

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

We are so thankful to the Lord for bringing us through 2010. Looking back on last year, we had times of testing as well as times of rejoicing as God prepared a path for us to follow. The continued prayers of so many friends and family helped make the difference as we ended a successful year of ministry safely and in good health. It is rewarding for us to look back on 2010 and praise the Lord for allowing us to minister in 27 revival meetings, 9 concerts, and 3 conferences. We spent a total of 35 weeks on the road, traveling over 25,000 miles in the truck and 5th wheel trailer. By the end of the year, we traveled back and forth across Texas as well as ministering in Oklahoma and Arkansas in revival meetings. In addition to this, we made return trips with evangelist, Rick Ingle and his wife, Betty to minister to smaller churches in Florida as well as pioneer mission areas of Wisconsin. This past summer, we also participated again in the REAP (Rural Evangelism Associational Partnership) program with evangelist, Herman Cramer from Seguin, TX.

Even though we had an exciting year of ministry last year, there were still some very tough battles we had to face with continuing health issues. We started off the year with Paul having a stroke on Saturday, January 16th. He had just been released the week before from a 3 day stay in the hospital for dehydration. The doctors felt that the dehydration was due to problems relating to a very bad rash that had developed over his whole body. The rash started just before surgery to remove his colon in November, 2009. The medication he had been taking for over 2 years to try and help his colon problems had almost destroyed his immune system! We spent most of November and December, 2009 at home, recovering from the colon surgery and were hoping to start out the new year with a full schedule of travel. Paul's stroke was a real setback and a discouraging time for both of us. We began to wonder if we would be able to continue to travel and sing as we had been doing for 29 years in music evangelism or was this God's way of leading us in another direction of ministry. We also worried what the lasting effects of the stroke would do to Paul if he were not able to regain his health enough to travel again or even be able to sing and play the guitar and banjo. Thankfully, through the wonderful grace of God and the prayers of so many folks, Paul began to recover quickly. As we faced all these obstacles, the Lord gave us a scripture verse as a promise to take us through the dark days. Psalm 41: 3 says, "The Lord will sustain him on his sickbed. In his illness, Thou dost restore him to health." Paul spent 8 days in Baylor Medical Hospital and Rehabilitation Center in Dallas. When he went home, he enrolled for 3 weeks in a rehab center in Arlington. By the middle of February, we were back on the road traveling to Florida for revival meetings!

In March and April, we maintained a full revival schedule, traveling and singing in Florida, Oklahoma and Texas. On April 25th, Paul even had the opportunity to join two of his old college buddies and provide the music for a local church fund raising banquet at Cowboy's Stadium in Arlington. No, Dallas Cowboys owner, Jerry Jones did not attend!

In May, Paul went back into the hospital for 10 days to have the temporary ostomy bag removed and the J-pouch procedure from his colon surgery completed. Paul's strength continued to improve week by week and it still amazes us how God has totally restored his health. By the second week of June, we were back on the road again traveling and singing.

The summer started with 7 weeks of REAP revivals with evangelist Herman Cramer in small rural churches in the Neches River Baptist Association in the Crockett, TX area. Pleasant Grove Baptist Church was established in 1862. The building where the congregation meets now was built in the 1940's. In order to get to the church, we had to pull our trailers down a road that started out paved, then turned to gravel, and then to dirt just before we arrived at the church. We were at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church 2 years ago when we ministered in REAP revivals, so we knew about their location "way out in the boonies", but it was a pleasure to once again to be with these folks.

When we served in this area last time, we had a revival at Oaklawn Baptist Church, just outside of Groveton and a few weeks later we were at First Baptist Church, Groveton. This time both churches came together for a revival. We started at Oaklawn Baptist Sunday through Tuesday and then moved over to First Baptist for services Wednesday through Friday. We feel like we are with "family" when we are serving with these two congregations. There is always lots of fun and laughter, plus the Lord always seems to do something special during our time together. We began at Oaklawn Baptist Church on Sunday morning with 70 in attendance and a man visiting for the first time to the church was saved. What a great way to start the revival!

On Sunday evening, folks from First Baptist Church in Groveton joined us. Each service had a theme, and folks were supposed to dress accordingly with a fellowship after the service. Sunday evening was "Crazy Hat or Hair Night", and 2 young people from First Baptist came wearing some pretty ridiculous looking wigs. The next evening was "50's Night", and we could have sworn James Dean, Buddy Holly and Marlon Brando were in our service, but once again it was these guys, along with another friend that joined them in the fun. After the first 2 nights, we were excited about what these guys would come up with on "Hawaiian Night". Yep, you guessed it...they came wearing T-shirts, shorts, and grass skirts with big floppy hats!!! On Wednesday, we moved to First Baptist Church for the rest of the revival. Our first night there was "Old Fashioned Night" and these 3 young people showed up again. The first one walked in wearing round spectacles, suspenders, and a cane, tottering around like a little old man. The other 2 were playing his "grandsons" to help the "old geezer" get around! During the invitation that night, Trevor came forward to ask Jesus into his heart. Trevor had been attending church with Kyle, and both really got into the fun we were all having dressing up each night at the revival. On Thursday evening their other friend, Keaton, came forward to ask Jesus into his heart.

After the service, Kyle told the youth pastor that he was saved but had never been baptized. All three buddies were going to be baptized the next Sunday after the revival was over. Sometimes you just don't know what God is going to use to touch someone's life. If we had not had all those "crazy theme nights", these 3 young people may not have come to the services each night and made decisions for Christ during the revival.

We ended our summer with a pioneer mission trip to Wisconsin with Rick and Betty Ingle. We ministered in 5 churches while we were there. It was our first time at Fellowship Baptist Church in Waupaca. We were there for the Sunday morning service and then a fellowship meal afterwards. We were excited when the auditorium was packed. The worship time was fantastic as we all lifted our voices in praise. Rick preached and 3 folks accepted Christ as their Savior that morning.

It was our 3rd time to be with Westosha Baptist Church for a weekend revival. On Friday evening, we found out that pastor Jeff Graff had just been released from the hospital after kidney stone surgery. We couldn't believe he was there and decided to go on with the meeting, but we are so glad he did. On Friday evening, we began the revival with 20 in attendance, and a church member's grandson was saved after the service.

We left Westosha after the Sunday morning service and traveled to Racine to begin a revival at Immanuel Baptist Church on Sunday evening. The attendance was great with over 70 there for our first service. On student night, 13 young people came to the service. One of the teenage girls asked Jesus into her heart. Also that night an elderly woman came forward to receive Christ. She was attending a bible study in her apartment building that was started by one of the church members. She came to our service because that church member invited her.

In September, we came home to Texas to begin our fall revival schedule. We returned to First Baptist Church in New Boston for our 4th time. The meeting was part of a 40 day emphasis on revival. The staff had been leading the church to become more aware of the mission field around them. The attendance was fantastic throughout the week. The last night of the revival as Pastor Ken was about to wrap up the invitation, a man came down the aisle to get saved!

In October, we had the opportunity to minister for the second year in a row at a chaplaincy conference near Waxahachie, TX. Chaplains from hospitals, the military, prisons, rehab centers and other varied facets of ministry attend this conference each year from all over the world. These chaplains deal with people day in and day out who are in crisis situations and deep despair. It was such a blessing for us to lead them in worship. Their singing and personal testimonies of how God is working in their lives each and every day as they minister in some very difficult situations was a blessing to our hearts. Because of our recent hospital stays, we were able to share with them our gratitude for the job they do and how much we appreciate their ministry.

In addition to this conference, Christy was given the opportunity this past fall to lead worship on her own at an annual ladies conference at First Baptist Church in Dennis, TX. She said it was a little different for her because there were “no boys allowed” except in the sound booth! However, Paul did help run the sound system and power point presentation for her. It was a wonderful opportunity for her and the Lord blessed as women from all over the area attended. She did say afterwards that “Dale did miss Ole Roy singing with her”!

At Robert Lee Baptist Church near San Angelo, we joined Ingles’ again to minister in revival. We had a wonderful week there with great attendance and people getting saved every night. On Sunday morning, a 13 year old teenager came forward to make his public decision to follow Christ. On Monday evening, when we arrived at the church to get ready for the service, we noticed that he and several of his friends were sitting on the front steps of the church. We invited them in, but they said no. However, they did inquire about the “guest speaker” who would be preaching that night. We told them it was true and we would be leading the music with guitars, a banjo and a keyboard. We left them on the front steps, and about 10 minutes before the service the boys came in. That night 3 teenage girls prayed to receive Christ and one of the boys who we met on the front steps was saved. As the week went on, more students began to attend the revival. By the end of the week, 15 folks had made decisions for Christ.

Our last revival of the year was in Florida with Rick & Betty at Wallace Baptist Church near Pensacola. The pastor attended one of our meetings when we were there earlier in the year and invited us to come back to Florida. After the Sunday morning service, a 9 year old boy accompanied by his father came to the front to tell the pastor he had prayed to receive Christ. On Tuesday evening 2 more were saved.

We have often mentioned in our letters about our “guitar puppies”. They are young people who are learning to play guitar. We usually meet them on the platform standing in front of our guitars staring longingly at them. Their eyes light up when we let them play our instruments, and then ask them to bring their guitars for us to see. While at First Baptist Church in Freer, TX with evangelist Herman Cramer, we met 13 year old Jackie who is learning to play guitar. On Monday, the air conditioning went out in the auditorium and we had to meet in the fellowship hall for our service. Jackie brought her guitar Monday evening for us to see, and in a very impromptu service, we invited her to play with us and also lead a chorus. She was nervous, but did a fantastic job in taking the first steps to using her gifts in worship. When we are at Freer, we always conclude our revival on Wednesday evening with the service taking place at the First Baptist Youth Center downtown. When we arrived, we found Jackie sitting in the worship area playing her guitar and another young man beside her with his guitar. We found out there were several of the young people who were learning to play guitar. On Wednesday evenings they all bring their guitars and just sit around playing and singing.

However, when it came to worship time, they never used their guitars but sang to CD's. That night we were able to work with 3 guitarists and several singers to put together a "youth praise band". It was a great night singing with them, and during the invitation several were saved.

As we enter into our 30th year in music evangelism, we are excited about the New Year ahead for us in 2011. We will be traveling again to Florida during March and April to hold revivals in the Pensacola area with evangelist, Rick Ingle. As we have done in the past, we will be ministering in some of the smaller churches in the area and we will be responsible for paying for our own travel to Florida and our living expenses during our time there. We are also in the planning stages with Bro. Rick for a similar trip like this one to small churches in New Mexico during the month of May. Then in August, we will help out again in the REAP program with evangelist Herman Cramer for 2 weeks in the Greenville, TX area. We are asking folks to pray for as we schedule activities for the coming year. We will continue to update our web site and blog with pictures and activities as we travel and minister in Jesus' name!