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AS FOR ME AND MY COMMUNITY
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COMMUNITY EVANGELISM - JOINING OTHERS TO MAKE KINGDOM IMPACT

Do you believe in God-sized dreams coming true? On August 25, 2019, at 5:53 p.m., we drove across the Bay Bridge, bringing with us everything we owned. I saw the headlights in my rearview mirror on the bright yellow Penske truck as my husband followed close behind. I grabbed my phone for a quick video as I approached the bridge while I heard the lyrics play on the radio, "Give me the beat, boys, and free my soul."

We had driven across four states and nearly 600 miles to our new home near the Gulf of Mexico, and my childhood dream came true.

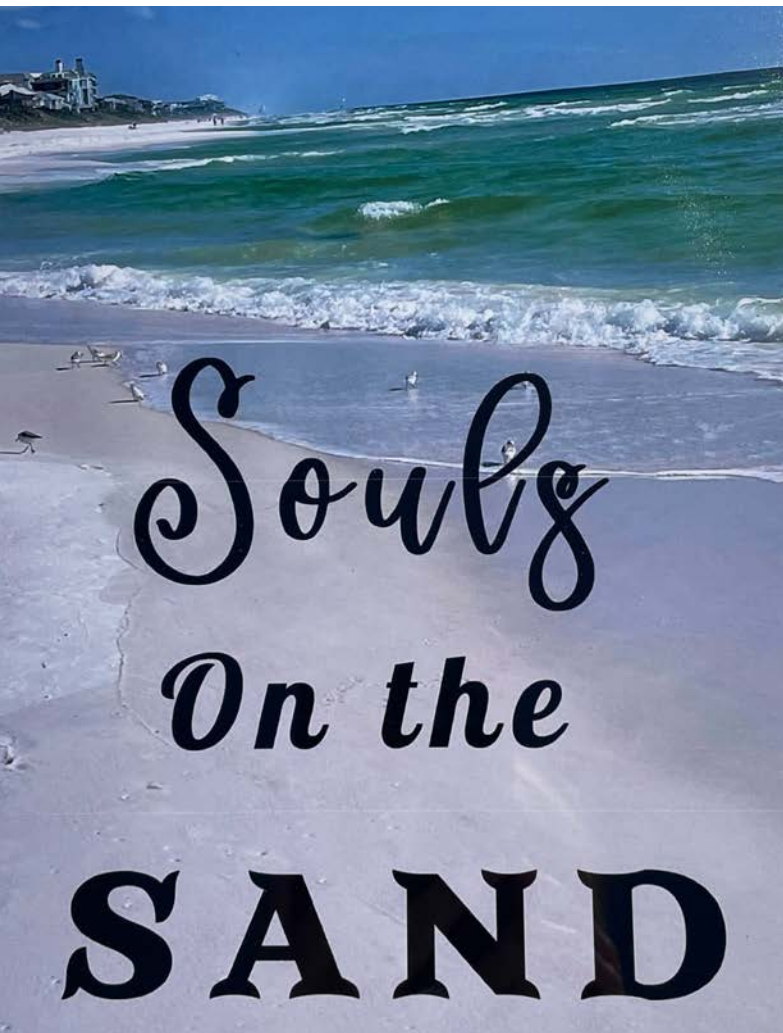


I soon discovered this move wasn't about me living my best life hanging out at the beach but about the Lord and His divine purpose for my life. It was God who freed my soul and filled me with a passion to serve Him and lead others to Christ.

I only had a small glimpse of the vision; God was up to so much more than I could have ever imagined! God opened doors to evangelize the Good News of Jesus Christ, pray for others, and love like Jesus on the beach.

This past February, after watching the movie Jesus Revolution, Holy Spirit dropped an idea in the hearts of our small group leaders to begin praying and sharing the gospel in a beach prayer tent. Excitement spread quickly among our group, and we prayed for the Lord to bring a harvest of souls to the tent and lead us to encounter persons we could bless as we walked the touristy areas.

Before our first day, we met to pray for every encounter God desired, to prepare our hearts on how to minister and pray for others, the salvation of souls, and to baptize in the gulf!



We had a fun night of making scripture labels to stick on water bottles, ordered Armor of God bracelets, and some talented ones among the group painted cute tropical scenes on brushes with scripture on back for sandy toes. We went to bless the people but let me tell you how they blessed us.

With the words **"Pray Here"** boldly written in deep purple, many would stop by for encouragement, healing, freedom from addiction, prayers for family members, and salvation, and sometimes they prayed for us. Children lifted their hearts in prayer, touching everyone on a different level. What we experienced and witnessed this spring and summer was beyond anything we could have imagined. The Spirit of God moved in and around us in the most beautiful ways.

One thing I have learned is that people are more approachable than I once believed. Coming in the Spirit of God opens doors I could have never done on my own; He just does it in the way only He can. It only took a mustard seed of faith to step out of my comfort zone and trust God to lead me.

My heart desires to show the love and mercy of Jesus. It is miraculous as I saw God work in the hearts of people who only came to escape the stress of life for a week. I've heard it said with a tearful expression, "I never expected this to happen at the beach."

Undoubtedly, I can tell you this: people are hungry to be cared for, loved, and prayed for. Sometimes, the question arises, "Has anyone ever prayed for you?" Sadly, answers are often, "Well, not really." What excitement fills my soul to pray for someone and feel the presence of God in our midst! God hears every prayer and moves all of heaven to answer those prayers. Prayers change atmospheres and outcomes. When we part ways, we can see and feel something has changed. I remember one guy saying, "We are Christians, but we never thought about doing anything like this." We never know what seeds God is planting in the hearts of others when they go back home. We know it's not about us—this is all about the Lord and who He is.

Evangelism is community. Drawing people to the love of God through a relationship with Jesus in these last days will have an eternal effect we can't fathom this side of heaven. There is a plentiful harvest around all of us all the time. We are on the cusp of a revival that the world has never seen, and it starts with loving others and showing them who Jesus is.



Simple acts of engaging and showing interest in others' well-being often lead to encountering God. When the Holy Spirit leads, we never know where it will go. That is the exciting thing about the Lord; He's always doing something new.

With the change in seasons and much fewer beachgoers, evangelism for me has moved to an outdoor mall with more of God's people who desire to reach "the one."

An evangelistic explosion is occurring, not only here but all around the world today. Signs and wonders point to Jesus' return for His bride very soon.

You simply won't believe how much they will be blessed, changed, and saved. They are blessed because we reach out to them in love. They are changed because they see relationship over religion. They are saved because the truth of the gospel sets them free and saves them from being eternally cut off from God.

If you feel the prompting of the Lord in your heart to step out and tell others about Jesus, I'd love to encourage you in that.

Ask Holy Spirit:

- * to put a group of at least 2-3 together who are like-minded in Christ and desire to see the kingdom grow (Mark 6:7, He sent them out two by two)
- * to lead you where to go (Psalm 32:8, He will guide you along the best pathway)
- * to give you boldness and courage (Joshua 1:9, Be strong and courageous)

Then, step out and go.

He will do it! You don't need a beach to do it; all communities need Jesus.

What a joy it is to be a part of God's Kingdom right now, on earth.