

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It's been a very long time since I have been able to write a newsletter. Thank you to all who have inquired how



things are going, realizing the length of time since you heard from me. It means a lot to me that you are concerned. Thank you to all who continued to give without hearing from me.

Why so long? I have been overwhelmed, overworked, in need of workers, delayed by the enemy, and plagued by back problems again. Please pray for victory over all these obstacles.

Our last comprehensive newsletter went out in November and was followed by our annual fund drive letter in December and a letter to all our financial supporters in January. We also sent a letter to many churches we have not been to in recent years. We are thankful for Doug Gardei, our treasurer, helping where he could with additional tasks in the absence of an office worker. We are grateful for Will Black, who will be working in our office for the some of the summer, but we still need regular office help every month. Pray that God will send workers.

Mission Trip 74 (Continued)

When I left off in my fall newsletter, I had to stop in the middle of mission trip 74. So I will pick up there. Trip 74 continued from Salisbury, NC on to Milford, OH. There I preached a morning service at our Home Missions' God's Missionary Church. Then I shared about the mission in a brief part of the evening service at Burlington Bible Church in KY. From there it was on to the Calvary Wesleyan Bible Church in Plainfield, IN where they hosted me for a deputation service. Next was on to another Home Missions' God's Missionary Church in Halls, TN.

At Halls, TN I was scheduled to fill in for a Sunday service on my way to Marshfield, MO. Sadly, Sister Ruby Pace had taken a severe fall and passed away in the night before I arrived on Saturday. I was greatly honored to officiate her funeral while I was there. She was an amazing saint of God!

Next stop was Marshfield Holiness Chapel in Marshfield, MO—an ICHA Home Mission Church. Pastor Bob Owens and his wife June have become like an extra set of parents to me and I love them dearly. They have such a passion to reach their community in their senior years. They have bought a doublewide trailer specially set up as a chapel with space for a sanctuary and Sunday school rooms. They were open before Covid hit, but then because of health reasons had to discontinue services. Our purpose was to help launch a restart. I organized an out-reach in the community and we held special "Hope Rally" services. We invited the Morley family to do the singing and music. It was also wonderful to have Bro. Thrasher, the home mission coordinator of ICHA, and his wife.



The Thrashers were an amazing help with preparing the church for use again, preparing the picnic tables for our meal after the service in the park, and helping with many other things. Bro. & Sis. Owens tackled many tasks and prepared nearly all the food themselves. Ezra Morley, Elon's son, was an amazing help in reaching out and getting other family involved. We were so grateful for all who came and helped knock on doors. We held two special services: one in the park and one in the chapel. We were grateful for the visitors who came to the park and the chapel. Bryan Witt, our IT Manager, also helped them get a Facebook page set up and posted videos of their services there:

<https://www.facebook.com/marshfieldhc>.

While in Missouri, the El Dorado Springs Church of God, blessed us with an unexpected deputation service. Thank you for this major blessing!

On the way back to PA from Mission Trip 74, I shared about our mission work at Milford God's Missionary Church and held a street meeting with GBSC students in downtown Cincinnati. I returned home near the end of September.

Home for October-Early November

While home there is always much to do. This time, I moved out of the motorhome (first time since February) so Bro. John Fisher could finishing redoing the vinyl flooring and reinforcing it from below. We

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- Russian—No English????

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did not know the rear brakes were down to the plates, gridding away at the rotors. Thankfully this was found! We had to replace the rear rotors and brake pads and

this time we put higher quality break pads on the front (and rear). The large truck rear axle was a difficult job. I want to say a special thank you to John Fisher's son David for taking on that big job. David is a professional big truck diesel mechanic and I am so grateful for him sacrificing his sleep to help in a crisis.

While home it was nice to spend time with Mom and I took her to chemo a couple of times. Thank you for those who asked how mom is doing. She had a long hospital stay in February, when her blood count went very low and did not want to come up, even with blood transfusions. She also had pneumonia. It looked like the end was near. BUT GOD intervened!



Just a few hours following a very moving time of prayer with a friend and I, she called me and was so full of energy that I could barely get a word in for nearly 30 minutes. We praise God for answering prayer and raising her up again and giving her more time. Mom was praying much too, and she testified that God spoke to her and said He would give her more time. She is back to holding steady doing chemo 5 days in row every 4 weeks to sustain life. Please keep praying for her.

While home I was also grateful for a deputation service at the Gratz Emanuel Wesleyan Church and the following God's Missionary Churches in PA: Bloersville, Newport, Penns Creek, Camp Hill, Helfenstein, Shamokin, and Milesburg.

PVBI students did some street ministry with me on a Friday night near PSU by the bars. We also ministered on the streets of Harrisburg, PA with students and Charles Black. God was definitely shining upon Bro. Black as he preached and share his testimony. See banner pic and watch to see Charles Black preach at:



<https://EvangelismMission.com/videos/2024-10-harrisburg>

Mission Trip 75

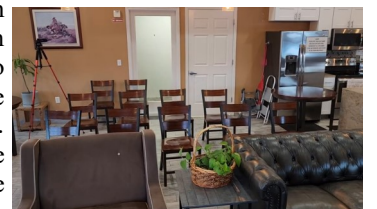
Finally by mid-Nov., I was able to get on my way after many delays, including a windshield replacement on the motorhome. As a result, I had to cancel my first stop at AWC in Salem, OH for their chapel service and an event of mentoring their students in campus evangelism at Kent State University. On the way to Salt Lake City, I held deputation services at Grace Chapel in West Terre Haute, IN and Wayside Bible Chapel in Salem, MO.

Salt Lake City (SLC) Dec 2024—Feb 2025

I arrived the last week of November. After getting the motorhome setup for a long stay, I took a week off to recoup from my busy fall schedule. In Dec. I started a new Facebook page for the SLC mission church plant and had Bryan Witt update our old website from our 2020 SLC church. I invite you to visit our website and Facebook page, but please **DO NOT** like or comment on the page as we are trying to keep the interaction on the page local to the SLC area for the first year as much as possible. <https://SLC.FreedomGospel.com> & <https://facebook.com/SL.FGFellowship>

We invested in advertising in both the newspaper and on Facebook. Thank you to Overcomers Holiness Church who helped pay for those ads. We seen good results with our Facebook ads, with over 400 positive responses.

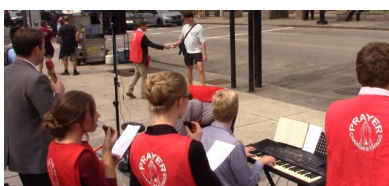
We started holding services in mid-Dec. in our RV park club house. This temporary meeting place was an answer to prayer, only charging us \$50 a week at first. Then when new management took over in Feb. they jacked the price up to \$250/4hr rental, and also told us we could no longer used it every Sunday. Now, in May they told me it can't be used for religious purposes. Please pray that we can find a new place to meet. You can watch our very short promo video from Dec.-Feb. at:



<https://EvangelismMission.com/videos/2024-12-fgf>

We had people attending every time we held services. Paul Johnson, our friend from the area with a Bible Missionary Church heritage, helped me setup and/or tear down weekly. He also helped set up our church computer and remote video link for when I was away on a mission trip to AZ in Jan. Pray for our current contacts and for new ones to come to our services as we start up again in June.

Patty who attended said she had not been to a church service for many years, and she felt so much at home with us. She attended every service from late Dec. through Jan. It was amazing how God brought her to our church: First I met her at the club house and invited her, then second I gave her husband a tract on a different day and invited



him, and third she saw our ad on Facebook. I told her God certainly wanted her in our church after 3 encounters. She agreed. Sadly, she moved to Nevada in Feb. Pray for laborers! Full-time pastor needed!!!

Besides church-related work, I did end of year office work and my main calling of street evangelism and typically did multiple street outreaches every week in downtown SLC. Most of those outreaches were just passing out Gospel tracts with our church info on the back since it was often too cold to preach much outdoors with my chronic voice problems. Whenever I did preach it was a very short session. I was grateful for the times when Paul helped on the streets too.

In addition to street ministry and preaching weekly for our services, I preached monthly at the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake. It was so exciting: The first time I preached there, a man from Russia who could not understand English got under conviction during the service by the Lord's Presence. Afterwards he came to me with his phone in his hand and began a conversation with me via Google Translate. Through this app he requested prayer for a major sin in his life. After prayer he testified through the app that God forgave him of his sins. Praise the Lord, he got under conviction without understanding English and then prayed through by using a smartphone translator!

At another Rescue Mission service, I made a lasting friend who now attends our services. He does not want his picture or name mentioned. He came up to me after a Rescue Mission service and asked if I had any tracts. Thankfully, I had some in my Bible and offered them to him. He was so excited and said, "Now I can come to your church, because I won't attend a church where the pastor does carry tracts!" Wow! I was so excited that I gave him a couple hundred more from my car. He has become such a blessing and has the Presence of the Lord with him. He is hungry for a Godly church to attend and says something I've heard from others in the past: that he can't find a church (in SLC) that's spiritually alive and teaches the truth. He and his wife are homeless and he could not find his wife. We prayed about this together and shortly after I left SLC he found his wife. Praise God! They both are excited to attend our services. They now have a better place to live, but are still looking for an apartment. Pray for them!

With the exception of a short mission trip to AZ, I was in SLC from late Nov. to very near the end of Feb. Beside street and church work, I did homeless outreaches and much end-of-year office work. Christmas Day was my biggest homeless outreach, ministering to hundreds on the street with hot chocolate, bottled water, snacks, and Gospel tracts. We would like to do more homeless outreaches, but our homeless ministry funds are depleted. We wanted to raise \$1000, but only a little over \$250 came in. Please pray for more homeless outreach funds.



Mission Trip 76

This mission trip was a short one from SLC to Phoenix, AZ from late Jan. into Feb. There I attended the Wesleyan Holiness Church (WHC) camp meeting, and did several evangelism events. We did a church in the park service in Glendale near the camp with Bro. & Sis. Matthew Brewer from the WHC in Acadia, CA. Bro. Castle from the Phoenix Gospel Center and I did some street evangelism and I preached in Downtown Phoenix as well. Watch it here: <https://EvangelismMission.com/videos/2025-01-phoenix> I also did campus evangelism at AZ State Univ. in Mesa, AZ.



While in Phoenix, I was able to preach to our SLC congregation via a Zoom meeting Paul managed from SLC. If you are not familiar with Zoom, it is not like live streaming, because both sides can see and hear each other. They could see me life sized on the large screen and I could see the congregation too.

Mission Trips 77 & 78 & PA (to be continued)

I ran out of space and had to cut these reports out so I could tell you about what is going on now. Lord willing, I'll publishing these articles in my next newsletter, including what happened between trips with PVBI this early spring.

Hurdling Obstacles and Mission Trip 79

I returned home from Trip 78 for Resurrection Day with my family and to prepare for Trip 79. This preparation was much different than normal, because we needed to prepare our outdoor church trailer and car for double towing. When we last used the trailer in 2021, we had every thing in one big pile inside the trailer, so this time we built organizing frames and shelves for chairs, tables, pulpit, sound equipment, Bibles, hymnals, tracts, a grill, and more. It seemed like problems kept preventing us from finishing our tasks. There were troubles installing the wiring for the new remote braking system to work in the car and the pass-through wiring to operate the trailer's brakes and lights. My electronics education and skills came in handy, but were RUSTY. Please pray for no more hindrances, for all obstacles to fall, and for God to raise up a standard against the devil!

We are thankful that Bro. Strong, the maintenance director at PVBI, brought his sons and some other students to help build the organizing frames and shelves. We are also thankful



for Brent Susan's help to finish some things on the trailer and motorhome (MH). Thank you to Jeremy Zechman too for his mechanical help on the MH, car, and trailer. He is always a blessing and keeps the MH maintained

We finally got through it all, but were approx. 10 days too late leaving and had to cancel two of our deputation services, which hurts funding. These pics show our organized trailer frames & shelves. Now it's easy to access specific equipment without dragging items from under a pile. We also used it to transport many things including a 2nd pulpit, folding chairs, and hymnals (donated by PVBI) to SLC for our church plant.



We finally got the *Train Without Tracks* all the way to SLC. In case you are wondering, yes, double-towing is legal in many states, but not in



PA and it is simply too long for some other state laws. Bro. Nathan Black volunteered to tow the trailer from home to the Ohio border, then Bro. Neville moved it from OH to IN where our length restrictions stopped us. Then I picked it up with my car in IN and took it to Peoria, IL where Gabrielle flew in to help. In restricted states she drove the car while I drove the motorhome and trailer. We also encounter severe wind at times and did not double tow some where it was unsafe.

It cost a bundle to pay for all this special towing setup, special breaking system for the car, electric brake controllers, and adding brakes to the axle of the trailer. Also lots of paid labor. Many Western lost souls will hear the Gospel because of it. We need more lawn chairs and 2 to 3 (10x20) popup canopies for outdoor services so we can hold larger tent meeting style events. I have not added up all the receipts yet, but I estimate over \$4000 for all the towing and trailer prep. We must meet these expenses before we move forward with additional equipment. We are still waiting to receive some of the invoices from our hired hands so this \$4000 is just my estimate.

Besides the tow/trailer project, now we are back to paying for monthly campground fees and looking for a meeting place which will be an additional monthly cost. Please pray about these many extra expenses. If you want to help with the tow & trailer project or our SLC mission plant, please designate your donations as *Tow & Trailer Project*. To help the SLC mission church expenses, become one of our pledging SLC Holiness Pioneers donors by visiting SLCFreedomGospel.com & clicking on "donate," or for mail-in pledges memo *SLC Holiness Pioneers*. Together we can do all things through Christ!

Westward Work and Workers

We need short term and long term help. We had three short term missionaries lined up for this summer in SLC and to help Western churches. One cancelled, one had to postpone his June trip and hopefully will reschedule for later this summer, and one is still on target for July. Pray the devil is defeated in stopping workers from coming west. We have had many commit to come over the years and then abandon their call of God or experience situations that force them to cancel. Pray these hindrances and obstacles will all stop!

You can help alleviate one of the hindrances. Sometimes people do not have funds for such travel and food expenses. We often do not have the funds either. So please consider helping us with our new revolving "Short-Term Missionary Fund." Please pray and give as you can to this new fund. We have one to fly out in July and possibly more this summer. We will also help them to produce mission letters so they can help raise funds to make these trips too. Pray for long term workers for the SLC mission church team and a future tithing congregation.

Pray for the Western holiness churches. As I've mentioned in my fall newsletter, I am working out of SLC more often now to work with the local mission church plant here and also to help the small struggling Western churches. My mission trips will often be from SLC to Western states. We need your prayers and support to help them. We need people: youth groups, short term missionaries, song evangelists, and preaching evangelists to come alongside this endeavor to help rebuild the efforts of HOLINESS in the West, with aggressive evangelism in cities, communities, and parks. We've got lots of plans and burdens of heart, but where are the workers? Will you come west for short trips or full-time ministry? There is a great need of pastors in UT, AZ, and ID. Please pray, give, and labor as God leads!

Pray for my chronic back problems of spinal canal stenosis and foraminal stenosis that God would heal it or at the very least reduce inflammation to be manageable.

Thank you for your prayers and support,
Rodney Keister

How to support: Online: Donate.EvangelismMission.com or Mail: [Evangelism Mission, P.O. Box 41, Middleburg, PA 17842](mailto:EvangelismMission@P.O.Box41.Middleburg.PA.17842) it is very important to designate your offering as God leads. Write checks payable to [Evangelism Mission](https://EvangelismMission.com). In the **Memo** write: *RK Support, Short-Term Missionaries, Tow & Trailer Project, SLC Holiness Pioneers, Homeless Fund, or Where needed Most.* Thank you!