

What does childlike faith look like?

Children can often be overwhelmed by birthdays. Nine year old Zack and his family are no exception- they love birthdays and birthday parties!

A few years ago, Zack's family started a new tradition when celebrating birthdays. In lieu of bringing a gift for the guest of honor, family and friends were asked to bring items to support a charity chosen by the family. In the past, they had supported charities or pet shelters, but after being introduced to the Righteous Rides Goody Bag ministry, they decided this would be a great project for Zack's 9th birthday party this summer. Zack's mother summed up the decision, saying, "*Righteous Rides is local, the kids get to give to other kids, and most importantly, it's supporting the work of telling others about God.*"

Once the decision was made, Zack's mother contacted Reneé, the Goody Bag Coordinator. She gave Zack and his family a copy of the Top Twenty Goody Bag Needs to be sent out with the invitations.

Surprisingly, the first item on the Top Twenty, deodorant, was what the majority of Zack's friends brought. Zack's mother gave us the following update after his party:



Zack and his younger brother Caleb sort through donated items.

"Zack enjoyed a party playing laser tag with family and friends and got to see the kindness of his guests in the many birthday donations for Righteous Rides. There was lots of laughter every time another stick of deodorant was opened! I'm not sure why, other than the boys are 9 and that's just funny to them! So, thank you for showing God's love in your service to the missionary families, and for letting us help in a little way."

Isn't it just like our God to have these young boys find humor in one deodorant after another? The fact that He can use sticks of deodorant, along with all the other items, as a blessing to missionary families from around the world is a testament to what He is capable of doing if we will but have childlike faith! Matthew 18:2-4 says, "And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." For 9-year old Zack, having childlike faith was on full display as he and his brother sorted through extraordinary birthday presents.

So what does childlike faith look like in our lives? Are we truly living out Philippians 2:3- "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves"? The hope and prayer is that we will be encouraged by Zack and his family's selflessness, and use it as an example of what it looks like to serve with childlike faith.

The Dash Board

- 70+ vehicles are currently providing transportation for missionaries.
- 175 families are utilizing, or are on schedule to utilize a Righteous Rides vehicle- including a reservation in 2017!
- 70+ vehicles drove over 460,000 miles during the 2nd Quarter of 2014.
- Over 5.5 million miles driven since inception- equal to the distance traveled to the moon and back...11 TIMES!!

Prayer Requests

- Safety for the many missionary families traveling across the country in Righteous Rides vehicles.
- Safety for those working in the shop.
- Wisdom for the team as the ministry grows.
- His strength, joy, and peace for missionary families.
- Sensitivity to the community members with whom we come into contact at the shop. That we might boldly and lovingly encourage them as we share the Good News.

Praises

- Time spent with missionary families as they've come through the shop.
- His provision for missionaries requesting transportation at the last minute!
- The many goody bag donations we have received!
- Volunteers! Righteous Rides IS a volunteer ministry, and we appreciate so much the commitment from those walking alongside us in our pursuit of missionary care.



The Righteous Rides team prays with a furloughing missionary—the core of what we do.

Serving With Renewed Focus

Righteous Rides was started with the very clear objective of meeting the transportation needs of missionaries returning to the states for furlough. In the last seven years, God has grown the fleet from 1 missionary van to over 75. As each new van is added to the fleet, we are able to say 'Yes' to more and more requests. That also means we have the privilege of meeting with more missionaries on a consistent basis.

Summertime is typically the busiest time of year, and it can be very easy to get caught up in the busyness of making sure the vans have been inspected, repaired (if needed), cleaned, and prepped to go out.

While there is nothing wrong with wanting to make the van release/return process as smooth and efficient as possible, our goal is, and always will be, providing care to furloughing missionaries in a Christ-like manner. The majority of missionaries we connect with often return to the states exhausted, and in need of refreshment. To know that God has put us in a position to welcome missionaries 'home' with love, encouragement, and support is extremely humbling. We are continually encouraged as mission-

aries come to the shop, share about the country in which they serve, and join in prayer prior to hitting the road. In the midst of the busiest time of the year, we love having tangible reminders of why we do what we do. Thanks to notes like the one below, we are continually reminded that work done in the name of the Father is never done in vain.

Dear Righteous Rides Team: There is no way we can express in words just how much you have helped and blessed us. "Thank you so much" is not enough. The only way I can think of is to ask God to pour His abundant blessings on you all, to protect you and give you great wisdom and peace, and give you the ability to keep up with your own affairs as you continue in this work to help missionaries. Prayer is so powerful, as you fully know. When you prayed with us each time we were in the garage, we sensed God's presence- Heaven come down- refreshing our spirits and enabling us! Your generosity has humbled us. We will follow your example and pass on generosity to others in our ministry. You can never out-give God! Each time I get into the Righteous Rides van, I will pray for you."

Righteous Rides

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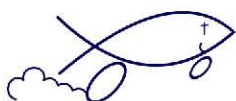
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Friends of Righteous Rides

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.