

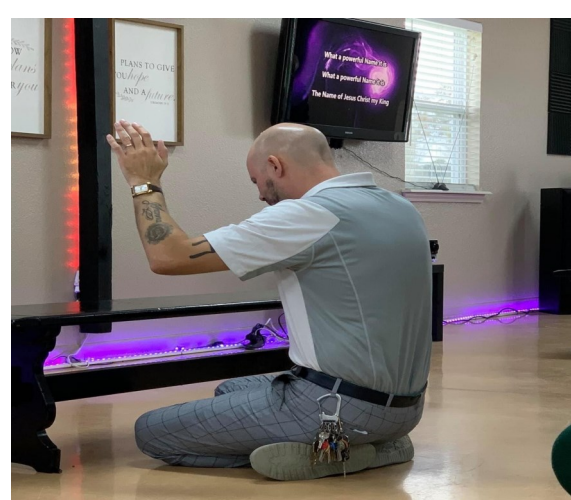


In His Grip Ministries

November was a great month in so many ways. We ministered in Missouri and several places in Texas and even did one service in South Carolina while visiting family for Thanksgiving. However, as I consider this month's newsletter, my mind goes back to something that was said to me while the Spirit of God was moving in one of our services in Missouri. The person that said it didn't know me or anything about us other than we were there to minister. He said, "The Lord wants you to know that your anointing comes from your sacrifice." When we got in the car to head to our hotel I shared it with Ms. Connie. I then asked her, "What sacrifice? I love what we get to do." With tears in her eyes she said, "Honey, you don't even realize the sacrifice because you went straight from a life of addiction and sin to a life of service to the Lord. Those are the only two things you know and this life is so much better than that life that you are content and satisfied." She then began to take us back to the year we spent with me at Teen Challenge as a student just learning how to work out the simple things that God was working in my heart, while she tried to hold our world together on the outside. After that we would sell everything we owned and travel to another state where I would serve voluntarily as an intern for seven months while Connie lived in a small room in my brother's family house and worked part time as a substitute teacher. This was one of our hardest seasons and ended abruptly leaving us confused while we waited on God. But then, our God, in His faithfulness would call us back to Texas where we would both serve at the very Teen Challenge program where God did so much in our lives. Serving at Adult & Teen Challenge in Azle Texas was, for both of us, one of the most challenging yet rewarding seasons of our lives. We were certain that we would be there for many years, but God had another plan. When God would call us and change our assignment again it was very clear to both us. We knew in the depths of our being what we were to do and even where we were to do it from.



In October of 2017 we packed a U-Haul to move back to South Carolina to respond to the call to preach and testify at addiction ministries. However as certain as we were, it seemed no one would book us for chapel. As we ate sandwiches and scraped by for the first few months we wondered if we had missed God. But then we got a service and pretty soon another. We would book a trip and begin to work and save for it. That first year was tough and there were many obvious sacrifices. Four years later our sacrifices look different. Being away from home, spending many hours on the road, living out of suitcases are just a few that we could mention. To us though, it seems reasonable if it means seeing the light of Jesus come on in the lives of broken men and women.



New Life PCG-Paris, TX



Adult & Teen Challenge of Four States-Neosho, MO



ATCOT-Deport, TX



Freedom City Church-Springfield, MO





Victory Christian Center-Azle, TX



Abby's House-Fort Worth, TX



San Antonio Men's ATCOT-San Antonio, TX



San Antonio Women's ATCOT-San Antonio, TX



Manning First Assembly of God-Manning, SC

I'll close with Paul's words in Romans 12:1 He says, "I beseech (or urge) you therefore brethren to present your bodies as a living sacrifice." In the King James he even says that "This is your reasonable service." It's reasonable for us to give up some stuff for the Glory of God. You see our lives are not our own, we've been bought with the highest price. What we give seems so insignificant in light of the love of God!

In Genesis 29:20 the Bible says that Jacob served a man for seven years for Rachel; but to him it only seemed like a few days, because of his love for her. It's hard to see giving up things as a sacrifice in the shadow of love.

We remain in His grip,
Jeff & Connie Johnson

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 10, 2021 Sonrise Adult & Teen Challenge-Cache, OK
- December 14, 2021 Brenham ATCOT-Brenham, TX
- December 15, 2021 New Hope Boys Academy ATCOT-Bastrop, TX
- December 16, 2021 East Texas Women's ATCOT-Clarksville TX
- December 27, 2021 New Lifehouse/Brushcreek Staff Spiritual Emphasis-Disney, OK

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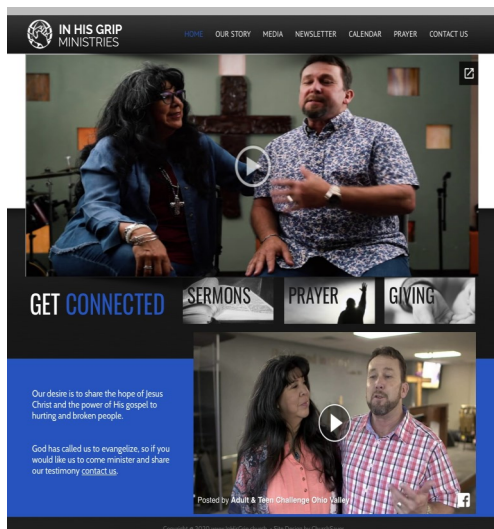
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