

The Sohmer Family Great News Ministries

June, 2024

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Our Time as Full-Time Missionaries is Coming to a Close:

Dear praying friends, I'm writing to let you know that **our time serving as full-time supported Missionaries is coming to a close.** It's strange saying goodbye to this **AMAZING 14 years**, and I want to brag on Jesus for what he has done (so many miracles!)

And **I want to thank you for your prayers, generous donations, and words of encouragement over the years.** This has been a team effort, and we couldn't have accomplished anything without you! Thank you!



Let's Brag On Jesus!!!

These years have been **OUTSTANDING.** Just a quick reminder of some of what Jesus has done through all of us:

- ✠ **Tens of thousands of people were presented with the Gospel Message who might not otherwise have heard.** Many took booklets, Bibles, DVDs.
- ✠ **The Gospel was shared with clarity, with love, and with urgency** at Beaches, underground in the Subway, in Housing Projects, on Campuses, at Camps, at Schools, in Parks, and other places where people gather.
- ✠ We've spoken with the broken, with the wealthy, with kids, with the elderly. We've reasoned with people from nearly every religion and country in the world.
- ✠ We've gone to **inner-city neighborhoods to bring the Gospel to children** through our Paint Board messages and Gospel Magic Tricks. For many, this was the only Church they would get all year.
- ✠ We've served at **Bible Camps** and reached kiddos with week-long Bible Study.
- ✠ We've **developed and published Evangelistic tools** that Missionaries around the world are using right now to be more effective in their outreach work!
- ✠ We've spoken with prostitutes (literally,) a Mob hitman (for real), a few Neo-Nazis (Jesus wants to redeem them too!), many inmates in prison, and we've seen people who hate Jesus soften and consider his claims.
- ✠ **Christians have been trained to go do the work of the ministry.** We've taught lots of Apologetics workshops with highschoolers, so instead of being influenced by the world, they can be ready Ambassadors for the Kingdom of God! We've even trained African Pastors and Missionaries in Evangelism and Apologetics online – so cool!!!
- ✠ We setup an Evangelistic website where unbelievers can go to meet Jesus on their own, in quiet, on their phone or other devices. <https://great-news.org> (please share this site!!!)
- ✠ We've demonstrated to Christians and non-Christians that Evangelism doesn't have to be obnoxious or rude. We can communicate life-giving truth and maintain people's dignity and worth. Christians really can be, and should be, the meekest people in the marketplace.
- ✠ **Jesus has used weak people like me to accomplish powerful things. To Christ be the glory!!!**



Why Now?

For the past few years it has become more clear that the work I feel most called to, (the Inner-City Bible Clubs, preaching at Prison, Teaching in Africa via Zoom, preaching at Camps,) can all be done with me as a Volunteer. I don't have to be a full-time paid Missionary. I've prayed, fasted, sought council, and even took a sabbatical to gain clarity and have decided that transitioning out of full-time Ministry is the right move at this time.

My commitment to the Great Commission is deeper than it's ever been, and I look forward to seeing How Jesus uses me through volunteering in many of the same ways I had been serving as a Missionary!

Also, and this is sensitive, for years I've been struggling with family issues that I'd rather remain private. These family issues have impacted my ministry work, and that is a big part of this tough decision.

I'm asking you to please consider my family to be private individuals, and not public figures. Please resist the urge to speculate or read into anything you hear about us. And please know that we have a strong and trusted core group of Pastors, Counsellors, and Friends who are looking out for us and know the details.

What We Need From You:

Please pray for us. This is a huge transition, and won't be easy.

Your giving is as vital as ever though the end of June. My last day is June 30. We need your regular giving to cover the costs of our final paycheck, health insurance, and ministry materials. If you forget to give in June, you can give until July 31 to retroactively cover if I received a reduced paycheck because my ministry account was too low.

If you're a regular donor, would you please keep giving until at least the end of June? If you want to discontinue your financial partnership, you may contact the **Reliant Gift Services Team** by phone (877-614-4600), email (gift.services@reliant.org), or online (www.reliant.org). If you do not contact Reliant and your gift is generated electronically, your automatic giving transactions will automatically stop after June 30.

Please feel free to contact Reliant or me with any other questions you have.

If you'd like to transfer your giving to another Reliant Missionary, might I suggest my great friend and mentor, Aaron Wentz? (*Aaron is in the photo on the right.*) God has raised up an impressive International Ministry at Michigan State University through Aaron, and Aaron is the brains behind training Pastors via Zoom in Africa, Asia, and South America. When you're done donating to us in June, please consider moving your gift to Aaron. Just call 877-614-4600 and tell them you want to transfer to Aaron Wentz, Fund Number 7637. Your gifts to him will be effectively used to reach many with the Gospel!



Please Keep In Touch:

It's in my DNA to stay in touch and share helpful Theological resources.

If you're on our email mailing list, you'll still hear from me from time to time. If you want to be on the list, contact me with your email address and I'll get you set up!

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace"
(Numbers 6:24-26).

I thank God for you! With love in Christ,

Mark (on behalf of Shelby, Vivienne, Juliana, Caleb & Gabriella)

