changed.

These two men impacted my life in amazing ways that even years later I can still feel and appreciate. Each of us has a journey full of people who cross our path intentionally by His design. I've also learned that we may be impactful people to others! When we surrender to His call to follow, He leads us across the paths of people who need us to point them along the way to find Him or go deeper with Him. In 2021, join me in reflecting on the journey and how the Lord has used others in our lives to lead us to this point. Allow this year to be the time that you

seek to appreciate the impact others have had and look for those

opportunities to be an impact on those around you. With renewed hope and great anticipation, let us look toward the day this year when we can walk into the field together and reach our world with the message of Hope



Working hard with our church to bring food to families in need.

and teach His Word to all who will listen! Join me as we enter 2021 with expectation of God to do amazing things with His church. Let us commit to be His hands and feet as well as His voice in the wilderness crying out declaring the day of the Lord is Here!



Happy New Year, friends. I pray this finds you in good health, a new perspective, and a heart full of gratefulness. Last year, 2020, was hard, but it taught us so many things about ourselves, our families, friends, churches and the world around us.

I pray the following things happened for you...

- You have grown closer with the Lord, learning to lean in a little more in times of fear and uncertainty. He has made Himself evident to you and your family.
- You are closer to your family, spending more quality time together with less distractions and obligations.
- We have learned that church is not the building but the people. We can worship from our living rooms, cars, social media, anywhere. The people who are your biblical community are what makes up the church.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

- We have slowed down and are being more intentional about how we spend our time with people. Quarantine and social distancing have caused isolation and loneliness. We all need to feel that someone cares. We still need to be about the business of investing in others.
- We are wiser about some things and motivated to showing wisdom and discernment in how we live.
- We are accepting of others' views and respectful, even if we think differently. We seek to include others who are different than we are into our daily lives and truly show them Christ's love.
- We are people who are contributing to the kingdom and serving others.

We will never know why so many things culminated into this span of time in 2020, but we do know Who is in control of them all. We do know that He will turn them all for good. We know that He will get the glory for every good thing that happened this year. The Bible tells us it will be this way, and we have seen it. We must be ready for his return and be about making sure others are ready as well. Covid took away much but it also gave us much.

I pray you have new hope. We still may be fighting our battles but God remains the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. He is the God of hope and we need only to keep our eyes focused on Him.

-Karen Katchuk



