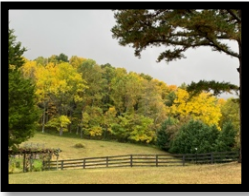


# Fall 2022



2022 has been much more “normal” and definitely busier as ministries are open once again! Back in the spring we were once again able to enter schools with the Easter programs. The history of the holiday was presented to the children giving the Gospel and showing Jesus as the Savior. We were afraid that the fear of COVID would keep the doors closed, but that did not happen. When God wants a door open no man can shut it!

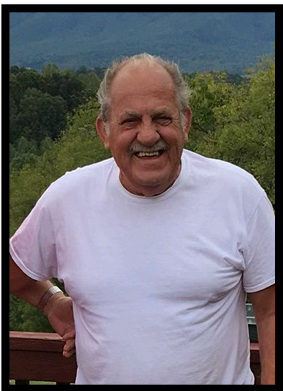


When the summer approached, we trusted our Lord and planned for day camp and VBS ministries. Four VBS ministries were planned, and dates were set. This was somewhat fewer than in some previous years, but we were thrilled for the ones we had. The last VBS at Spill Corn Church in NC had to be postponed for one week due to Carol and I having COVID. We improved quickly and VBS was held the following week.

Smoky Mountain Day Camp 2022 went very well this year. We had about 37 campers and 27 people on staff. Once again Liberty Church partnered with us in conducting the camp, and the Lord blessed in special ways. We had one girl to receive Christ during the week. This special help from Liberty really lightens the load on us and gives us the chance to train them for camp leadership in the years ahead. We plan to continue working at day camp in the years ahead as Liberty takes more and more responsibility. We thank the Lord for the open door for day camp to continue as time goes by.

We are now into our outreach to the Hispanic migrant farm workers in our area. We have one farm with two nice size labor camps to meet with in the evenings. Richard, our interpreter, is joining us again, and we appreciate his service for our Lord. We have visited the men in their living areas and offered them Bibles and tracts along with donated black beans and rice. Also, we have returned with an evangelistic video and a short message challenging them to receive Christ as their Savior. Time is short as they return to Mexico soon, but we will be sending some Bibles and literature back with them to Mexico to share with others there.

Nicole and Thomas, a couple who attend RidgeCrest Bible Church, had witnessed to and prayed for their parents to be saved for many years. But even as they approached the end of their time here on earth, they continued to resist the gospel. However, Nicole and Thomas did not give up and asked our church family to also pray for them.



Early one morning in August we received a phone call about 4:45 AM. Nicole’s dad, Gordy, was critically ill, hospitalized, and about to die. Even now on his death bed he pushed away a nurse that tried to witness to him after Nicole expressed her grief about his lost condition to her. Nicole and other family members were very concerned for his salvation, so they continued to pray for the Holy Spirit to soften his heart. There in the hospital, shortly after talking to his grandson Gordy made a very unexpected request. Nicole told us that as he lay in the bed, he unexpectedly said that he wanted “church.” Nicole told him that they were in no position to go to church, but could bring “church” to him - so they called Don. Don left for the hospital and arrived shortly to talk with Gordy. In the beginning of the conversation he could only respond with “Amen,” but it was obvious he was listening and agreeing to all Don said. When confronted with his sinful state, Gordy expressed that he was ready to receive Christ as Savior, to cleanse him and save him. The family there was so relieved and happy. Never before

had he ever even entertained a conversation on this subject, but things were different now. After praying to accept Christ as his savior, he lay in bed looking upward with a look of wonder on his face as death drew closer. A few minutes later he slipped away from this world and into the arms of our Lord. What a joy to see this decision that had been prayed for very much over the years!

Thomas’s mother, Mary, had been a Roman Catholic all her life and had never given herself to Christ for salvation. Her health had deteriorated to the point that it was obvious she only had a few days to live. There was a resistance on Mary’s part for fear of what her catholic family and friends would think if she “became a Protestant.” As Mary

approached eternity, her resistance remained firm. But, the Holy Spirit was at work! We must remember that it is never our power of persuasion that brings anyone to Christ but the softening of the heart by the Holy Spirit. Nicole tried to talk with Mary as she neared death but was turned away. Finally she asked for Don to come and talk with her. When we arrived, she was very open and ready to talk. Mary's heart was soft now, and she gladly received Christ as her savior. She could now rest easy as the same Holy Spirit that softened her heart was comforting her as life was closing for her on earth. Also, her family could relax in God's promises that she would be with the Lord soon. Just three days later God took her home to be with Him! Now we pray for her husband, Craig, who is just as resistant and also in poor health. We believe the Holy Spirit can soften him as well.



Don has been busy scheduling Thanksgiving programs in the schools. We are so happy that, due to a principal change, he has been welcomed back in to Nolachuckey School with open arms! It looks like there will be a total of about nine Thanksgiving programs and then Christmas programs in December. Please pray that God will use these programs to minister to children as well as staff.

Carol just recently was told by an orthopedic hand specialist that she has a worn out joint in her right wrist that is causing her a lot of pain. The problem is made worse with arthritis. Please pray for her to get some relief from the pain so she can do the things she needs to do. Surgery is an option, but it's going to be difficult to find 10 weeks in the schedule where we can do without the use of her right hand! Please pray that we will have wisdom about that also.

Thank you all so very much for your prayers and financial support! Without that, our ministry wouldn't be possible. God has been so good to bless us with wonderful ministry partners over the years! We really appreciate you! Feel free to send us an email or text. We would love to hear from you and hear how you are doing! May God bless you!

Your Partners in Christ,

*Don and Carol*

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*Scenes of Family & Fall in the Smokies*



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