

GOFF MINISTRIES
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12-04-03

My Precious Members in the Body of Christ,

It is with great joy I write you these few lines. I wrote this newsletter while still in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where I spent a couple of weeks evangelizing the streets, parks, and all-night restaurants. Many souls received the Word of the Lord with joy as I took their hands and led them to Jesus in prayer.

I took my daughter, Valene, to minister in a park one day, (Valene lives in Albuquerque), and as we were praying for a group of homeless people, a man cried out many times with a loud voice, "JESUS COME INTO MY HEART AND SAVE ME!" His name is Daniel. Valene and her husband, Randal Roy, her 15 yr. old daughter, Sarah, and Randal's children, 10 yr. old James, and 9 yr. old Marina, have begun ministering on the week-ends in that park. They take hundreds of sandwiches and hot coffee to feed the people as it is very cold there and these people are homeless. They also minister in song and teach the Word. They have been tremendously blessed in ministering to those lost and hurting people. Praise the Lord Jesus! It was also my pleasure to take other brothers in the Body of Christ into the field and demonstrate how to plant the Seed of God into the hearts of lost souls with great boldness.

The Lord even opened the door for me to minister in the Sandia High School, where my granddaughter, Sarah goes. They have a great Bible Club in that school and they invited me to speak and give my testimony. There are some 50 students in the Bible Club but they meet at noon in the hallway, so it is exposed to the lost students as well. Oh how I praise the Lord for young people who are so dedicated and enthusiastic about the things of the Holy Spirit!!

Vaughn sends his love and prayers to all of you from the deep, dark, jungles of the Amazon. He has been working very hard from dawn till dark to clear the land and get the house built for Irene and the children when they get there, Jan. 1st. At the same time, every spare moment, he is ministering the Word to any and all who come by, Indians and Brazilians alike. There are so many that beg him to teach them more about living a truly Spirit-led life in Christ. They are starved for truth, as they only get very shallow teaching from the churches there. Please keep him in your daily prayers, as Satan is fighting the building of this base camp and especially the outreach to find the lost tribes. This is nothing that can't be overcome with united and steadfast prayer though! As soon as Vaughn arrived and began rebuilding the mission base, it was rumored that, FUNAI (The Brazilian Bureau of Indian Affairs) were going down river, just below our land to build a Guard Post, with armed guards. They will try to keep anyone who is not an Indian from going down river, because that is where the Wai Wai Reservation begins. We still don't know whether they will give Vaughn problems about his going down river or not, being as he is married to Irene, who is an Indian? If this rumor turns out to be true, then when Irene arrives, Vaughn plans to convene all of the chiefs of the Wai Wai and take them with him to the guard station to confront FUNAI and get it settled. So as you can see, we really need you to be in prayer for this matter. Vaughn MUST be able to go down river to where the lost tribes are located to find them. We know for certain that God wants the lost tribes to be found so that they can hear the Gospel. And we know He is on our side not the enemy's!! Hallelujah!!

Vaughn sends out emails every once in awhile. Here's just a note from him on Nov. 17th..."I appreciate your prayers more than you know and I can feel them with me. There have been a few setbacks and there have been some attacks of Satan to hinder the progress, but all is in the Lord's hands and all will occur in His timing, not mine! I continue to minister almost constantly wherever I go and I have been received well by almost everyone, which is a real blessing. I will write again later, God bless you all. On the front lines for Jesus, Vaughn"

Now, here's an update on the Northwest Territories Ministry in Canada. As Vaughn promised you in our last newsletter here is the story of my shipwreck. The Indians told me that September was a dangerous time to make such a long trip by boat, as bad storms could come up suddenly without warning. Also, all the bears, including grizzlies, were very hungry and feeding to fatten up for their winter hibernation. Still, I had to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, and that outweighed the dangers I might have to face. God had burdened my heart with the lost souls at Snowdrift(Lutselke) and led me to make this one last trip before the cold Arctic winter set in. Snowdrift is a Chipawayan Indian village of about 500 people that for the most part had resisted the Gospel the past two times I had been there. The burden in my heart was heavy, so off I sailed!

It was the fourth day of my journey when a hard Northeast wind caught me too close to the rocky shore. I had stopped to make a cup of hot coffee, as it was foggy, raining and sleeting. I pulled my boat into a perfectly calm little cove and tied up to a tree near the shore. Almost immediately, the wind changed complete opposite directions and hit me with such force that it began crashing my boat sideways up on the rocks. I could not let the motor back down or it would have been ripped off. I realized that my boat would soon break apart so I began unloading all my survival equipment and ministry equipment. As soon as I could I took a moment to call Betty on the Satellite Phone. Praise God for this phone and for the brother and sister that donated the money to buy it! It saved my life!! I told Betty what was happening and to contact as many brothers and sisters she could, to pray for me. She did, and then I learned that God had already spoken to different ones around the country and they had called to tell Betty they were praying for me. How wonderful is the voice of the Holy Spirit!

After being stranded for 4 days in some heavily infested grizzly country with all my food out in the open, I report with joy that not one bear took advantage of my situation. Again, praise God for all the prayers! Also, when the storm subsided there was another miracle to behold, as my boat was not torn to pieces! One of the pontoons was split, but I was able to get it to the Indian village without sinking.

Again, the satellite phone helped in my rescue, as Betty was able to eventually reach the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Snowdrift and advise them of exactly where I was located. The 4th day they came with a boat and a big motor. They cut some trees to put under the pontoons and were able to pull my boat back into the water, as I was some fifteen feet up on the rocks after the storm and my boat weighs 3000 lbs. This took hours of hard labor but we finally accomplished the task.

Now I know this sounds like a lot of negative things happening to me, but God does work in mysterious ways! As I said before, the people in Snowdrift had been very resistant to the Gospel when I had been there before with the brothers who came to minister with me during the summer. Well, this time when I pulled into their village, after they had heard about my situation of being stranded in the wilderness and survived, they came running to see how I was doing. They were in disbelief that I had survived. They know the hardships and dangers of getting stranded and what can happen even to them, who have been born and raised in that wilderness, much less to a person whom they believed had no idea how to come through this experience alive. They were very impressed that I survived, as in their culture they respect anyone who can beat the harsh elements. It gave me great favor with the whole village. This may have otherwise taken years to accomplish. Then I understood why the Lord had allowed all this to happen, He had a purpose to accomplish. I really do believe that "All things work together for our good when we are called according to God's purpose."

I was invited to spend the next two weeks with one of the most respected elders in the tribe whose name is John. He is 80 yrs. old and grew up on a dog sled following the caribou herds. He told me I could live in his house with him forever if I wanted to. I cooked and cleaned and served him with great pleasure. I also held some Bible studies in his home. The first time was quite comical. I noticed him speaking his dialect to his sons all during the day. He doesn't speak much English. When I asked what he was saying to them they said he was concerned, because he didn't know what a Bible study was. HA! HA! Yes it's true, he really had never heard of one! What an honor to begin teaching a very simple, very basic Gospel in that village.

After I had tried to repair the boat as best I could, I took off to try and make it back to Ft. Resolution. So, knowing that all of you were praying for me I left, to avoid being iced in if I stayed longer. I literally glued up the split in the pontoon with J. B. weld and then covered it with duct tape, the only things available to me. My trip home was two days of hard experiences, almost sinking a few times because my patchwork didn't hold. The pontoon would fill up with water, I got stuck on sand- bars, and I had to get wet in the Arctic water where life expectancy is 15 minutes if you fall in. I had to get in my canoe and reach far under the water to remove a drain plug in the pontoon. Then jump back on the boat and drive as fast as I could so the centrifugal force would push the water out of the pontoon and as long as I didn't stop I would be on top of the water. I went with very little sleep or food (I did eat some peanut butter with my fingers) for two days to finally arrive back at Ft. Resolution almost sunk but safe! Praise the Lord above and again I knew you were praying for me. I wish I could share it all with you but it would take too much paper. I can tell you that I am writing this with tears as I relive those experiences though. I will have to get the boat repaired when I return in April.

I thank the Lord that some strongholds of Satan have been torn down in Snowdrift and Ft. Resolution, and more will follow, when I go back in April. It has taken all of us working together to get the first seeds of the

Gospel planted in the Northwest Territories, and my family and I thank every one of you for being a part of this ministry. Without your prayer and financial support, we couldn't do it. There is still much work to do, and already other villages want me to come minister since the word spread all over about my stranded experience. The Northwest Territories is a large land area, with few people, so news travels fast, especially among the Indians. I can hardly wait to go back. The Spirit-filled brother and sister in Ft. Resolution, Willford(Rabbit) and Teresa, are carrying on the ministry while I am in the States. They are still having the Wed. night Bible studies, a Sunday school class for the children, and a lady's meeting on Saturdays. We call them often to keep them encouraged and built up. We also have sent them a case of Bibles, as well as Sister Dowey in Snowdrift, who is carrying on the ministry there too. Please keep them in prayer.

Betty and I have been traveling and ministering to our home groups and church groups almost constantly since I returned from Canada the first week of Oct. Betty is now taking a much needed break and I am carrying on alone for the time being. How we love to see all of you in the meetings and how we love the fellowship and spiritual refreshment we receive from being with you. I miss you all so much when I am away.

Our whole family sends their love and prayers and wishes for Happy Holidays to you and yours. Aren't we all so grateful that God sent His only beloved Son into the world to save us from our sins?! Glory to God in the highest!

As always, on the

frontlines for Jesus,

DONATIONS:

Goff Ministries

THE GOFF FAMILY

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P.S. Please don't forget to pray for Irene and the children as they fly to Brazil on Dec. 31st. They will actually arrive in Brazil on Jan. 1st. Larry will accompany them to Miami to help get them on the right plane, but it's still a long flight from there. Going from the cold weather into the hot, humid, tropical climate will take some time to get used to also. Just pray for them every time they come to mind.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR !