

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1 Summer 2023



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

needed! Will you be one of them?

Lastly, please consider being a financial partner to help provide for each ministry and the many costs that that are a part of such a huge undertaking. lf 250 people would give just \$10, \$25, \$50 or whatever the Lord allows you to give once a month for the next 10 months specifically for this event, every need will be met! Little becomes much when you put it in the Master's Hands! One hundred percent of what you give will be used for ministry. John has walked by faith for 52 years in ministry and will continue to do so until Jesus returns or calls us home! Come walk with us!

An Invitation

Across Festivals is partnering with Shelly Butler Ministries, Churches throughout the Nashville, Tennessee area and beyond, and many other evangelistic ministries to host the first

## "All Generations Festival"

It will be Saturday, April 27, 2024 at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds. You are personally invited to be a part of this great day! At least 1000 counselors will be needed which are called "Friends of the Festival" and are trained and ready to come alongside anyone desiring to come to Christ. Approximately every thirty minutes throughout the afternoon each ministry site will give an invitation for people to come to Christ. Every evangelist will tell those desiring to be saved that they have some "Friends" who would love to pray with them and give them a gift. In the evening, there will be a concert, time of worship, testimony of "Shelly and Joe's Story", and a powerful message from God's Word through Ken Freeman! At the close of the evening, one last invitation will be given for people to come to Christ!

In the week prior to the Festival/Crusade, Across Festivals will be coming alongside schools with five or six dynamic speakers doing school assemblies to address the many things students and staff are facing in today's world, bring a word of encouragement, and an invitation to the fairgrounds for Saturday. At this goes to print we are projecting attendance of 10,000 to 15,000 people. So the need will be great for your assistance as counselors.

Make it a two day mission trip to Nashville and bring your church with you! Please prayerfully consider partnering with us! We need Jesus, and we need each other!

Most importantly, pray with us for the Lord's Will to be done! In preparation for this great event, John will be spending one week a month in Nashville from now through April. Much praying must happen! Many seeds must be planted! And many partners are





From the heart ...

Over the past four months I have come alongside churches and other ministries traveling almost ten thousand miles, as well as teaching via zoom to Haitian pastors assisted by my Friend and Partner, Ken Brothers. In case you don't know, our God is mightily at work here in the United States and all across the world. I encourage you to not just watch and listen to the news channels, but more importantly to read ministry reports, Baptist papers, and listen to updates at your church so you can be encouraged by His Great Work.

Did you know that over 1400 people have come to Christ since October 16 in southern Louisiana?! Three pastors there had been praying together for a year and a half for God to move mightily in their area. Then when it got too big for their church buildings, they moved twenty miles down the road and began meeting under a tent for over twenty weeks. I love these pastors because it wasn't about them or their church; it was about the Kingdom of God! We have all heard about Asbury, but have you heard about the church in Mayfield, Kentucky that has had 70 people accept Christ over the last month and half? And yes, this is the Mayfield that was hit with a horrendous tornado less than a year ago. Our God is mightily at work and is inviting us to join Him! I want to leave you with two challenging questions that the Lord has been asking me:

### What will you allow God to do? What won't you allow God to do?

Join our Heavenly Father where He is inviting you to join Him! Don't hesitate a second because you will miss out on something that will encourage and thrill you! Please keep your eyes on the Lord!

In Christ Alone,

... John

## <u>UPDATE ON EQUIPMENT</u>

Once again God has provided through the wonderful gifts of His people! The previous newsletter shared some needs regarding new sections of the tent and other

equipment. Here you see an arial view of the totally new tent with it's two new sections. It was used over Easter Weekend by First Baptist



Church, Butler, AL. It will be used again soon to hold a VBS by a church whose building was damaged in a recent tornado. The new straps needed were purchased and Arise Tents in Ohio delivered them *free*!

You may also remember there was a need for a new vehicle for John to use in his traveling as the 2016 Kia had blown a head gasket. After praying, and waiting on the Lord when He said to pass on buying two other vehicles, a friend called to tell John he should contact another friend who was about to sell his daughter's car. That friend, and his wife, chose to donate that car to Across Festivals. So on January 3rd, John received the 2013 Nissan Xterra. As

you can see, the color makes it is very easy to find this car in a parking lot. We thank the Lord, and those friends, for His great provision. The vehicle had 98,000 miles, then, but now it



has 115,000+. That shows that it is constantly on the move taking John to preach, minister and to places to plan for future events. Join us in giving praise to our Lord Who is All Sufficient! We raise a Hallelujah!!

### **PRAYER:** The Strategy

- Pray for All Generations Festival
- Pray for Kenya Medical Missions team in November
- Pray for John as he travels
- Pray for his continued good health and strength

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

Pray for Our Ministry Partners:

Ken Freeman Ministries Chris McDaniel Ministries Crossfire Ministries Shelly Butler Ministries April Potter Entertainment Heavenbound Mudbogger (Terry Billings) Adam Field & Commission US Stunt Dudes Bob Marshall (beatbob.com) Tim Byrne Ministries





Almost twelve years ago Jeanette and John accepted an invitation to go to Haiti with Andy and Tanya Birchfield on a visionary trip. They had no idea how much that trip would change and challenge their hearts. They will never forget the sixteen children who were living in a group home that soon would become Children's Hope. It was unforgettable to meet and become one in heart

with pastors like Pastor Paul and Pastor Francky. John will not forget the opportunity given to become the Church Liaison for Children's Hope and so many churches. Their lives were altered on that first trip in more than just meeting a people. Their lives were altered as they saw the Heart of Haiti. They saw that the Lord



has a heart for Haiti and that thousands of Haitians have a heart for God. More than just being a surviving people, they saw a longing for all Haitians to come to know our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and the work of

Pastors and Churches completely emptying themselves out to see this happen.

Fast forward to today! The violence and unrest that is happening in Haiti because of gangs, corrupt politicians, and others in power is more than appalling. Yet, the real Heart of Haiti continues to thrive in the midst of starvation, thievery, and killings. Our God has not abandoned Haiti, and we must not abandon Haiti either. People come from the mountains and ask : "Why can't we have a church in our village?" Pastor Marc, Pastor Nicholas, and others then lead their church to see if that village is ready for a church. Here is their strategy: They go first for two weeks to Prayerwalk the village. They don't go to engage in conversation with the people, although they will talk with them, but they go to talk with the Lord about the village. When finished, they go home for two weeks continuing to pray. Then they return to the village to evangelize door to door and on the streets and pray with the people of the village. Again, they return home for two weeks to continue in prayer. They then return to the village to hold a crusade for two weeks sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Next they tell the people that they will be back in two weeks to hold

a worship service and determine whether the village is ready to have a church. During all of this Pastor Marc, Children's Hope, and Across Festivals are helping to train young men and women ready to lead a new church. Some will be pastors and some will be lay leaders. Pastor Marc and his church have planted several churches following this model, and so has Pastor Francky. During the covid scare they never missed a step carrying the Gospel and caring for the people of Haiti They are the Heart of Haiti, and God is using them mightily.



**Rice Distribution** 

John Bush says, "I am thankful that the Lord changed my heart to be a heart for the whole world including places like Guatemala, Haiti, and Senegal. The spiritual and physical needs in Haiti are overwhelming. As

Pastor and Friend, Jay Wolf, has said so many times: "We need Jesus. and we need each other!"

The southern region of Haiti had no rain from January to May. That means they have

no crops that normally are planted in January and harvested in May. People are literally starving to death. The livestock are starving as well. Please seriously ask yourself and your church to prayerfully consider coming alongside our Haitian brothers and sisters in Christ and make a generous donation through Across Festivals so that we can continue help them buy rice, beans, and oil, and so the churches can continue with crusades and church planting. One hundred percent of all gifts given will go to these needs. Across Festivals will cover the wire fees.

Truck

provided by

special gifts

to help

Pastor

Francky

travel the

rough

terrain of

Jeremie

John recently spent a week taking Pastor Francky from place to place in Alabama so he could share this story. The need is greater than can adequately be shared! Please don't take this lightly. What would God have you do? Seek His direction please!

The Haitian people are saying:

"All we have is God.

and He is enough!"



# A TEEN'S EXTRAORDINARY VISION

The Pocket Testament League began in 1893, led by a 12-year old girl. One night, at a meeting, she gave her life to Jesus. She was so excited she went to school and told her best friend that she had become a Christian!

Her best friend said, "I'm a Christian, I go to church." Helen is said to have responded, "I don't think going to church makes you a Christian." She must have said it with kindness. The next day Helen brought her Bible to school, and the two of them read it. Helen's friend read a little more at home and prayed to receive Jesus.

The two of them set out to invite everyone in their school to read the Bible with them. Eighty students accepted Jesus into their hearts. That Helen was Helen Cadbury, daughter of the president of Cadbury Chocolates. She was so excited about how powerful God's Word was that she organized a group of girls who sewed pockets onto their dresses to carry the small New Testaments her father had provided. The girls called their group "The Pocket Testament League." Using small membership cards, they pledged to read a portion of the Bible every day, pray, and to share their faith as God provided opportunity.

That same vision still drives the ministry today. Through its many years, the ministry has enjoyed tremendous moments of victory in reaching people for Christ. You can join today! For more information, contact The Pocket Testament League at: www.ptl.org, or talk to John Bush.

### MINISTRY PARTNER UP CLOSE



Pastor Marc Cloveus is the Pastor of Christ Pour Tous (Christ for the Peoples) in Jacmel, He is always about the work of Haiti. God! He is a Master Discipler raising up men and women to take the Gospel throughout Haiti! He is a Church Planter leading his congregation to plant new churches throughout Haiti! He is a valued Prayer Partner and is always before the Lord privately and corporately praying for his nation and the nations of the world! Pastor Marc is a visionary who believes that God can change Haiti one person at a time! He is a true Disciple emptying himself unto the Lord and others and is selfless in the work the Lord has set before him! He is a much valued Partner and Co-laborer in the Kingdom Work! Across Festivals is thankful for the privilege to come alongside Pastor Marc and his people in spreading the Gospel and helping meet the needs of hundreds of people and other churches! He is a Precious Friend whom we long to see! Please pray for him, his Family, his Church, and Haiti!

#### **BE ONE OF A THOUSAND**

### ACROSS FESTIVALS is a 501 © (3) Non-profit ministry

Supported by monetary donations from Individuals. Your contributions are tax deductible. Please pray if God would have you support this ministry.

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

For several years now Across Festivals has invited its friends to consider being 'One of A Thousand' people who give just \$10 a month to help us come alongside people in places around the world. You can make a difference when God's people come together. If you would like to be 'One of a Thousand', you may do so by mail with a check sent to the ministry address or use the envelope enclosed. Please designate 1/1000 on the memo line. You may also give online at acrossfestivals.org. Click the 'One of A Thousand' link. Thank You to all who have made this commitment. God will do great things through everyone's gifts.

<u>Across Festivals</u>

P.O. Box 378 Tigerville, SC 29688

Phone: 334-201-9493 john@acrossfestivals.org acrossfestivals.org