

Tarry – Marry – Carry

One of our goals for 2016 is building relationships with many of the 7+ dozen churches in this city of 13,000. The high number in part is due to past prosperity of decades gone by. Last decade, this rust belt city was in very poor condition including poverty and all that comes and goes with that. Although the primary employer (which remains the longest continuously operating steel mill in the USA) still runs and is still economically vital to the community, it is down to about 10% capacity. Past economic improvement efforts and incentives have largely failed because the root issue is people, and not bricks and mortar. Many problems still abound... **but:**

Years past have seen ministries come to Coatesville, try to help for a decade or two, finally give up hope and leave. Through those decades, some prayer warriors remained faithful to God's voice to relentlessly intercede. **People who know God's voice know not to quit because God does not fail; nor do His plans fail.**

Now in 2016, we have the privilege of involvement with an across-the-board move of God... appropriately characterized by an outpouring of intercessory prayer across denominational differences. Authentic Christians have different forms of worship but do not have different functions of worship; they live Biblically. They have various callings, gifts, and talents, but all from the same God. They do not argue, and are known by their fruit.

1 Corinthians 2:9 quotes Isaiah 64:4 regarding "Eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, nor has it entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." Isaiah says there is only **one God who works for those who wait (tarry) on Him.** 1 Corinthians 2:10 goes on to say that the Holy Spirit reveals those unseen / unheard things to authentic Christians (read all of 1 Corinthians 2). Religions, which are human replacement counterfeits for relationship with God, make humans work to supposedly make God happy. Such ideas have a foolishly small god... who is able to be satisfied by a mere human! See Ephesians 2:8.

Please pray for the people in this city to respond to the Holy Spirit. Many Christians still do not know that prayer is far more than speaking words. Our own prayer is often much less than 50% words; it is listening for God's voice (**tarry**), hearing God's voice (**marry** God in intimate communication), and then acting on God's voice (**carry** on with whatsoever His part for each of us is) ... which always involves God's heart: ministering to people. Our **intercession must produce interaction** to be Biblically authenticated, as seen in the life of Jesus and in Old and New Testament examples illustrating what it means to be a disciple of God. Just following God is not Christianity; Scriptures explain this. We receive good news from God and share this Gospel with others.

Even MORE of God's Sense of Humor!

We mentioned **this** not too long ago, and God is doing it once again: building our trust in Him a little bit more. A while back Loren heard the Holy Spirit say to his heart from God, "You don't trust Me." Knowing what God meant by that, Loren replied, "You're right; I don't!" God said nothing else about it since Loren got the point by God's tone and few words. Since then, God faithfully has provided growth opportunities by His grace.

When our first daughter was getting married, Loren lost his job through a layoff. When our second daughter was getting married, we were unemployed. When our third daughter was getting married (this month), we were / are full-time missionaries (and part-time 'tent-makers') who make too little money to file taxes. Then, just to make His point, God allowed the engine in our vehicle to go bad right before the wedding.

Without intimately knowing God's voice, typical human responses would include, "Why me?", "Why now?", "The devil did it!", "There must be sin in your life!" and other **fleshly guesses from not hearing the Holy Spirit.** The right response is, "I'm listening, God; speak when you're ready. I trust you." If we believe God created everything, is the only God, and is love, then it all comes down to, "Okay, God; just keep me in the loop here."

So, the world would say of us today, "The jury is still out." but the Holy Spirit says, "God is on the throne!" We don't even like to give numerical needs to folks (but do if needed or asked)... which helps us trust God further. We cannot please God without faith – Hebrews 11:6. This does not mean we live without wisdom; it does mean that God is faithful to do His will. So, if God prompts you to help us, you know how to contact us :)

More News ! →

Thank You... sort of:

We don't think there is a way or method in this life to appropriately thank those of you who communicate with us, and/or pray for us, and/or financially support us in the full-time missionary work God has entrusted to us for some reason of His. The Bible promises that God Himself will pay those back with riches in Heaven that cannot fade(!); an extremely amazing but yet-to-be-seen fact. We can all be completely sure that once we all get to Heaven, we will all understand fully (1 Corinthians 13:9-13)... *and* wish we had done more for Him. What a blessing to know this in advance! What a privilege to partner with the only true God / Creator / Savior!

Some precious friends helped us out in a time of need recently. When we thanked them for being God's hands and feet, their response was, 'No: YOU are God's hands and feet; we are God's wallet.'" This is actually true. God honors His gift of a free will, allows us to work *with Him* (or reject Him)... and is **incredibly silent** about it. He already said what He needed to, and did what He needed to – John 17:4; 19:30. His silence has a coming violence for those who pervert it into permission to sin. For disciples of God, His silence has a coming reward so great for them that it would not even be believable if told to them now – John 3:12; Habakkuk 1:5.

Empty Nest, Full Plate, and other news...

In the beauty of a private 1,000 acre forest, under a blue sky, in an outdoor chapel, our youngest daughter Bethany married her love Joshua this month. The anointing of God with the emotion of the moment exceeded words. This empties our nest but fills our hearts because all of our children have married wonderful spouses who love God whole-heartedly as families of their own now. This experience is a huge gift from God to us.

The timing is right; our plates are full right now... please pray: not too full. "My cup runneth over" (Psalm 23) is not supposed to mean 'my work load runs me over.' We wish we had more time for the few friends we do have here, for our growing family, and for each other... yet we love God more, and He rewards heart-borne obedience a hundred-fold now plus a hundredfold in Heaven (Matthew 19:29; Mark 10:29-30; Luke 14:26).

As our planet continues with birth pains (Matthew 24:8; Mark 13:8), do all the more focus on ministering to people while there is still time. Do not get your bowels in an uproar over politics; the Bible says entire nations are less than dust on God's scale (Isaiah 40:15). Especially as things get worse, people will become genuinely hungry for real relationship with God as seen in people who really have it. Their religiosity will fail them badly and many churches will close because of that. This is no reason to be discouraged, but rather to be effective.

As full-time missionaries in a city setting, we see it coming like a freight train. Some people are very afraid watching news reports, while others know it is an extra-opportune time to share the **Good News**: right in the face of bad news... with God's authority that Jesus Christ bought for us and the Holy Spirit's power working through us. Fill your hearts and minds with Scriptures; listen to helpful Christian music; encourage each other as Christian brothers and sisters; and also overflow God's goodness to those without it who are ready for it.

Jesus last words to us before leaving were to "make disciples"; this requires ongoing personal relationships with folks. Once gone, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to give us power to obey what He said. It's all God can do without violating our free will; the rest is up to us. This is why our words are so powerful (Revelation 12:11; Proverbs 18:21)... God uses Christians to change people's eternity. It is somewhat hard to grasp because time and space are all we have experienced so far, so we really need to trust God with all this stuff (Hebrews 11:6).

Please Communicate

We try our best to be found faithful to this missionary work. Not everyone is called to this, but it is clearly a Bible-prescribed job. The two Biblical forms of surviving in this kind of work are help from Christians and part-time work on the part of the missionaries. We do both, we have no more time to do more, and we know we are doing God's will so the rest is ever unfolding; unknown to us but known to God whom we look to for help.

Some of our most vital support is not money but prayer and communication. We don't have smart-phones (so your icons look like this: □□) but we have phones, also computers with Skype. We'd love to hear from you!