

January 2024 Newsletter

God Is So Good

What has the Lord done in your life recently? The Apostle Paul says in 2 Corinthians 10:17 “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” To start, let’s define the word boast. The worldly definition from the Merriam Webster dictionary, defines “boast” as a statement expressing excessive pride in oneself or to praise oneself extravagantly in speech. Simplified: brag, glory, exult! All these things are typically directed at oneself. Now let’s look at this word from the biblical perspective. The Greek word for “boast” in this verse is kow-khah’-om-ahee. The biblical definition is to glory (whether with reason or without), joy, or rejoice. How is this relevant to us? We are a people that naturally want to share what we have accomplished. There is nothing wrong with that, but it is how we go about it. There is a big difference in sharing our accomplishments vs. bragging about something. We must realize that we are not able to do anything on our own. John the Baptist tells us in John 3 that we are not able to get even one thing unless it comes from Heaven. What does that mean? All that we have comes from God and not ourselves. We are reminded in Psalm 24:1 “The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.”



Today you woke up, have food to eat, clothes to wear, a roof over your head, etc. From every breath to every heartbeat, the Lord is our sustainer in all things. Let me challenge you the next time that you want to kow-khah’-om-ahee about something, kow-khah’-om-ahee about what the Lord has done for you.

A lot happened during our mission trip to FL in November and December. God has been so good and has blessed us in more ways than we can count. We hit the ground with our feet running upon arrival! It was a great experience to come alongside Parkview Church Palm Coast, to do community outreach and evangelism. Our most memorable encounter was meeting our new friend Michael. One might think we were in a 3rd world country or foreign country at best. Sadly, it’s not!! We were right here in the streets of America my friends. God placed this man in our path while reaching out to the community with the Gospel, as we were serving those in need. He had a sign that said, “seeking human kindness.”

He was not trying to get the attention of people driving by, and he was off to the side of the building. As we approached to check on him, we simply asked if he needed anything. He was very hungry, and he also needed new shoes. When we came back with the food and new shoes, we were able to talk with him more in depth. He shared his story with us of how he ended up on the streets and recently gave his life to Christ. He shared that he was somewhere else earlier in the day, but felt the Lord led him to this location to wait for help. He is starting life all over, after getting out of a bad marriage of 23 years. WOW; what a testimony!! We were able to pray with him, leave him with a Bible, a cross, and a few other resources. He was about in tears, full of joy, and gave me a big hug in appreciation. All I can say is God did it, as this was a divine appointment with no doubt.



We are so thankful the Lord allowed us to serve weekly meals from our church. Maverick was excited to be the counter person to keep track of how many people came through each week. This allowed the kitchen workers to know about how much food to prepare each week. On average, we saw 250 people every Saturday in between both evening

services. We were gone the week of Thanksgiving, but God provided our ministry with funds to help provide Thanksgiving food items to the church's food bank for struggling families to have for

Thanksgiving Day. In addition, He provided us with the extra means to help fund Christmas presents to kids of two families in need. When we got back, we were asked if we would like to help with the Wisemen

Gift Extravaganza event. Of course we said yes, and we were able to help meet and serve over 250 families picking up the gifts that generous people donated for their kids to have at Christmas. We were filled with overwhelming joy that the Lord allowed for us to experience being the hands and feet of Christ on this special day. Many families were filled with tears of joy and appreciation from the support of Parkview and its members. It was certainly a blessing to be a blessing to those in need. We had completed the mission



work the Lord brought us to do, but He was not finished with us yet. We were asked to stay longer and be a part of the Palm Coast Live Nativity at Parkview. The Lord opened this door of opportunity and provided the extra funds needed to stay a few weeks longer. The ongoing and outpouring support for this Palm Coast community continues to show God's love, mercy, and grace, all while sharing the Gospel to a lost and dying world headed to Hell.

As 2023 ends, we reflect on all the Lord has done. He has blessed us and our ministry so much! There have been challenging times along the way, but the Lord provided and seen us through every step of the way. We have been asked, would we ever change anything if we could go back and do it again? Honestly, no we would not! God put us where He wanted us for that moment in time. We trust Him and His plan completely! In 2024, we don't know what all is going to happen, but we expect the Lord to do even greater things than ever before. We want to take a moment to ask you to join us



in prayer now, as we have been given an opportunity for our ministry to go on a medical mission trip to Honduras in late June 2024. We do not have medical experience, but there are other opportunities for us to serve and share the Gospel with those seeking medical attention from the medical people on our team.

We ask for you to also pray about how you can partner with us to be a part of what God is doing in the lives of the Honduran

people. We will go with a couple we know in our community group at Highland Park Baptist in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. They go at least once a year and invite others to come along! In addition, there are other opportunities you can partner with our ministry throughout the course of the year. Please stay tuned for a special winter edition newsletter in the upcoming weeks addressing the Honduras mission trip and other upcoming opportunities. We are excited to see all that the Lord is going to do



and to join Him at work where He wants us to be.

Over the course of 2023, we had many opportunities to serve, love, and share the Gospel with many people from all walks of life. From the campground to the church and to the community, God was at work in more ways than we ever imagined. All this reminds us how much bigger our God truly is! It's our prayer you will take a few moments today to reflect over the past year and thank the Lord for all He has done. God is so good, and He is worthy of our praise and worship. Now, let's get ready for new ministry and adventurous opportunities in 2024.

In Christ,

Pastor Matt



Meeting people where they are and taking them where they need to go!

Thank you for your continued support!

If you would like more info on how you could support this ministry, please email us at redoakministries@q.com for more information.