

GOSPEL EXPRESS EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

NEWSLETTER Vol. 38 No. 282

August - October 2020

“When Doors Close, God Opens Windows”

Closed! Closed! Closed! International borders are closed. Schools, businesses, restaurants, sports venues, churches, and bars... all currently or previously closed! Prisons, nursing homes, and hospitals are closed to public visitation. The closings have been unprecedented! This global upheaval has shattered economies, placed unparalleled social restrictions on billions while many millions have tested positive with COVID-19, including all our ministry staff in late May/early June. In fact, in July, after my own recovery, I was blessed to be able to help my sister care for our 94-year-old dad during his sickness with COVID-19. Praise God he is well, and back enjoying his routine activities.

As fear and frustration gripped our nation, many third world countries faced severe food shortages due to strictly enforced travel bans and curfews. Pastors addressing the severity of the problem said, **“The new virus here in Uganda is called hunger. Some are saying they would rather die from the virus than die of starvation. Many fathers see their children hungry. They can’t provide food so they run away, and single moms are now privately seen eating potato peelings; food we would only give to pigs.”** Yet, beneath the chaos and suffering, new and perhaps unprecedented ministry opportunities are surfacing.



unexplainable ways we have not seen before. We have and continue to witness the reality of “give and it shall be given unto you” as God has opened the WINDOWS of heaven and poured out His blessings on this ministry, despite so many canceled or postponed services and fundraisers. Gospel Express simply serves as a channel of God’s abundant resources; stewards of what He entrusts into our care.



We see God opening WINDOWS to extend the reach of ministry both state-side and international. Ministry partners, including children, have given generously and sacrificially during this crisis in

A mother from Oregon sent a donation with a note, *“Two of our children were saving money to buy a horse but decided to give it to feed hungry children in Africa...”* Pastor Ben from Uganda proclaimed, *“I believe it’s now more fertile ground than at any time before. We have just gone house to house and given food to 52 more families who had been going to bed hungry. Church gatherings are suspended, but many complete families are coming to Jesus Christ.”*

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Grandpa Coblentz



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People are not only hungry for food but also for the Word of God.” Sister Alice from Uganda says, “Many people are giving their lives to Jesus Christ through door-to-door food distribution and evangelism. The discouraged and hopeless have renewed their vows and commitments to the Lord.” Pastor Daniel remarked, “I witnessed tears of joy as we distributed food for 210 teachers and their families. They’ve had no income since the end of February.” Chaplain Nsibiet from Nigeria adds, “This is the first of its kind in the history of Nigeria - we can’t go to prisons but we brought ex-inmates together for teaching, and 35 out of 44 accepted Jesus Christ. Now we plan to meet once a month for discipleship.” These are new WINDOWS of ministry, that parallel with our core values of evangelism, discipleship, and compassion, made possible through your generous donations.

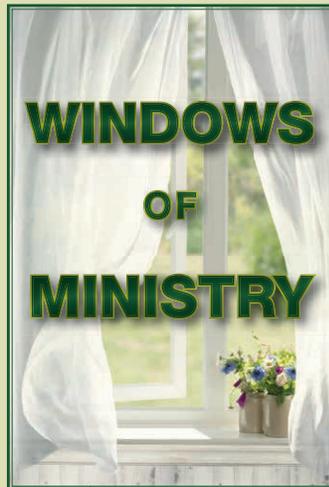
Here in America, most prisoners find themselves in locked down conditions with no visits allowed and no programs scheduled. We agree with chaplains that the demand for printed materials (Bible study courses) is at an all-time high. This vital avenue of ministry has also been funded in unexplainable ways. One couple said, “We became aware of the financial need for Bible study courses and have decided to send our stimulus proceeds (US Gov-

“PEOPLE ARE NOT ONLY HUNGRY FOR FOOD BUT ALSO FOR THE WORD OF GOD.”

ernment check) to help with that need.” And just today a church in Georgia donated \$5000 for Bible courses! May God richly bless each one who has given! Every gift matters.

Another WINDOW that I see is one that leads to greater works through intercessory prayer. We should all see a greater need to pray for our government leaders, law enforcement officers, pastors/ministry leaders, and those who are suffering around the world. Also, may we continue to pray for the millions of caregivers who have become “hope givers” for those in hospitals, care centers, and homes across the world. Let us keep looking up, lifting our eyes unto the fields that are ripe unto harvest. Many of today’s challenges can be turned into channels of ministry if we can see the world through the eyes of God. It’s all by His grace, through the Holy Spirit and for His Glory.

~ Nelson Coblentz



Summer Fest 2020

All of us at Gospel Express want to thank each one of you that came to the Omar Stoltzfus farm (Narvon, PA) for Summer Fest 2020! It was an amazing evening of worship and fellowship. We are grateful for the support and prayers from the community. The total raised that evening was \$17,181 and that is a testimony of your generosity. We appreciate it! These funds will go to our Discipleship Ministry to replenish our Bible study materials. These studies are instruments that continue to change lives, despite lockdowns and social distancing. Thanks again, and may God receive all the glory!

MILLER FAMILY 20-Year Anniversary Tour Reflections

Our hearts are filled with deep gratitude as we reflect on these past 20 years of ministry. Almighty God has proven faithful over and over again!

God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Cor. 1:9.

But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and keep you from evil.

2 Thess. 3:3.

Through these encouraging verses, we know that not only does God call us into fellowship to Himself, but He also keeps us from evil! As we personally embrace the truth of God's Word in our hearts, we experience His faithfulness.

We extend a hearty "THANK YOU" to all our dear friends and supporters! After not being on tour for over 3 months due to coronavirus shut-downs, it was so refreshing to see many familiar faces again. The venues varied from outdoor settings to gymnasiums to regular sanctuaries, but it was such an honor to worship God together at each one.

The miracle bus continues to be such a blessing! Whether you have prayed for us, given financially, spoken words of life, or sacrificed in any other way, we recognize; *If you wouldn't do what you do, we couldn't do what we do!*

And we appreciate your encouraging notes via mail... *We really appreciated what you shared... I was so richly blessed... I was inspired.*

Because of Jesus, ~ Dave for the Millers



Hands-on prison ministry as we know it, came to a halt in mid-March when prison doors abruptly closed. All volunteer activity and programs have been shut down, and our various discipleship seminars that were scheduled this summer have been canceled through August. The Texas and Florida prison crusades, scheduled for this fall, look very uncertain at this point. No one seems to know the answer to the big question of when the prisons will open again for volunteer programs.

PRISON MINISTRY UPDATE

But in the midst of all this, we know God is still God and He is in control! The good news is, the correspondence Bible study courses continue to go into prisons even when we can't. Please pray with us for God to open doors for the Texas and Florida crusades to move forward. Also, please pray for the inmates. I'm sure many are lonely, frustrated, and possibly fearful, as their world also looks very different with no visitation, quarantine, testing, etc. We anticipate having an answer concerning the crusades by the first of September, so stay tuned to our social media for updates.

~ Mervin Wengerd, Prison Ministry Director



GOSPEL EXPRESS MINISTRIES

37th Annual Benefit AUCTION

August 27-29, 2020

Mel's Stables @ 834 Wallace Rd. New Holland PA

Weekend includes: cattle auction, main auction, pig roast, & Big John's chicken.
Singing by Gospel Express Teams and Guest Groups.

LOTS OF GOOD FOOD

GUEST SINGING TEAMS



Friday Evening & Saturday!

Matt & Nimmie Band

Daniel Glick Band



Team Schedules

Due to COVID-19 this schedule is tentative. Stay tuned to social media and website for updates, Call (828) 859-7003 to confirm dates before traveling long distances

Miller Family

Aug 9-23 Tent Meetings – New Holland, PA
Aug 27-29 Benefit Auction – New Holland, PA
Oct 28-29 Banquets – Goshen, IN
Oct 30 Banquet – Arthur, IL



Nelson & Sarah Coblentz

Aug 27-29 Benefit Auction – New Holland, PA
Sept/Oct Uganda (Pray for open borders)
Oct 28-29 Banquets – Goshen, IN
Oct 30 Banquet – Arthur, IL



Stoltzfus Family

Aug 9-23 Tent Meetings – Lancaster, PA
Aug 20-22 New Recording Vocals – Leola, PA
Aug 27-29 Benefit Auction – New Holland, PA
Oct 28-29 Banquets – Goshen, IN
Oct 30 Banquet – Arthur, IL



Mullett Family

Aug 27-29 Benefit Auction – New Holland, PA



Mervin Wengerd

Aug 27-29 Benefit Auction – New Holland, PA
Sep 24-27 Prison Crusade – Huntsville, TX

Fall Banquet Schedule

BANQUETS

Goshen, IN | October 28-29
Arthur, IL | October 30
Walnut Creek, OH | November 2-3
Louisville, OH | ... November 4
Plain City, OH | ... November 5
Lancaster, PA | November 17-18
Franconia, PA | November 19



SCAN ME

*Don't miss this inspirational evening consisting of a delicious meal, testimonies, singing, and a ministry presentation. Nelson & Sarah, The Miller Family, and The Stoltzfus Family are scheduled for all the banquets. Free tickets are required. A love offering will be taken. Call the office at 828-859-7003 for more information.

