



Joe McDonald Ministry

*Isaiah 6:8*

### *The Evangelism Trail – March 2020*

At the Mission of Hope Chapel service this month, I shared on “*Obedience*” with the guys. Obedience to your “true nature” vs obedience to “THE True God.” I was not only sharing with them, but also speaking to myself and how God’s plans aren’t always clear and His ways aren’t always like our ways. I believe there is a verse in the Bible that speaks to that. Ha. Anyway, Mike Jones and I just got back from a trip to Guatemala March 14<sup>th</sup>. As is always the case, when you make plans to travel it is an exciting time. However as the time grows nearer, you begin thinking: “I really don’t have time for this and with all I need to be doing.” That is being obedient to one’s “true nature.” I did however make the trip with Drive-In Ministries Director Mike Jones. We visited and stayed with our friend Dr. Wilfred Johnson, long time Guate resident and Chancellor Emeritis of Guatemala Bible Seminary pictured here in the middle with Mike and me.



The very first night there I was visiting with Kirk and Michelle Lightfield, missionaries living there that put me up while I was there. During the conversation it came up of their recent trip to Memphis to St Jude and how they had helped a family from Mexico there for Leukemia treatment for their young child. To my surprise, I had a young lady from Mexico on my prayer list with Leukemia that needs the same treatment. By the next day, Kirk was in touch with our friend Henny Bodle and with the family of the little girl in Mexico about how to get to St Jude at their expense! This is what happens when one is “obedient to THE True God.” I’ll keep you posted on how this plays out. His ways are not our ways....

On Thursday morning, Wilfred arranged for me to do a program for the 440 students at Robinson School there in



Chimaltenango. It was a great group of kids and we had so much fun doing the program including presenting the Gospel in a way that is easy to understand and remember. Without great detail it uses three sponge balls and each one represents God, Man and sin and shows how sin separates man from God. That afternoon I saw one of the teachers of the 5 year old students. She told me one little boy had three balls of play dough, a pop cycle stick and was telling the others children about Dios (God) Diablo (Satan) and hombre. (man) A 5 year old retelling the Gospel story! That was Thursday and on



Saturday the government closed the schools! That is what happens when one is “Obedient to The True God!”



As I mentioned earlier, Mike and I got home late Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> and I didn’t get home until early on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup>. That was the same day Guatemala closed the country to visitors from North America. That is how He does things when one is “obedient to THE True God” and not obedient to ones “true nature” which is always easier, and we tend to fall back on.

Speaking of The Mission of Hope, my Son Joe and I will be there on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March to start the first of the three-part fatherhood training. Pray for the residents there, for the leadership and the supporters.

Most everything we had planned has been rescheduled to later in the year once all this “social distancing” and “self-imposed quarantine” is over. We have lots to keep us busy until we are free to roam around and see our normal lives return. We are praying for this to pass quickly, for strength and wisdom for leaders, health care workers, store operators and people that are not working until we are able to get life back to normal.

We are using this time to finish construction of “The Gospel Parade” float we plan to use this year in several parades. It is based on Patti’s book, “The Gospel Parade” and will tell the good news in an easy to understand and powerful way to all who see it. More next month. If you know of an upcoming parade we can join, please let me know.

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*a Ministry of Evangelism, Encouragement and Education*

## ***Trusting God***

While everyone is getting on the advice bandwagon, wouldn't Professional Mom have to get out there and provide some insight and opinion? Of course!

My inspiration for you today is to Trust God. Trusting God every day is a great mind-set. Through good times and bad, God has been there for us. History tells stories of terrible hardships that we as a people have weathered and by the mercy of God, people pull through. Perhaps things will change, perhaps our schedules will be modified in some way that will never be restored, however, when there is nothing else you can do, Trust God.

The Bible says, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3: 5 & 6

Ironically, but purposely, the next verses speak of your health, wellbeing and substance (wealth,) being impacted positively when we trust God.

You may say, I'm trusting God and my family is being negatively impacted by the current situation with the Coronavirus. If you are familiar with the Bible, you may have read the book of Job. Yes, he was the most horrid example of a person trusting the Living God and being negatively impacted. He never stopped trusting the One True God and was restored graciously in the end.

So, let me ask you something. Have you given all you have to God; all you have or ever will have? This is no easy question to answer. This is a test, the test that will show your faith in Jesus Christ. The current events are "out of our control." God knows. God knows.

If you don't know God through Jesus Christ and His great sacrifice for our sin, it would be a good time to trust Him. It's very simple but takes a deliberate act of your will. Trust God.

If you know Jesus as your Savior and Lord, I say to you now, Trust God. Should we be complacent and do nothing, well no. However, first, we must pray, get our priorities straight. I know I'm used to getting my own way, I'm confessing that as I write this. It's God's way, as I pray, I am asking God what I should do to help with this national dilemma.

Although it pains me for all the "shutdowns," especially the churches and schools, I am so proud of the efforts of our pastors, leaders and teachers for jumping in with alternatives to gathering. We must continue to "gather together and pray corporately (virtually if necessary)."

I don't think it's an accident for God's Word to say to us, "If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

Pray with your children, pray with your friends on Social Media and by phone, lift up those who are ill or in need and pray for our national leaders to have wisdom in this extraordinary time.

We are on the cusp of a revival. If we pray, God will hear. I cannot stress this enough. Trust God today and he will heal our nation.

Professional Mom (Patti McDonald)

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