

Acts 29

MINISTRY IN ACTION

"On the road for Jesus"

P.O. Box 7534, Panama City Beach, FL 32413 850-832-8175

June 2016

JESUS IS COMING SOON, ARE YOU READY?

These are the words on a bumper sticker I have affixed to the left rear corner of our coach, at eye level, so people who pass us can't help but see it. For the most part I don't get much of a reaction from passersby, but when I do it is usually very positive or very negative. Obviously, I happen to be amongst the very positive.

I know without a doubt that it is true - Jesus is coming back for His own. This certainty is about the only thing that keeps me from just throwing up my hands and saying, "Forget it, let the world go on its own merry way of self-imposed destruction!" I am weary of their mocking and ridicule. But I have to realize, they are as convinced that they are right as I am that I am right. Nothing I can do or say will change them or help them without the super natural transformation that comes only from God, through our Lord Jesus Christ. I am eternally grateful for the One who was willing to go that extra mile for me, after seeing me at my worst. We know our hope is not in *our* effort but *His* Love. And when my account was called I was brought to justice. I was saved by Grace instead of receiving what I deserved. Now, I will one day soon be taken from here by the sound of His voice.

The first time I met Jesus was because my heart responded to the Spiritual call of His voice. The last time I hear His voice with these ears, the response will be this physical body being instantly changed from mortal to immortal. I will be snatched from this earth to join Jesus in the clouds. His promise will be fulfilled at last. Sounds too good to be true, doesn't it? Honestly, the lie that the world is telling is easier to believe. You would have to be silly or saved to believe such a tale. In First Thessalonians, chapter four, the Evangelist and preacher, Paul, draws a pretty detailed picture of what is going to happen when Jesus returns for His own - His bride... the Church. Now, Jesus started the story way back in the Book of John when He was talking to His disciples. In John 14:1-3 He said, *"Let not your hearts be troubled, you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."* Jesus said, I go, I prepare, I will return for you.

First Thessalonians 4 is all about His promise. Paul instructs on how to live with ourselves and one another before the world to preface the resulting reward of our efforts. Now don't think for a minute that works save us, but know for sure we are saved by Grace TO DO good works. Paul said, *(v13) "I would not have you to be ignorant brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that you sorrow not, even as others, which have no hope. (v14) For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also who sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. (v15) For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are a sleep. (v16) For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: (v17) Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (v18) Wherefore comfort one another with these words."* There is not enough talent or eloquence in the world to explain this illustration to the lost, but to the saved it is just a given. The carnal mind cannot grasp the supernatural. Only the redeemed - the regenerated – can understand.

Paul said he would not have us be ignorant of dying...of what happens to us after we die and leave this world. That is why he specifies the dead "in Christ" and those of us who are "alive" and remain. The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout. An interesting statement...Why, with a shout? Well, because when He comes He isn't coming for everyone. He is coming for the dead "in Christ" and for those who are "alive" and remain. In John, chapter 10, Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd. He said, *"I know my sheep by name and they know my voice."* That is what the shout is all about. He isn't coming for everyone; He is coming for His sheep. In John 11, when Jesus entered the cemetery for Lazarus to call him from the tomb, He had to call him by his name. Otherwise when He said, "come forth", the whole cemetery would have come forth. But He was only speaking to Lazarus, so only Lazarus came forth. It is so simple we often miss the point.

When Jesus shouts from the clouds, it will be the shout of the names of the saved. Otherwise everyone would be caught up. But He is not coming for everyone, only those who have died "in Christ," (the saved) and those that are "alive" (the saved) and remain shall be caught up together. The graves will give up the dead and immediately, those of us who are "alive" and remain will be taken. You see, as far as God is concerned, if you are not saved (born again), you are dead. Walking about and breathing the air, but dead in God's sight.

"With the voice of the archangel" signifies that our guardian angels will be involved too. Just as a thought or reminder, it is going to be a BIG DEAL in heaven when Jesus comes back for His Bride. ALL of heaven, God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, and the angels in heaven. All heaven rejoices for our homecoming!

In Luke 16 Jesus tells the story of the rich man and Lazarus. A different Lazarus, and one of the very few times he names names in a parable. In verse 22 when, *"it came to pass that the beggar died and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom"* gives the evidence of angelic escort upon our departure from this life. And we know that we are appointed guardian angels by God, hence in *Matthew 18* Jesus said, *"Take heed that you despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of My Father which is in heaven."* So, I am convinced that the shout of the archangel is the command of the commander of the army of God giving the order to "escort the bride to Her groom."

With a shout. With the voice of the archangel. With "the trump of God." Three separate but distinct events which happen very close together, if not simultaneously, that herald the Rapture of the Church, which I believe with all my heart is "pre-millennial," (that is, before the thousand year reign of Jesus Christ on Earth in Jerusalem).

I have heard it called Gabriel's trumpet, but the Bible doesn't confirm Gabriel blowing the trumpet. It says, the trump of "God." So that leads me to believe that the sound of the trumpet blast during the rapture originates from God. My belief for God's trumpet comes from Exodus 19:16 after God told Moses to tell the people to prepare themselves to meet God, *"and it came to pass . . . that there were thunders and lightening, and a THICK CLOUD (the Lord himself descends from heaven on the cloud) . . . and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud."* And, in Exodus 19:19 *"and the voice of the trumpet long and waxed louder and louder."* An even greater evidence is found in Zechariah 9:14-15, *"and the LORD (God) shall be seen over them, and his arrow (Jesus) shall go forth as the lightning, and the Lord God shall blow the trumpet and shall go forth with whirlwinds of the south. The LORD of hosts shall defend them."* I believe the trumpet is symbolic of God's Holy Spirit taking His part in claiming Christ's Bride. What a picture of the rapture! The trumpet sound will terrify and "shut down" any potential opposition or anyone who would attempt to hinder Jesus' collecting His Bride! The whole scenario is a glorious picture of all of Heaven being involved in the most magnificent prophecy in the New Testament. The verse of an old hymn sums it all up... My Dear Lord God, what a day that will be. When my Jesus I will see, when I look upon His face. The One Who saved me by His Grace. And He takes me by my hand and leads me to the Promise Land. What a day. Glorious day. That will be. Are you ready?

HELLO AND GOD BLESS

An Update

Sally and I greet you all in the name of Jesus, for whose sake we live and breath and have our jobs. He has truly been the blessing in our lives and the anchor that holds us steady as we travel again, "on the road for Jesus."

We had our board meeting in January and, as always, it was super to see the members who made it. It's more of a family reunion than a business meeting for Sally and me. Sadly, it was a time of loss for us as well because we had to turn loose of a couple of long-time members because of health and age. (We can relate to that!) But, it is a part of the change that inevitably comes. A third board member was unable to attend due to his commitment to "Uncle Sam" for that week.

In February we were scheduled for a "Coaches for Christ" rally near Tampa, but another unexpected interruption of our lives forced us to cancel. However, we did make it to Bradenton for family and some personal ministry opportunities.

In March we were booked at Memorial Baptist Church in Mississippi. We had a wonderful time with great folks. From there we were headed too Winnfield, Louisiana. However, when we reached Monroe we ran into the worst rain storm of the year. I pulled off the interstate and was "advised" by local police that we should turn around and go back east - massive flooding had closed the roads. It got dark before I could get back out of Monroe. I made a wrong turn and ended up lost for hours on flooded streets. When I found a parking lot that wasn't under water, I stopped until daylight. I finally found my way back to the interstate and believe me, I was happy to get back home, even though I had to call Brother Doyle and cancel.

Sally and I both had medical appointments the rest of March and first half of April. Sally had developed a horrible wound on her heel that wouldn't improve. It is just now beginning to show signs of recovery. I was in therapy for hepatitis C, which I have had for thirty years, but it just recently started showing symptoms. My doctors recommended a new medication that has a nearly 100% cure rate for the hep-C virus. I learned that the course of medication and therapy was nearly \$100,000. Even with my medicare and gap insurance, my part was to be over \$5000. I told them I would have to pass; I didn't have that much money. But, thank God for giving me favor. My gastro doctor helped me apply for a grant with a specialty pharmacy in Orlando. Long story short, I was approved and had to pay zero dollars! As of today, June 16th, I am free of the hepatitis virus. My liver still has enough good structure to get by, in spite of the scarring caused by years of infection.

The third week in April we had a Sunday with a dear old friend at Collins Boulevard Baptist Church in Covington, LA. Brother Burns needed someone to fill in for him while he was in Lucedale doing a revival. The church was repairing flood damage as they caught the same storm we had run from in Monroe. It was one of those "God-incidences" where we were available for the ministry and Brother Burns needed the fill-in.

Last night Sally was able to get up...by herself...for the first time in three years! Her foot is healing and God's merciful love is more than I can explain. I'll take whatever He allows!

Closing thoughts from Sally

Hello and God bless! On my second attempt to write, I'll start with June when we were in Kingwood, TX and Winnfield, LA. In Texas, we enjoyed a great time with pastor and his wife and with the fine folks at Northpark Christian Church. Winnfield, LA was a make-up from the cancellation of New Jerusalem Baptist Church when we were turned back at Monroe. As most of you know, I now use an electric scooter and we were parked across the street from the church. It started pouring rain about an hour before the evening service and it ended up getting started late, but we had a great time in spite of it. We started home immediately after church because we had more doctors' appointments. It was great to be with Pastor Doyle and Carolyn, but it was such a short time. We got back to Panama City Beach on Monday with doctor appointments on Tuesday.

As things are going, there always seems to be something new taking place in our lives. This time it is my hearing. We thought it was from getting water in my left ear, but the doctor told us it was a serious blockage. So I thought when I went to the doctor it would be a matter of just flushing or cleaning and everything would be okay. However, he explained it could only be healed from the inside with medication and that it wouldn't happen overnight. So for now, Jack has to use ear plugs and I can't hear anything unless the volume is turned all the way up! TV and radio have become quite an event in the Hollingsworth household (or Rvhold), and phone calls, for me, have become a no-go. But overall I am feeling better than I have for quite some time.

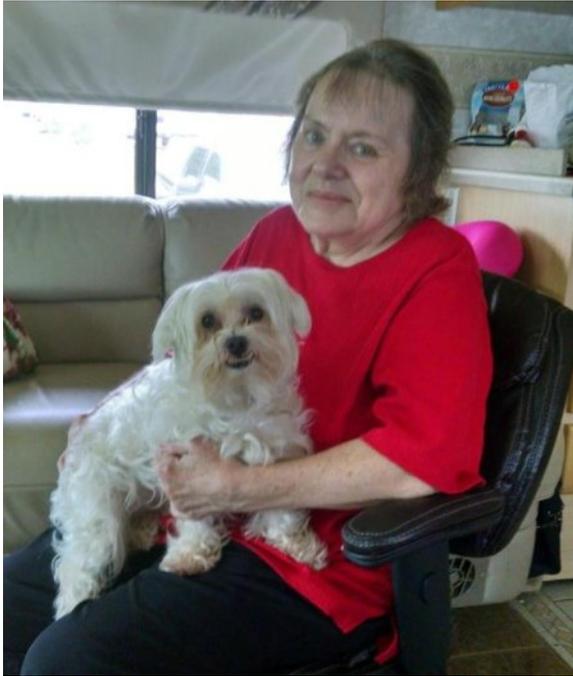
Daisy Mae is doing fine and has us just about programmed to her liking. She and Jack still have their moments of differences. She seems to win most of the time. Recently, she got into the trash and we are suffering from whatever she found that disagreed with her. For those of you who don't know who Daisy is, she is a very small Maltese dog we were blessed to get in February this year. She will be six years old in August. We both have come to love her and agree she is the best medicine or therapy either of us has received!!

The ministry is still alive and we thank God for seeing us through all the rough spots. We will continue to do as much as we can within our limited scope and ask that you keep the ministry in your prayers. We still have openings for the year but we can't travel as far as before and we can only manage two bookings a month. We regret to say we've had to drop our giving to our missions due to our limited support but we remain thankful for all that God is providing.

That about brings us up-to-date...until next time, we will continue the work "on the road for Jesus." Bye for now, and God bless.

Jack and Sally

*We appreciate hearing from you and would like to know what's going on in your lives.
Give us a call, drop us a note, or stop by our website.
We value the opportunity to pray on your behalf.*



Thought you might enjoy meeting Daisy Mae, the newest member of the Acts 29 Ministry household!

James 1:12 (NAS) Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.



... from the Board:

It's apparent that Jack and Sally are struggling to minister as they would desire. We sense their willingness, but the physical restrictions remain an obstacle. Their health keeps them close to doctors and places major constraints on their ability to travel. It should also be noted that we are seeing financial limitations because of those obstacles...travel expenses are up due to the necessity of returning to Panama City on a monthly basis and the support level is down because of the reduced opportunities to serve and minister to all of you. It is not clear what God has in mind for Jack and Sally and the Acts 29 Ministry at this point, but we are certain He will provide the direction. We covet your prayers for Jack and Sally as they strive to understand where God is taking them. As we have stated numerous times over the last few years, it is apparent that the ministry has reached a turning point. We just need to understand the new path forward as God reveals his plan. Thanks for supporting Jack and Sally on this journey.

Please help us keep our address book up-to-date by letting us know if you have an address change. If you would like to receive an electronic version via e-mail, send your request to our attention at kingandi10@gmail.com or in the return envelope we've provided. If you are receiving the newsletter in error, please let us know. Thanks



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Acts 29 Ministry Schedule - 2016

Jan 9	Acts 29 Board Meeting	Panama City Beach, FL
Jan 31- Feb 3	Coaches for Christ Rally	Sarasota, FL
Feb 6	Encore Resort	Bradenton, FL
Mar 6	Memorial Baptist	New Augusta, MS
Mar 13	New Jerusalem Baptist	Goldonna, LA
Apr 17	Collins Blvd Baptist Church	Covington, LA
May 15	Victory Baptist Church	Mathiston, MS
June 5	North Park Christian Church	Kingwood, TX
June 12	New Jerusalem Baptist	Goldona, LA
July 10	Hilltop Bible Church (tentative)	Ashdown, AR
July 15	Lamb & Lion Bible Conference	Allen, TX
September	Coaches for Christ	Pigeon Forge, TN

Visit our website at www.acts29ministry.com. for additional ministry information.
 You can catch us on the road via e-mail at jacknsally@acts29ministry.com.
 Or, you can always give us a call – Sally ~ 850-832-8175 and Jack ~ 850-832-1174.