



With Grandma and Grandpa, left to right: Jhett, Jackson, Jewel, Emerson, Aly, Drew & Brenleigh

Merry Christmas!

As we look around, it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Our home has been beautifully decorated by Brenda. Our youngest grandson (Emerson) looks with wonder at all the "pretty lights" on the tree. We see a beautiful blanket of white snow outside. We are blessed as we watch Christmas programs emphasizing the coming of the Lord Jesus. We look forward to opening gifts and watching loved one's eyes light up as they see a special gift.

Have you considered what it would be like to be blind for Christmas, or every day of our life and sit in total darkness day after day? Three of the 4 gospels record the story of Jesus healing a blind man named Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52, Matt. 20:29-34, Luke 18:35-43) near Jericho. He was a beggar who sat in darkness day after day and year after year. When he heard Jesus was coming, he loudly and persistently yelled "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" This heart cry reveals what he saw with the eyes of his heart. What can we learn from this man?

1. **He was looking back with thanksgiving.** He understood Jesus was no ordinary man. He was the promised Messiah, the Son of David called "Immanuel" or "God with us" (Is. 7:14, 61:1-2). The one who came to open the eyes of the spiritually and physically blind (Luke 4:18). Do we understand who Jesus Christ is and why He came? If so, we must be looking back with thanksgiving to God for sending His Son (John 3:16).

2. **He was looking around at the opportunity.** This was his chance to plead for mercy from Jesus. When others tried to silence him, he screamed for mercy (Mk. 10:48). His opportunity for healing was now. Jesus would never pass by him again. Within a few days Jesus would be put to death. When we have the opportunity to call upon the Lord Jesus for salvation, we must take it. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2b). Are you taking your God given opportunities to respond to the Lord Jesus?

3. **He was looking forward with anticipation.** Unless Jesus responded to his need, he would sit in darkness for the rest of his life. Jesus heard his cry and asked for him to be brought to Him. Jesus asked, "What do you want Me to do for you"? He asked to receive his sight. He believed Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God who could and would heal him. Jesus responded to his request and said "Your faith has made you well" (Mk. 10:52). He immediately received his sight and followed the Lord Jesus.

As we prepare for our 14th year of ministry through Restoration Ministries we look back with thanksgiving for the mighty work we've seen our Lord do and continue to do in the lives of many couples and individuals. We look at the opportunities around us to share with others how the Lord Jesus can bring healing to their wounded hearts. We look forward with anticipation to see our Savior and Redeemer demonstrate His mercies in 2019.

**In Christ and For His Kingdom Purposes,
Roger and Brenda Daum**



RESTORATION Ministries



December 2018

Praise & Prayer Items

1. For our upcoming business owners workshop designed to equip Christian business owners to embrace God's calling for them. See www.restorationministriesonline.org/conferences.html for information.
2. For the opportunity to provide aftercare through monthly webinars, and teaching videos on our website.
3. For God's faithful provision and those who have partnered with us in prayer and giving to make this ministry possible.
4. For those who are going through an internship with Restoration Ministries. Pray God raises up others to be trained and expand the impact of this and other like-minded ministries.

Annual Report

- 56 households (couples and individuals) received pastoral counseling and relationship coaching. 43 households were from Nebraska. Others came from 6 other states. Each household received an average of 25 hours of in-office help.
- Several salvations, including a husband whose wife prayed for him for 30 years.
- Marriages strengthened, and wounded hearts and relationships are healing. We continue monthly on-line video meetings to provide aftercare. Webinars are being posted online to help others.
- An excellent marriage conference in Lincoln, NE, in March.
- We continue training and equipping interns. Several have completed their training and are doing pastoral counseling in their respective communities.
- Restoration Ministries continues to partner with Ed and Norma Gaston in the Philippines by providing additional resources enabling them to expand their pastoral counseling ministry, weekly radio counseling broadcasts throughout the Southern Philippines, training pastoral counselors, and strengthening marriages of Christians and Christian leaders in the Philippines and 3 other Asian countries.

Business Owners Workshop with Dave Nabity

Jan 26 2-5:30 pm (Lexington, NE)

January 27 2:30-6 pm (McCook, NE)

Topics Include:

- Your Purpose as a Business Owner
- Spiritual Battles Within Your Business
- Fine Tuning Your Business God's Way
- Staying Married While Running a Business

restorationministriesonline.org/conferences.html
for location and more details

Testimonies

A wife writes: "Thank you for tending to our needs and spending your time ministering to us. We are different people today and we are so thankful!"

A wife writes: "I have returned home with a new husband, a man of God with a newfound commitment to lead."

A husband writes: "Words cannot convey what took place this week. In short, God healed our hearts."

A wife writes: "Thank you for investing your heart and soul in our lives to point us to Jesus."

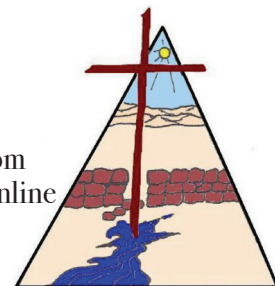
A pastor and his wife write: "God has refreshed and renewed us this week. God is using you and the ministry in mighty ways."

A husband writes: "I never believed my eyes and heart could have been opened like it has been this week. I came to the Lord after years of prayer from my wife. Only God could heal my heart so I can now give it to my wife."

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Isaiah 58:11-12