Front desk Persp-ectives

with Juliana Carlson

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Phew! That was quite the summer! I prayed a lot about safety while traveling, no mechanical problems and that we would arrive on time. I don't know the exact miles traveled this summer but I know it was in the thousands. There were multiple places this summer that we had two days max to get there. I am so thankful the Lord helped us travel safely and as quickly as possible. Thankfully I had saved where we stopped the last couple of trips out west so I could be more confident in the route we were taking and the gas stations where we could stop. Needing to stop every 2-3 hours for gas and finding a gas station that accommodates us can be a trick. Google Earth is such a huge help. I was able to find a cheap but nice little campground in Bowling Green, MO, for us to overnight as well.

Psalm Springs was a big hit with the kids. They enjoyed our sing-time songs, *Riding with my Partner, Surely Goodness and Mercy, The Lord is My Shepherd and Only a Boy Named David.* And loved "tricking" Uncle Chris into allowing *I love a good joke* to be sung by Stephen and Lydia. Many of the kids already knew Psalm 23 and loved showing off by saying it in front of the others. If the kids didn't know the passage they were quick to learn it. While we didn't get an official count of salvations we know that several children came to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior. What a huge encouragement it is to know of these salvations. Kids these days deal with so much—divorce, domestic violence, pressure to change who God made them to be, pressure to not believe in God. There are times when seeds of doubt can creep in. Are we doing enough? Is our material dialed in to the needs of the kids? But I am reminded of Isaiah 55:11, *So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.* The team and I are just emissaries assigned to share God's message. Giving our all to accomplish what God has asked us is our goal.

With the summer tour over, it is back to the office. It took me almost the whole month of September to get settled back in and caught up. I am so thankful for Gail and her help in the office. I don't know if I would be able to travel if she didn't come in each week to pay the bills, do the deposit, take phone messages and send out receipts.

My car was viciously attacked by rodents just before I left for the summer. The cost of repairs? $6,000! Thankfully the comprehensive part of my insurance covers rodent damage. Unfortunately, since the cost to repair was almost as much as my car was worth, they totaled it. I tried really hard over the summer to not fret over needing to find a car. I could't do anything about it so far from home. So when I found myself dwelling on the need for a car, I would try to remind myself that God has a plan and it will all work out in the end. My worrying about it when I couldn't do anything about it wasn't going to fix anything. I was able to bring home a 2020 Hyundai Santa Fe. I am so thankful for my car and I pray that we will journey many miles together.



As we travel around the country to the different places for ministry, we like to explore the surrounding area. This year we found a lovely little lavender farm on the east side of the state, a fun little ice cream stand in Missouri, returned to our favorite Indian restaurant in Iowa, visited our favorite little dutch town in Iowa, enjoyed all of our favorite spots in northern Michigan and got to visit with so many friends. The smoke in northern Michigan and just the overall heat (real feel of 118* in Iowa) kept us from doing more.



Thank you so much for your many prayers and financial support!

Praises for…

a very successful summer of ministry and a safe return home. Traveling in the summer is a big undertaking but it makes the return home even sweeter. Another praise is that illness stayed away. I had a little cold but nothing like in years past.

Pray…

for the next upcoming series, *Truth Travelers.* We have learned from previous years that Satan likes to specifically attack this series. Please join us in praying now as we prepare to take this adventure on the the road next May. Satan hates the TRUTH!

Appearing soon..

11/5 East Ottawa Friends, Hudsonville
11/18 Nevins Lake, Stanton
11/22 Bancroft Christ-centered Church
12/9 Liberty Christian, Battle Creek
12/10 Ada Bible Church, Caledonia
12/13 Kaleva Bible Church, Kaleva