

Festival Banner



*Partnering with Churches & Ministries
To reach the Unreached by taking the
GOSPEL beyond the church walls*

Merry Christmas



**From the
heart ...**

My Christmas Story this Year . . .

It's 5 a.m. on Sunday morning, December 17, 2023. I'm sitting here on my sofa with so many thoughts running through my mind revolving around one central thought: **"What He's Done!"** And I am not just talking about what He's done for me and you, but **"What He's Done for Every Single Person in the World!"** I have a friend who became a friend after inviting me to preach and teach at his church one Sunday. We went to lunch after church that day and were enjoying some great fellowship and food when he asked me a question that I will never forget. He said, *"John, I've heard about Across Festivals for a while, but why have I never heard about John Bush?"* I sat there thinking and realizing that he had just given one of the greatest compliments that I had ever received. I looked at him and quietly said: *"Maybe I'm just doing it right."* You see, who I am is not the most important thing about me. The most important thing about me is Whose I Am!

I grew up in the middle of nowhere, was the fifth child of six, wasn't rich in money but truly rich, not talented very much, and was pretty much an introvert throughout my school years. I didn't yearn attention or aspire to anything very highly and was not tempted by many things. As I grew older, I

was faced with some important choices that I didn't even know were important choices at that time. I had been given some wonderful people in my life; my mom and dad, grandparents and teachers and pastors, but I didn't really realize it at the time. I am so thankful for each of them! They were presents to me! I even answered the call to fulltime ministry as a young adult but put the cart before the horse. I had preached for two years when heavy conviction from the Holy Spirit came into my life. I was doing a lot of right and good things, but I was doing it in my own strength. You see, I hadn't always done it right! But on March 18, 1973, I did it right! That was the day that I said that I didn't care what anyone said or believed but that I had to settle the question of Who Jesus Was To Me. On that Sunday afternoon I received the gift of eternal life, was saved and haven't gotten over it yet! And! the Lord planted in me the desire to share His love with every person that would allow me to share with them, to share **"What He Had Done for Me!"**

Who is Jesus to you? Many people will never hear of John Bush or even Across Festivals, but every person needs to hear of God's Son, Jesus Christ! Jesus is the only reason that I have life, and a life that He has truly blessed! Jesus continues to change me and send me places that I had no idea I would ever go to. From South Carolina to Louisiana to Alabama to Kentucky to Tennessee to North Carolina to Massachusetts to Haiti (via Zoom), all in this past year He has allowed Across Festivals and John Bush to touch lives with the question, **"Who Is Jesus to You?"**. If you haven't answered that question yet, I pray that you will answer it soon! He is going to return one day when your answer will be made known. Where will you spend eternity? Are you doing things in your own power, or have you received His Infusion by His spilt blood upon the Cross?

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YEAR-END GIFTS & Contribution Records

If you choose to make an end of year gift please remember it must be **post-marked by December 31st** in order to be recorded as a contribution for 2023. **Since the 31st falls on a Sunday**, it is suggested you check your local post office to be certain when their last postmark will be issued. **ONLINE** Gifts can also be given at www.AcrossFestivals.org. A record of contributions given in 2023 useable for tax purposes will be mailed to donors during January 2024. Across Festivals is always happy to serve you. Please do not hesitate to contact us if there are any questions.



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*Supported by monetary
donations from individuals*
**Your contributions are
tax deductible.**

*Please pray if God would have
you support this ministry.*

FROM THE HEART ... (continued from front)

As Kirk Cameron said so well: "From swaddling clothes to burial clothes, He is not bound! He is Risen! He offers you the greatest gift you could ever receive!" Settle the question today! Come to Jesus! Receive His Gift that He bought with a price for you!

Thank you for being the wonderful people in my life today and in the life of Across Festivals these days! Every day your prayers, gifts, encouragement, and friendship keep us on track and focused on the days ahead! You are wonderful gifts to the ministry the Lord has set before us and because of your love for God and obedience to Him you help us continue taking the Gospel across America and Across the World. Again, thank you, and Merry Christmas!

In Christ Alone,

... **John**



Nashville Event Update

In October I sensed the Lord calling me apart for some one-on-one time with Him. I withdrew from all social media platforms and was very careful with whom I talked with or spent time with. For ten days straight beginning on October 4, the Lord awakened me at 3 or 4 a.m. to spend time with Him. And I did! During this time, I very clearly heard Him instructing me that I was not to do the Nashville event. He did not give me any reasons, but it was clear from His persistence in drawing me to Himself. I knew I had two choices: obey or disobey! I chose to obey and went to Nashville to meet personally with the team planning the event. I shared with them on a Wednesday evening, and they graciously received my news and thanked me for being truthful with them. I had decided to stay an

extra day to make myself available to the team should anyone want to speak to me further in person. On Thursday morning I received a text message asking if I would have dinner with the team again that night, and I said yes. It was an amazing time! The key couple, Joe and Shelly Butler, had gone to the Lord in prayer intensely on Wednesday night. They love the Lord deeply and desire to serve Him with all that they are. **The team then shared with me that they were cancelling the event.** They will be doing something else down the road. Some of you have given gifts specifically toward this event. If you gave a gift and want Across Festivals to return your gift, please email me at john@acrossfestivals.org or text me at (334) 201-9493. If you want us to use it toward upcoming ministry events in 2024, we will do that. We want to be sure that all we do brings honor and glory to our God!



PRAYER: The Strategy

"Prayer is not a substitute for action. It is an action for which there is no substitute."

- Kenya Medical Mission Trip—January 21-31, 2024
- Continuing Partnerships in Haiti—Pastor Marc Cloveus, Jacmel and Pastor Francky Jeune, Jeremie
- New Partnership—New Birth Evangelical Baptist Church, Haitian church in Boston
- Evangelist partners—Ken Freeman, Adam Field and others
- Partnership—He-Man International, Todd Carmichael
- Cambodian ministry partners
- Possible event in North Carolina next fall
- Vision trip in January to New Orleans, LA—Haitian church
- The unknown destinations for ministry next year as the Lord will reveal
- John's travels preaching and training across the states
- Our home church, Brushy Creek Baptist, Taylors, SC
- You and your home church

ONE OF A THOUSAND

"Little becomes much when you place it in the Master's hands."

Please consider being One of A Thousand people giving just \$10 a month to help Across Festivals go to places that want us to come alongside them but do not have the financial means. You may mail a check (please designate 1/1000 on memo line and use envelope enclosed). You may also give online at [AcrossFestivals.org](https://www.acrossfestivals.org) via the 'One of A Thousand' link. To all who have already made this commitment we are very grateful and look forward to the things God will do through everyone's gifts.



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