

Dear Faithful Partners,

Dec. 2022

Wow! 2022 is quickly coming to a close and what a year this has been! One where we've seen God at work like never before. A year where God has moved in the lives of men and women calling them to repentance and salvation. A year where God's Grace and Mercy continue to draw people to Himself and break the chains of sin and disobedience. I know personally in our own lives, it's been a year that we've sensed the need to draw even closer to God, stay in His Word and strive to remain faithful and obedient. The darker our world gets, the longing for Christ's return grows brighter. Amen!!

Throughout his epistles the apostle Paul repeatedly thanked his readers (fellow believers) and the churches for continuing in the Gospel. For standing firm and confident, knowing that "He who began a good work in you, will complete it at the day of Jesus Christ". So, it's in this same manner, that we would like to begin our letter to you. Thanking **you** for your faithfulness to the Gospel. Faithfulness in Praying. Faithfulness in Giving. Faithfulness in Going/Sending. Each time God calls us to go, we don't go alone. We go with confidence that an army of our faithful followers are going with us in prayer and united in heart & mind. We go answering the call of a need. We go with many of you answering that same call and joining with us, serving alongside.

In the next few paragraphs, we'd like to reflect back and **remember** all that God has directed us to do in the year 2022. We would like to take some time and remind you as well where we saw God at work. Between Camp projects and Disaster Relief trips we look back and our hearts are full of rejoicing at what God has done! We praise Him for what he has allowed this ministry to be a part of and for all those who have partnered with us. We praise Him for His patience in our lives and his steadfast love that desires for all men to come to know Him!

Our "**year in review**" actually begins just before last Christmas when a terrible storm ripped through the western part of Kentucky destroying homes and businesses. You'll remember our news media was focused on the town of Mayfield where the devastation and destruction of a candle factory had taken place and there was the loss of many lives. But there were also the surrounding areas such as Bowling Green and Dawson Springs that our teams (partnering with Samaritan's Purse) were sent to and spent so much time helping in the clean-up effort.

So, beginning in **January** and part of **February** our team and several volunteers joined the efforts in Mayfield bringing chain saws for tree cleanup and heavy equipment to remove debris. In **March** we took a few days and headed to Camp Burton to install a new furnace in the house for the new Program Director (Tori) and did some major tree work. In **April** John & Joel drove out to Skyview Ranch (Millersburg) and met with the new Director (Jon Casbolm) and the new head of maintenance (Kent Hurlbert) talking over some projects they wanted to see happen before their camp season began. The project started with the dismantling & removal of some kitchen trailers. Then it was on to prepping that site for RV hookups which meant installing underground water, electric, etc. and spreading tons of new stone. In mid-**May** John and couple of guys helped Tim Ramsey (LATCOM) with some foundation work for one of their buildings in New Castle, PA. Then as soon as we returned from that trip it was back to Burton to start the makeover project on Linn Hall which included new windows, electrical and metal siding. In early **June** Camp Barakel was our focus where the project was to assist in some needed maintenance work, plus add on a few entry/mud rooms to several existing cabins. It was here, while in Fairview, MI that a 6:30am phone call came in from Skyview Ranch. It was Jon Casbolm trying to reach John and tell him the bad news of a strong thunderstorm coupled with a twister had hit the ranch and they, along-with their first week of campers were basically trapped within the campgrounds. This twister took its time spinning across the grounds and left behind acres of chewed up trees, downed limbs, power lines, roofs ripped open, etc. John quickly responded to the call for help with; "I'm on my way". He left Joel, his boys and Jared Stutzman to finish the Barakel project and proceeded to head to Skyview. When he arrived, he was met with closed roads, power crews trying to make safe pathways, and a ranch that was covered with tall pines on the ground. So, the next several days were spent calling for volunteers to come and help with debris cleanup, a lot of chainsaw work,

fixing roofs, etc. The response was incredible and the impact of so many coming to help even resulted in Steppin Out making the local (Bargain Hunter) newspaper 😊. This clean-up/restoration project would last for weeks and even require the need of return trips as campers would come and go. In fact, anytime John had a day or even a few hours to spare he would drive out to the Ranch and work on more cleanup or repair.

Also, in June (along-with the project at Skyview), a deadly Derecho hit Ft. Wayne, IN causing major damage with downed trees, power lines, etc. In July there was the horrific flood in Breathitt County, KY which claimed the lives of at least 28 people. We received a call to respond, so off we went to help wherever needed. In August we were in Floyd, County, KY still helping with that same flooding. The cleanup from this flood was enormous! The waters just ravaged hollers and bottoms where people had established their homesteads. So many stories from folks who watched their possessions wash down a creek bed, or held tightly to a loved one clinging to a tree or branch praying for rescue. It was a time of deep sorrow and a time where God was working through a deadly disaster to get people's attention. In early September we were back at Skyview continuing that work and then back out to Burton as we cleaned out a lot of aged trees, making a beautiful new entry to the camp and also put in some new culverts for water run-off.

Then on September 28th 2022 Hurricane Ian (category 4) made landfall in the Gulf coast of Florida, striking Ft Meyers head on. Steppin Out was notified by Samaritans Purse that help was needed ASAP. Off we went to Englewood to join the hundreds of volunteers with bringing Hope to all those affected. Which, as I write this letter, Steppin Out is serving. Still cleaning up, still removing debris, still sharing Hope!

__ You see, as with each and every project that God calls us to do, He also calls us to share Hope. His Hope! We can power up a chain saw and cut down a looming tree, we can mud-out a home from dirty flood waters, we can provide food & water, but if we only meet a humanitarian need, then we have failed to give them the answer for their greatest need - A relationship with Jesus Christ. No matter if it's Christian Campground or a Disaster struck neighborhood, the only purpose in serving is to share the love of Christ. This is why God came. This is why we celebrate Christmas! God incarnate coming as the perfect sacrifice for sin. Mine and Yours!!

So that's our "look back at" 2022. Where we've seen God at work. Those of you who travel with us know what it's like to watch God at work too. You've seen firsthand a life go from cold, dark and rejection to one of surrender and joy. John and I have said it over and over again - I can't imagine doing anything else but this!

Before I close, let me briefly report on Steppin Out in Ivory Coast West Africa. This is where our dear brother Jacques serves as Director. Here is Jacques Missions statement on his ministry: To Teach the True Word of God to local village Pastors in our Bible school here in the village of Golikro, Bocanda, Ivory Coast. We currently have 16 students enrolled in Bible School training. To share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Evangelism throughout the County of Ivory Coast. To plant additional churches where opportunity is given and where we send our trained Pastors for their ministries. To train our Bible school students and any of our fellow believers who have the desire to learn how to do farming the correct way so they can establish good farms in order to help themselves and their families. Jacques is spending some time now building himself and Julienne a new home. This will be a smaller version of their current one, as they plan to use it to house the women students, widows needing shelter and some orphaned children. With any spare moments he might have, Jacques continues to further his education in seminary training and evangelism.

Lastly, let me share about our family 😊. I'll start with Janet & Andy. They live in Lancaster, SC. Both are doing well and get to visit several times of the year. Janet still has her Seniors Helping Seniors business and Andy's hobby of professional archery takes them to competitions all across the USA. Jason's family (Lindsay, Hudson and Brooks) live here in Sugarcreek, but spend a great deal of time on the road as Hudson plays travel baseball. Brooks is adjusting to his first yr of school (kindergarten) and not quite sure if he plans to continue 😊.

Jason's daughter Jaiden graduated last May and is now a freshman at Akron University studying animal behavior. Joel's family (Megan, Jonathan, Micah, Faith, Elsie, Naomi, Daniel and Samantha) live about 20 minutes from us in Navarre, OH where their family is now part of a new church plant and where he serves as one of their Elders. We had the joy of watching 2 of our granddaughters (Elsie & Naomi) get baptized this past summer as part of this new church as well. Both Jonathan and Micah are driving, have jobs and enjoy backpacking. Soon Jonathan will be off to college and starting a new chapter in his life. John and I are doing well. It's been one year since his second knee replacement and as you have read - he's functioning just fine. Praise God!

Thank you again for being a part of our lives and sharing in the Ministry of Steppin Out Missions.

Merry Christmas Friends, Family, Partners 😊

John & Shirley Corley
Steppin Out Missions

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ". Phil.1:3-6

