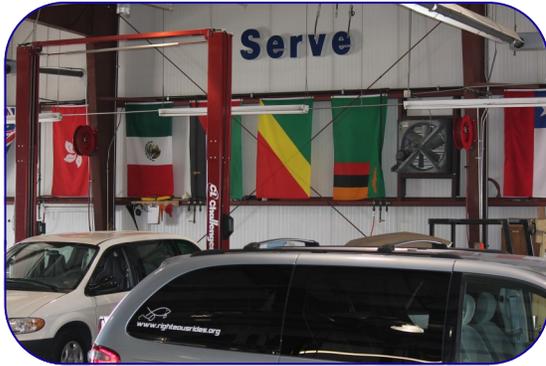


Rejoice in The Midst of Suffering by Shawn Ohlms



People often ask what I enjoy most about working at Righteous Rides. Without hesitation, I always answer the same way— connecting with missionaries. There is something so humbling, encouraging, and downright uplifting about hearing the testimony of someone who is truly living out Mark 16:15- “And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation’”. Developing relationships with those who are delivering the Gospel to unreached people is such a great reminder of the calling we have all been given.

It seems like the majority of missionaries we meet are going through some type of persecution and/or suffering. In my first year with Righteous Rides, I have heard countless stories of missionaries serving in a country where Christian persecution is increasingly prevalent— from the family serving in China facing the threat of the firing line if their faith is revealed, to the missionary who must meet secretly with unbelievers. The prevailing theme, however, is the setting aside of self-preservation, and the embracing of the Lord’s protection/healing. Time and time again, the Righteous Rides team has had the privilege of meeting with missionaries who have decided the threat of persecution is nothing compared to the threat of someone not having a relationship with Christ.

At some point in our Christian walk, we will all endure some sort of persecution. It may not be as extreme as the firing line, but, whether we serve in a dangerous third world country, or serve in our local church, we are not only promised persecution in Scripture, we are told to rejoice in it. I’ve always marveled at the fact that we are told to rejoice in our suffering. I don’t know that you could find a more contrary statement to what we are accustomed to in our society. Our response is typically some sort of ‘woe is me’, ‘can’t anyone help me’ combination; but Christ has something radically different in mind. There is no better example of this than in 1 Peter 4, verses 12 through 19:

But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And “If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?” Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

This has me questioning where I stand. Am I sharing Christ’s sufferings, that I may rejoice in His glory? Am I genuinely concerned with the fate of those who have not heard the Gospel? My prayer is that, like the missionaries we so humbly support, we would set aside ‘self’, embrace any suffering, and deliver the Gospel to those who so desperately need it.

The Dash Board

- 60 vehicles are currently providing transportation for missionaries.
- 160+ families are utilizing, or are on schedule to utilize a Righteous Rides vehicle.
- 49 vehicles drove over 350,000 miles in the first half of 2013.
- Over 3,717,000 miles driven since inception.

Internship Opening

Righteous Rides is searching for an intern! Our desire is to expand our outreach into the social networks; we need someone to research and explore the options that are available right now. The position would be needed until September 1st, and although there is no salary, the intern would have complimentary room and board.

We are looking for someone to fill a position designed to explore new Internet and digital technologies. The intern will be asked to research and make recommendations on expanding our digital presence including our present social media networking venues, and to provide ongoing recommendations and examples of possible new venues of future social access and presence. If you, or anyone you know, may be interested, please contact info@righteousrides.org for the application or more information.

Accelerating the Gospel

As believers *sharing in Christ's suffering*, it is imperative we remember the object of our suffering; the message of the Gospel. 1 Peter 4:17 asks "*what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the Gospel of God?*" This week, I found myself going the wrong direction when I encountered a 'Do Not Enter' sign. My mind immediately started spinning as I tried to find a way out of the situation! There *is* a way out of the outcome of eternal judgment for those who are not obeying the Gospel of God!

Church planters Dale and Janet shared with us the opportunity they had to share the gospel with Hikamati, a 70 year old man. This was the first time he had heard of Christ's shed blood for forgiveness of his sin! Pray that he will not enter eternity without Christ, but that he will personally trust Christ for the forgiveness of sin. May the Gospel also spur us on as we serve, and at times suffer, for His sake.

~ Tina Byus ~



In 2012, our *Faith for Fifty* project was a success! By the end of the year, we had exceeded our goal of 50 vans in the fleet (with a total of 52), and God blessed us with a beautiful facility! Our faith project in 2013 is *Ten Again*— staying the course by adding ten vehicles to our fleet. To date, we have added three used vans, two 2013 Dodge Grand Caravans, and two 2013 Dodge Darts— bringing our total to 59! We serve a truly amazing God, and trust that He will continue to provide for our ministry, thus enabling the Righteous Rides team to *Accelerate the Gospel!*

Prayer Requests

- God's provision for financial, family health, and relationship needs of *currently cruisin'* missionary families.
- An increase in car donations, which are desperately needed.
- An intern is needed to develop computer and web-related programs.
- Safety for our volunteers as they work in the Righteous Rides shop.
- Wisdom for the Righteous Rides team as we grow and desire to serve more missionaries.

Praises

- The second building loan has been paid off! Praise God!
- More than 75 missionary families will be coming to Righteous Rides this summer.
- Karen Sue Richards, out of Kansas City, has agreed to serve as our vehicle return/release coordinator.
- Northroad Community Church is now leasing the north side of the Righteous Rides facility. We are excited to see our partnership grow!
- His continued provision of safety for missionaries traveling in Righteous Rides vehicles.

Righteous Rides

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Accelerating the Gospel

Our Mission: To further the spread of the gospel message of Jesus Christ by assisting evangelistic organizations in meeting their personal transportation needs.

Our Team: Righteous Rides is a team of auto enthusiasts donating their time, money, and expertise to ease the hassles often experienced by missionaries and mission organizations in acquiring and maintaining their vehicles. We invite you to join us by praying for Righteous Rides, giving financially, or donating vehicles.

Newsletter: If you would prefer to receive this newsletter via e-mail instead of receiving a hard copy, please notify us at info@righteousrides.org.