

GOOD SAMARITAN AUTO CARE



As the ministry actually turned into an auto shop, I began pursuing professional automotive education in my free time to sharpen my skills and provide more professional leadership. I achieved my first ASE Certification recently, and I've challenged our guys to do the same thing.

Our customers pay only the cost for parts and a small "shop supplies" fee to cover tools, towels, cleaners, and lubricants. Our labor is free. Some customers are so grateful for our service they pay extra. (In fact, thanks to some faithful donors, we're now building a shop with a lift behind our church.) We put any extra resources back into the ministry. The church even provides a budget for us to offer free auto care for those who are at a serious point of need.

I have always viewed this as a foot-washing type of ministry in line with Jesus' teaching in John 13. I try to talk to all of our customers about the Lord. We pray with many of them. As a result of this ministry, I have been able to share the gospel with people who are far from God. I have also developed some amazing friendships with people I otherwise never would have met. God is being glorified!

I didn't even know about Righteous Rides until I was contacted by Mark and Janice Phillips, the Charlotte Hub Coordinators, and their pastor, a friend of mine. When they told me about the ministry, I was immediately on board. To know that our ministry blesses others in ministry is a win-win for Jesus. Plus, we have a HUGE heart for missions at our church. We love the idea that our local service to Righteous Rides will now have a global impact!

A RARE FIND

Over the past 15 years Righteous Rides has gained the support of many pastors from various churches. Never had we met a pastor who has received his Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Certification. Pastor Jeff Philpott of Sandhills Community Church is a rare find. He tells us:

In my 20's, and in the very early days of starting our church, my bride and I needed affordable auto care. My neighbor taught me basic auto maintenance and repair and I found I really enjoyed it. Soon I was helping friends, neighbors, and church members with their cars, and I taught my son early on, so he too has developed a love of auto mechanics.

One day I was talking to our small groups pastor about starting a group with a focus on serving others. Several guys in the church shared my passion for cars and they were excited about the idea. Now 12-15 men meet on Sunday afternoon for a short Bible study and then spend the next few hours working in the heat or cold to bless people.

One of our techs is a young man in a wheelchair who will hop out of his chair willingly to crawl under a car for an oil change. So, what started as a small group has now become the Good Samaritan Auto Care, a ministry of our church.



Sandhills volunteer technicians go over a Righteous Rides van with the checklist to ready it for the next missionary family.

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor..." Ecc. 4:9