

HIGHWAY NEWS

Meet USMC Lt Col Ret James
Rose from Pressing Forward
Express and Prime Inc.
04



A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. This I declare about the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him. For he will rescue you from every trap and protect you from deadly disease. He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with his wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection. Do not be afraid of the terrors of the night, nor the arrow that flies in the day. Do not dread the disease that stalks in darkness, nor the disaster that strikes at midday. Though a thousand fall at your side, though ten thousand are dying around you, these evils will not touch you. Just open your eyes, and see how the wicked are punished. If you make the Lord your refuge, if you make the Most High your shelter, no evil will conquer you; no plague will come near your home. For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go. They will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone. You will trample upon lions and cobras; you will crush fierce lions and serpents under your feet! The Lord says, "I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honor them. I will reward them with a long life and give them my salvation." Psalm 91 (NLT)



This psalm contains truly incredible promises of protection in the midst of trials. We would probably prefer it if God's protection meant we didn't have to go through trials. But to be delivered "from the snare of the fowler, and from the deadly pestilence," there must be someone trying to trap you or a pestilence threatening your life. And if "A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand," then you must be in a location where people are perishing right and left. Ps. 91:7 (KJV)

Because you have made God your refuge, and the Most High your dwelling place, no evil shall happen to you; neither shall any plague come near your dwelling. Ps. 91:9-10 (KJV)

God doesn't always promise to keep us from scary situations. But He does promise to be there for us in the trials. He's promising that we don't have to live in fear because He's got us. We can trust Him.

We all know good Christian people who've gone through terrible trials. They have been fired from jobs for their faith, seen their children die, battled chronic health issues for years, and a host of other things. But, even in the midst of everything falling apart, we have to believe God keeps His promises.

Perfect faithfulness is one of the things that makes God who He is; God. The promises of protection here are real. But He doesn't always keep His promises in the way we might want Him to. For example, the promises of angelic protection in verses 11-12 don't give you leave to do stupid things expecting God to save you. Remember the temptation of Christ in Matt. 4:5-7. And even if we're not doing anything wrong, sometimes the promise to keep us from evil happens on a spiritual level more than a physical one. Indeed, that point is brought out in the psalm's last verses.

God has a different perspective than we do. What's going on in our physical lives matters to Him, but He also sees more long-term. If He promises deliverance, it can be fulfilled in the next life just as easily as in this one. When He promises salvation, it can mean saving us from eternal death even more than from physical trials. "Because he has set his love on me, therefore I will deliver him. I will set him on high, because he has known my name. He will call on me, and I will answer him. I will be with him in trouble. I will deliver him, and honor him. I will satisfy him with long life, and show him my salvation." Ps. 91:14-16 (KJV)

Psalm 91 concludes with God speaking directly, confirming the promises made earlier in the Psalm. His words speak to a loving relationship He has with His people now and of how it will carry into the future. God is interested in helping and saving us in a more permanent manner than just assisting us with our struggles in this life although He will take care of that as well. He wants us to become part of His family for eternity; everything He does has eternal consequences in mind.

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**Serving the Trucking Community for over 70 years
and recently awarded the Platinum Seal from
Guidestar Candid**



James "JC" Rose, Lieutenant Colonel Retired, served in the Marine Corps for 30 years. His retirement from the military gave him a full pension. After settling in Fitzgerald, Georgia with his family, JC started driving for Prime Inc. and became a trainer in November of 2021. His experience in the Corps has brought a unique perspective to training his students as new members of the trucking community. When a student gets into the cab with James, they are committing to be raw iron ore and molded into steel that is worthy of the "tip of the spear." Training goes beyond just the logistics of learning how to drive; it includes discussing short and long term goals as well as the sacrifices of a career like this. JC often has veterans as part of this training program and relates the driver's trip assignments to a mission with a focus that starts at the pre-trip. Driving safely, arriving early, and understanding that someone is counting on them are also tenets of the way he trains. For some veterans, this is a match made in heaven allowing them to transition from their military service to a different kind of service. Once the trainees work through their super solo and super single load steps, they have received a foundation in more than a driving career. One of the slogans that is part of the two trucks that James owns is, "In order to stay in the fight, you first have to be in it."





One special part of JC's life as a driver is handing out challenge coins to veterans who he meets on the road. His special passion for veterans is fueling his future goals of owning a fleet of trucks that are driven by veteran drivers and dependents of veterans. With three sons in the navy plus a daughter who also serves in the medical field and a wonderfully supportive wife, he is so thankful for the life he feels led to live. The value of your character is very important to him. He

hopes to continue to pour into the trucking community's newest members saying, "It's all about what you do, who you are, and being 100% part of where you are."



HONOR A DRIVER; SHARE A STORY

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TESTIMONIAL

What a wonderful surprise to have our son Austin's truck on the cover of TFC Global's Highway News monthly magazine. So proud of what Kiser Trucking stands for and for all our drivers and employees.

MELISSA KISER
Kiser Trucking



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We send 5,000 issues of the magazine around the United States, Canada, and Africa.



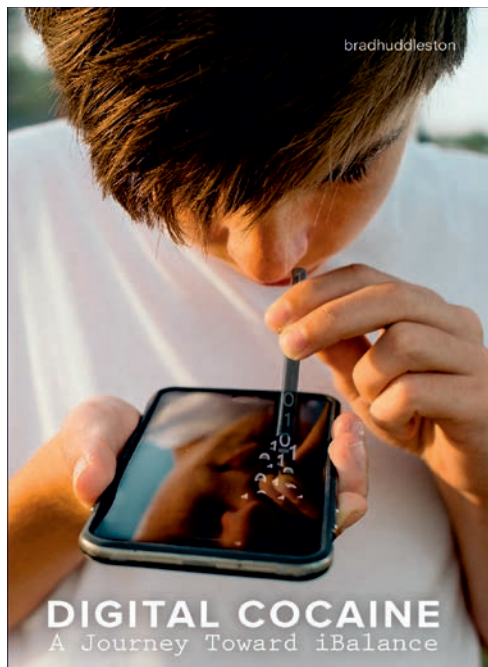
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We send the magazine digitally to a large mailing list who will see your truck and the feature article.



DIGITAL MARKETING

We use the photos and article information to post to our social media platforms.



DIGITAL COCAINE - PART 2

BRAD HUDDLESTON

In part 1, I established that, scientifically, brain scans of digital addicts are the same as those of cocaine or heroin addicts, as illustrated on the cover of Digital Cocaine by a thirteen-year-old boy snorting zeros and ones from his smart-phone.

You might be thinking (and I hope you are), “How can I tell if my child is addicted to their technology? I can’t afford a brain scan.”

Now we’re getting somewhere with God.

First, you must ask yourself a question before thinking about your children. If you’ve ever flown, you know that in the event of an unlikely emergency, if the oxygen masks drop, you must put one on yourself before you put one on your child. It’s the same principle here. You have to determine your level of digital

addiction before you try to deal with anyone else’s. Otherwise, you will not handle them correctly. And you don’t need a brain scan to determine whether or not you’re addicted to your gadgets, including television.

The first step is to ask a trusted and honest friend if they think you’re addicted. Rule number one is not to get mad at their response, especially if they acknowledge you have an issue with having too much screen time. The second and most simple step is going without your devices for two days. If you have anxiety and find yourself making many excuses (even legitimate ones) as to why you must have your device(s), then you have an addiction. Notice I said “legitimate” excuses. I am not necessarily saying you’re sinning with your devices. I’m only saying you’re addicted.

Our brains do not give us a pass because our interaction with technology is legitimate. The truth is, whenever we interact with our screens, we experience too much stimulation, regardless of the content. So, for example, when parents say to me, “I only allow my child to use devices for ‘educational purposes,’” I don’t believe them. Well, I do, and I don’t. I think they use their technology for education, but you and I know they’re also using it for many other things.

I digress.

Before we move on to dealing with children, it might surprise you that globally, the average age of a video gamer is 35. In other words, video gaming is more of a problem among adults than children. And in my experience, mothers are just as addicted to social media as their daughters, which is another reason parents must deal with their digital addiction before dealing with their children. You can’t have a parenting model that says, “Do as I say, not as I do.” Parents have to be the example of Jesus in the home.

The second step is to take devices away from children and teens politely. If they react with tantrums, anger, violence, etc., they’re addicted. No brain scans are needed.

So, what do we do about it? In short, we must go through a thorough digital detox. Then, just as when an alcoholic dries out, we must stay out of the bar. Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26 (NIV)

During next two months, I’ll delve deeper into solutions for digital addiction from my new book, Digital Rehab: Learning to Live Again in the Real World. For more information, visit bradhuddleston.com.



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**TFC GLOBAL...
A MINISTRY OF PRESENCE**

Chaplain's Corner

By Craig Maart



Chaplaincy Training Institute

This month's Chaplain's Corner article is a fun one to write. Anytime I get to report we are adding chaplains, it is a good day and something we need to report to everyone. This past May 7-11, 2023, was the latest Chaplains Training Institute. We had 7 students in this class: two from Massachusetts, two from Illinois, and three from Pennsylvania. We already have people contacting me about the next CTI training. This is good. Really good!

CTI (Chaplains Training Institute) is a 20-hour intensive and is open to anyone to take. All chaplains from TFC who are in the field or coming on board as a chaplain have taken this training. TFC Global is a Chaplains International certified training center. Anyone who takes this training will leave with a deep understanding of chaplaincy, protocols, and procedures of various contexts and emergency service providers (police, fire, prison, hospital). There is in-depth training on counseling methods and how to help people replace old habits and handle intense scenarios such as how to step in to help a person threatening suicide.

You do not have to be a chaplain or working to become a chaplain to take this training. Anyone can take this training. We have had people who feel called to vocational ministry but not in a local church setting, so they take the training to see if chaplaincy is something God and others affirm in them. By taking this training, you are not obligated to work toward chaplaincy with TFC Global. You could take this training and see how this moves you toward ministry or not. Of course, we would love for you to talk to us and apply for chaplaincy with TFC Global, but I want to clearly communicate this is open for anyone to participate in: paid chaplains, non-paid chaplains, women, men, counselors, young, old and everywhere in between.

Since TFC Global is now serving as chaplains in trucking companies, the experience and skills provided from this CTI training will be used right away. Trucking companies require a trained and skilled chaplain, and we are providing that. This training information and skills gained will also benefit any interaction a chaplain will have with a driver or employee at a truck stop.

So, if you would like to find out more about serving as a chaplain, contact me directly at craigm@tfcglobal.org. I love talking about it and welcome the conversation. You would benefit greatly from this training. You never know how God will use it to further the work of His Kingdom. Don't ignore the probable movement of God in your life to pursue a calling. Email me today.



Leave a Legacy of Faith for TFC Global's future ministry to the trucking community.



You know the important work that TFC Global does. You understand that while some organizations are treating the symptoms of a broken world—sexual violence, divorce, fatherlessness, addiction, greed, and suicide—we are called to bring healing at the root-cause level.

As an investor in this important work, we invite you to take the long view along with us. Through your prayerful, planned giving to the work God is doing through TFC Global, you're building the kingdom of God and a legacy of changed lives.

In our **Planned Giving Options** below, to see a variety of wise, innovative ways for you to give. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of the men and women of the trucking community, their families, and the trucking community that will last not only long into the future, but for eternity.

- * Stocks and bonds
- * Real estate
- * Retirement Assets
- * Insurance benefits

Our faith partners support us financially because they support our vision — support it because they know a driver, are a driver themselves or own a trucking company — support it because God has called them to give.

For more information email info@tfcglobal.org or call our office at 717-426-9977.

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- Tax-free distribution from your IRA
- Potentially reduce or eliminate your required minimum distribution this year
- Ability to direct your gift to any program of TFC Global

For more information, contact us at info@tfcglobal.org or call 717-426-9977.



TruckStruck

By Lynn Bolster

THE DAY THE WHEELS CAME OFF THE BUS

This month let's take on a new adventure - a journey into the world of tour bus driving because it's that time of year! We know our hearts are with the truckers but face it, anyone who can drive 47 passengers in a bus for multiple days and not want to scream in frustration must be a special type of driver. Jim was once my husband. He was also a trucker but decided to get back into tour driving, because as he used to say, you can see lots of neat places, get more respect than truckers get and best of all the freight unloads itself - even though it talks back!

We never knew what type of group we would end up with until the tour began. This day we were sent to pick up a senior group which would be travelling through West Virginia. Our route had us crossing the New River Gorge Bridge, which is the third highest bridge in the US. Now I don't know about you but I'm a little squirrely on bridges and this one is incredibly high, 876 feet above the New River. That is scary enough but what happened next sure didn't add any security to our crossing. As we rolled along, our group of elderly women began to shout, "Mr. Jim, Mr. Jim!" Jim glanced into his rear view mirror into the back of the bus, saw nothing amiss so just continued on. Their shouts became louder to the point where he got on the sound system and asked what was wrong as he checked his side mirror. Then he realized what all the distress was about. One of our rear tires had come off and was rolling along side of the bus, keeping pace with the bus! Luckily we had two wheels on each rear side so we weren't at a total loss. So not only are we having bridge height anxiety but now one wheel down, also creating a safety hazard for other motorists and freaking out the passengers! Other vehicles were blasting by us so fast and no wonder, they may have thought other wheels might follow suit. Since the lugs were obviously not torqued tight enough, we were astonished this hadn't happened sooner. How we didn't have a total wreck is a miracle. All we could do with the runaway wheel was to let it run itself out, see where it landed, and go retrieve it. So that we did and were able to limp the bus off the bridge to get it serviced.

On another trip, we were dispatched to pick up a church group to go to Atlantic City, NJ. It turned out to be mostly senior citizens, which once again was fine with us because they were usually more polite and clean about the bus. They brought a number of food coolers with them which wasn't unusual, until we announced it was time to leave.

Then came the yelling, "where is the spirit chest, we got to have the spirit chest!" We figured it was some part of their church practices as we witnessed several men loading a foot locker onto the back seat. With that we fired up the bus and took off. The trip was fine until about an hour in the chest was unlocked and things began to get a little wild. Well, the spirit chest was just that, full of liquor, oh, THOSE spirits - we never saw that coming!

And finally, what do you do with a bus load of very privileged boys who were acting, shall we say rather bratty? They had trashed the bus on the way to their skiing destination with gum on the seats, garbage everywhere, spilled drinks, you name it. Jim wasn't having it so he read them the riot act about respecting other people's property. Obviously the chaperone wasn't doing his job so upon arrival we told them they would have to clean the bus. And that they did. To seal the deal, on the way home, we hit an icy patch. As we slid just about sideways down that steep mountain in the dark, Jim expertly guided the bus to safety (he knew exactly what he was doing and why) while the boys screamed and cried out. When we dropped them off, they were very respectful to Jim apologizing for their behavior. Lesson learned - never anger the man behind the wheel who is in charge of your life. This trip was a good example of people creating their own storms and then getting mad when it rains.

Three cheers to all our tour drivers out there!



Lynn Bolster loves anything to do with trucks and has been active in the trucking industry since the 1980s. She drove over the road for 12 years with her now deceased partner of 22 years, Bill. She has her Bachelor's degree in Journalism and a Master's degree in Recreational and Leisure Studies Management with a focus on health and fitness. Her Master's thesis was: "The Recreational Pursuits and Health Habits of Long Distance Truckers." She has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *USA Today* and has written for various trucking industry publications. She was the sales manager covering three truck stops for several years. Lynn is on the Board of Directors for TFC Global.

TFC GLOBAL: FIGHTING THE SPIRITUAL AND LIVES OF THE PEOPLE IN THE TRUCKING COMMUNITY

Why is the development of a chaplaincy program to the trucking community that includes caring for families so important?



Physical care because:

- * Unhealthy habits due to long hours on the road
- * Work environment is characterized by the following: physical care, erratic schedules, disrupted sleep patterns, and lack of support systems.

Psychological/Behavioral care because:

- * Heavy workloads can cause the following: burnout, sexual addictions, substance abuse, diminished cognitive function
- * High levels of stress can cause the following: premature aging, myocardial infarction, extreme fatigue

Spiritual care because:

- * There is an openness to faith topics when life is difficult
- * Religion is often used to increase physical health
- * Religion can change one's outlook and perspective, becoming more positive, increasing purpose and focus.
- * Religion is often related to greater marital and family stability, more productive employees, and less turnover



TFC Global provides a comprehensive program of corporate chaplaincy services, plus the added benefit of spiritual care.

There are many benefits to spiritual care:

- * Increased coping skills
- * Improved stability and resilience
- * Improved ability to handle stress
- * Reduced stress-related health issues
- * More content and satisfied employees

Would you like to learn more?

ITUAL BATTLE FOR THE HEARTS THE TRUCKING COMMUNITY

ng for the physical, psychological and spiritual needs of our professional drivers and their

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d cognitive ability.
hypertension, stroke,
remely high blood pressure.

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an integrated, holistic, and professional care program catered to your company's needs through our network
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fit of being on-call for emergent issues. This level of care is priced dependent on the company's size.

efits to this program. Check out the following:

ills
at home and work
regulate emotions and food choices
ted
eliable employees with lower turnover

TFC Global also offers additional programs for the trucking community and corporate environment.

* Human Trafficking Awareness training under the Gateway to Freedom Foundation's direction

* Pornography addiction intensive through a weekend retreat

ou consider hosting an ICTA event at your church or company? Would you also think about inviting our human
trafficking expert to speak at your church, school, company orientation, young men/women's groups?
For more information, contact us at info@tfcglobal.org or call our office at 717-426-9977.

Hope Rises With Every Family Reunited

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Respect and Dignity for the North American Truck Driver

**Truckersfinalmile is a non-profit
that reunites truck drivers with
their families in the event of
loss of life, serious injury,
illness, and crisis.**

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Respect and Dignity for the North American Truck Driver

In The News

In this section we will be sharing stories about drivers or their families that have been helped through this organization.

In May driver Dale became permanently disabled ending his trucking career. In partnership with Dale's hometown in Kansas, truckersfinalmile provided the materials for a wheelchair ramp for his home that will increase his mobility and the accessibility to his home.

Air Force veteran and over-the-road driver, Steven was found deceased in his truck at the age of 47. Truckersfinalmile was able to negotiate the body preparation, transportation and necessary certificates to get Steve home to his family in Texas.

In April, driver, Duston was found dead in his truck near Ocean City, New Jersey at the age of 41. Truckersfinalmile paid for the transportation and other logistics to get him reunited with his family in Missouri.

Husband and wife, Kordon and Lexxione died in a tractor trailer crash in Oklahoma at age 29 and 21, survived by their four children. Truckersfinalmile got the two bodies to their families in Arkansas and Mississippi, making all of the necessary arrangements.

To support this non-profit organization, donate at www.TFCGlobal.org/give. Your contribution will be used to reunite drivers and their families.

For more stories on people who have been helped, check out their website at www.truckersfinalmile.org. Follow them on Facebook -- @truckersfinalmile.org.

GATEWAY TO FREEDOM

Professional Drivers and the Fight Against Human Trafficking: Why They're Vital to Ending It

One of the more promising developments in anti-human trafficking work, over the past 14 years, is the involvement of the trucking community. In the early 2000's when anti-human trafficking awareness started growing, the trucking community was identified as a key industry in the fight. It was rightly observed that professional drivers are one of the professions on the front lines of the issue, as they are the eyes and ears on the road. Who better to train the red flags to look out for and equip with the national human trafficking hotline to call. Through organizations like Truckers Against Trafficking (and others) professional drivers received victim identification training and the results have been life saving. Over the past 12-14 years the training has helped professional drivers identify countless victims of sex trafficking, enabling them to get the services that they need, as well as helped law enforcement make arrests.

A great start, but there is more the professional driving industry can do

Whereas this contribution from the professional driver industry is tremendously positive, the truth is that there is more the industry can and must do. To answer what that is, let me first ask another question. Have you ever wondered why prostitution is so commonly spotted at truck stops? Or why pimps and traffickers view these locations as some of their most lucrative? It's commonly understood the reason why this is, is because the demand for prostitution is prevalent within the professional driving community; and this buyer demand is the root of the problem. Therefore, what the industry can and must do to help combat sex trafficking is to reduce the demand for prostitution from within its ranks.

Companies must expand human trafficking training to include demand reduction

To neglect this is counterproductive to all the good it is doing. It is not enough to help identify and free victims of sex trafficking, while creating the demand for more victims to be exploited. That is like a person helping to put out a fire that he or she started in the first place. The question then for the industry is what can it do to effectively address the demand. For starters professional driver companies must expand their human trafficking training to include demand reduction. This has to be a non-negotiable moving forward. The training must be relevant, non-shame based, and solution oriented.



This is why the Gateway to Freedom Foundation provides anti-human trafficking training to truck companies that addresses victim identification as well as issues related to the buyer demand. Our training helps companies reduce liability, increase worker health and well-being, while helping end sex trafficking at the same time. To learn more about our training email us at gateway@tfcglobal.org.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS & GIVING OPPORTUNITIES



This month we wanted to share with you a note from our director in Tanzania, Dr. Norbert Mbwiliza. We hope you enjoy reading this as much as we did when we received it.

Dear Reader and Sponsor of God's work in Tanzania:

First of all, I would like to thank you for the way you have been praying for us. Because of your prayers in March, we were very successful in covering 624 drivers, of which 189 were able to accept Jesus as the Lord and Savior of their lives. The ministry of TFC Global Tanzania has been like a star; it has returned a smile that had been lost for a long time to drivers and their families.

It is with the same joy that I celebrate April where together with Tanzania and partner countries in east and central Africa we have succeeded in reaching 141 drivers where more than 50 drivers have confessed Jesus as the Lord and Savior of their lives.

As you know for Christ when one person repents it is joy, I try to imagine how it was for 50 people when they repented in the month of April? What kind of joy was there in heaven? How do you feel about your donations that caused many people to be saved? One of the things that made our hearts happy was the acquisition of a new motorcycle that was bought with the funds you so generously provided. It will be used to take the staff to the field at border crossings. In addition, passengers can hire a ride; their payment will contribute to the ministry by paying for the maintenance and fuel for the bike as well as salaries for the staff.



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS & GIVING OPPORTUNITIES



Ministry Stories:

"I have been working with Chaplain Francis as the director of the Mwanza border post team for 11 months. We are so thankful for the 100 Chichewa Bibles we were able to pass out to the truckers. We were able to distribute them to many drivers and their families who only speak this language. We are making new friends and contacts in this wonderful ministry. Keep praying for additional Bibles in this language and motorcycles that we can use to increase our ministry." *Martin Banda*

"I have been a truck driver for many years but looking for a Chichewa language Bible. I am really favored and blessed today to have my own Bible from TFC Global Malawi. What you have done to me, please do it to my fellow truckers as this is a need for everyone as a trucker to have a Bible and be reading it. Thank you." *Ganizani Masiya, driver for Malinga Moyo Transporters, Blantyre, Malawi*

Ministry Accomplishments:

1. Recruited 65 people from different churches and ministries who want to be trained as chaplains
2. Served the Zalewa in Neno district where 85 fuel tanker drivers were working
3. Distributed 12,000 Bible tracts in the Chichewa language.
4. Operated the WhatsApp group Hearts for Truckers

LEARNING AND USING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT

Christopher L. Scott

In a recent interview, NASCAR driver, Jimmy Johnson revealed his “secret sauce” for his racing success. In his career he won five straight NASCAR championships and later won two more which tied him with Richard Petty and Dale Earnhardt Sr. But Jimmy had a “secret sauce” that he and his crew chief followed that led to their success.

It was testing. Jimmy and his team would drive to racetracks during the week and test their cars for hours at a time. They'd try different shocks in the car springs, different air pressures in the tires, or adjust the suspension higher or lower. He describes those testing trips to different race tracks as the “secret sauce” that led to his success.

For believers, we too have a secret sauce. Ours does not deal with practice in race cars. Ours is about love for others. Paul describes that love in the thirteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians:

“Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things”
(1 Corinthians 13:4-7, NASB)



When someone says something mean, we respond in love by being kind (even when we want to say something mean back at them). When someone fails to follow through on a commitment, we respond in love by offering them another chance (even when we want to explain how much the person disappointed us).

Last week I arrived at a coffee shop in which I had prearranged (and prepaid) for a large batch of coffee to be prepared for me to take to the public school staff next to our church. As I arrived at the coffee shop the coffee was not ready, I waited fifteen minutes for them to gather the coffee, cups, lids, stir sticks, creamer, and sugar together. All that stuff was supposed to happen before I arrived. When the young barista handed me the coffee fifteen minutes later I smiled and handed her a five dollar bill as a personal tip. Love!

Love is our secret sauce that leads to our success as believers when we interact with the world and our community of believers.

—
Christopher L. Scott serves as senior pastor at Lakeview Missionary Church in Moses Lake, Washington. Through his writing ministry more than 250,000 copies of his articles, devotions, and tracts are distributed each month through Christian publishers. Learn more at ChristopherLynnScott.com.



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TRUCKING TRUTH

By Brett Aquila

THE BACKING RANGE AT TRUCK DRIVING SCHOOL -- IT'S LIKE CLOWN SOUP FOR THE SOUL

It's your first day out on the backing range at truck driving school and you've never felt so clumsy and stupid in all your life. It's like a circus. Trucks are twisting and turning in all directions more like they're chasing a chicken than purposely being aimed at a target. It's hilarious. And fun. And embarrassing.

Getting your truck driving career off the ground is like eating a big fat faceful of humble pie. But driving a rig sure is cool! So try to enjoy the experience as much as possible and most importantly, be prepared to embarrass yourself nearly to death about 10,000 times!

As Natural As Three Left Thumbs

There's nothing that comes natural when learning to drive a rig. The progressive gearing, air brakes, double clutching, wide turns - it's all clumsy and difficult at first. But learning to back these things up? Are you kidding me? That's the worst. I mean, the stupid thing bends in the middle! Whose idiot idea was that???

There's A First Time For Everything... Unfortunately

So here we go. You're backing up a rig for the first time and you discover right away that you turn the wheel to the left and the trailer goes to the right. Great! How could that be confusing? On top of that, you turn the wheel but nothing happens for a few seconds. It takes the trailer maybe two or three seconds to begin reacting to your steering inputs. Great! Nothing like having to watch your clumsiness unfold in slow motion. So you take a shot at backing up in a straight line. Soon after you begin rolling you realize the trailer is veering off course and you make a correction. Unfortunately it takes a while for the trailer to get the message. When the trailer finally begins to react you realize you had forgotten something - turning the wheel to the left makes the trailer go to the right!

The trailer was getting off track but now it's waaaaaay off track! You figure there's only one thing you can do - wind that steering wheel the other way like you're

cranking on a money-making machine. Finally the trailer starts to listen and it begins going in the direction you want it to go, but it's too late. You made a mess of it. You look around and you realize:

- *You've squashed two orange marker cones*
- *Your truck is supposed to be straight but it's nearly at a right angle*
- *The instructor is running at you, waving his arms, and yelling "Left! Right! Just stop!!"*
- *Half the class is watching and they're all pointing at you and laughing like crazy!*

Perfect. "I'm an idiot!" you think. Welcome to trucking. Check your ego at the door and join the rest of the clowns in the class. It's going to be a fun ride.

Even God Has To Be Laughing

Looking down on the backing range from above must look like God is stirring up a big pot of knucklehead stew. Nobody can seem to get those trailers to go where they're supposed to go. Everyone that's watching is either laughing, yelling, or pointing at something dumb that someone is doing. Everyone that climbs out of a truck after taking their turn is looking for a place to hide before they die of embarrassment.

You Can Do It!!

For the instructors it's like watching a three year old diligently trying to figure out a Rubik's Cube. Their tongue is sticking out, their fingers clenching hard, their face so serious! You know there's no chance on earth they're going to figure it out anytime soon. But the fact that they're trying so hard is what makes it so adorable!!! Cute little truck driving students. When they finally start making progress you just want to make them raise their arms in the air like a little kid and say "Sooooooo big!!!!!" :-)

Brett Aquila has been a driver for over 30 years. His website www.truckingtruth.com allows new drivers be successful in the crazy career of driving truck.



Comparison to Contentment

This article is an account of my journey from comparison and condemnation to peace and contentment. I hope it will encourage you on your journey. I functioned in a state of semi-condemnation for decades. It seemed to me that no matter how hard I tried, I could never do enough or be enough. I wanted to please God and earn His well-done. I wanted to sense the smile of my Father on my efforts to extend His kingdom. This was not always the case, and in retrospect, I can see that this pattern of behavior emerged years later when I began earnestly seeking to follow Christ. When I first heard the gospel as a teen, I learned of God's love for me, His offer of forgiveness from past sins, a fresh start as a new creature, and the promise of eternal life. I happily responded to this generous offer of unconditional love and sensed the presence of God. I was the first person in my family to have this born again experience and meet Jesus.

My faith walk was not consistent during my high school years, however a few years later, after reading *The Cross and the Switchblade*, I chose to follow Jesus more fully. My life verse became "seek first the kingdom of God." (Matthew 6:33) After completing college, God led me to attend seminary and prepare for a life of Christian service. While there I met my wife Sandra and we were married the day after graduation. My first foray into falling short of pleasing God, appeared as I was reading missionary biographies. It was probably a mistake to read the lives and adventures of these high octane saints, but I was young and zealous. I would try and emulate some of their habits and practices, but could not measure up. It was many years before someone gave me the sage advice to imitate their faith, and not their lifestyle. "Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith." (Hebrews 13:7) Once again I became discouraged, and God seemed distant.

I have since discovered that condemnation can often be the Achilles' heel of believers who are seeking God's best. I not only wanted to be pleasing to God myself, but also wanted to have a family that was pleasing to God. Not long after we were married, God blessed our union with four beautiful sons. When our oldest was approaching school age, we learned of home schooling, attended the first of many wonderful conferences, and decided to home educate our children.

During these early years of the homeschooling movement, the conferences were often held in churches, and began with all the attendees gathered in the sanctuary. We began with the pledge of allegiance, prayer, and worship. These families believed in being fruitful and multiplying and often numbered ten or more. I am generalizing, but they dressed similarly, raised goats or sheep, ground and baked their own bread, and all played a musical instrument. Since I was new to the concept of home schooling and God's design for Christian families, I assumed this was the standard for a godly home.

After many years of seeing these families at conferences, and later on the covers of homeschooling magazines, I decided to join their ranks and purchased recorders for each member of our family. My only training on this instrument was from elementary school but reasoned that we could figure it out. I often have good ideas, but lack the diligence to follow through. After a few unsuccessful forays we gave up. I fell back into my state of not measuring up and what I call semi-condemnation. This pattern of emulating other families and comparing our family to theirs continued, from academics, to hobbies, and other worthwhile activities. In the midst of my pursuit, God began to patiently encourage me not to look at others but be grateful for who we were. For we had many reasons to be thankful; our oldest son was exhibiting signs of being gifted, our other boys were growing and flourishing in their own gifting, but still I struggled.

During this season our fourth son was born with Down Syndrome. After multiple surgeries, we were all hurting; we left the ministry and moved to another state to regroup and heal. When I finally began to embrace and acknowledge the grief associated with having a special needs boy, God gently revealed that one of the reasons for my depression was that I now had a son who was handicapped. It hurts me to write this next sentence, but I realized that I had developed pride in my family, and now we were damaged. What an awful insight into my dark heart. I repented and began to heal. God continued to work in my heart and one day I attended an event where I was to speak the next morning. That evening my third son was sitting next to me as we watched a well-dressed family play a variety of instruments with aplomb. This was the kind of family that pushed my comparison buttons. But that night I realized that God had brought me to a new place of contentment and peace. As I watched them play, a new script played in my mind. I found myself rejoicing with them and saying "praise God for your special gifts and talents, but my family can out-burp your family any day of the week!" This was a major breakthrough for me to be able to be happy for another home and grateful for my own! God had so worked that I was now able to begin appreciating that the Demmes are the Demmes. We make a wonderful family just the way we are. We are who God designed us to be. We have our own unique gifts and talents to offer the body of Christ, just as every other family does.

At Easter this year, twenty family members and a few cousins hung out for the day. We all pitched in with the food and the cleanup. We currently represent four different churches and denominations, and still love and care for each other. It was a soul-satisfying day. We are who we are, and my wife and I are grateful for each one of our children and grandchildren.

Steve Demme is a highly sought after speaker and author on home schooling and curriculum information as well as a board member for TFC Global. Visit www.demmelearning.com for more details.



What a situation.

Here I am in Queens New York, trying to make a delivery.

I left my stop and quickly realized I did not have room to make a right turn as I had planned.

So instead of a planned right, I was forced to turn left. Only now I faced a low bridge two blocks ahead.

I finally got turned around, just to find out I only thought I knew how to get back to the highway.

I missed the highway and ended up in Narnia somewhere trying to get turned around yet again.

As a young man or woman dreaming of the future I am sure many of us had plans, steps, and maybe even contingencies. The problem is that in all our planning, we didn't once conceive of the idea we would have to turn left instead of right. Maybe it was a health problem, a job change, an addiction, or a divorce.

Now here we are, a few years down the road. We feel lost, confused, and we still don't know what went wrong.

Last month we looked at the heart being the wellspring of life and that God has designed us to live from the inside to the outside. We then built on it to see how behavior follows the beliefs in our hearts.

Even though we have little understanding of the subject, Jesus had a lot to say about believing.

The words, "believe", "believes" or "believed" are in the book of John 89 times! To give us a frame of reference, the words "love", "loved" and "loves" are in there 47 times.

It is addressed even in one of the most widely known verses of the Bible. John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever BELIEVES in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." NKJV

Believes in Him.

Our beliefs drive our lives. Good or bad.

Not our minds.

Just look at addiction. Self-destruction that has almost no logical sense.

I have never met anyone who likes their addiction. So if they don't like it, why continue?

The problem is deeper than the mind. When the problem has no logic to it we can follow the roots into our hearts to find the belief that is driving us. Most of the time, we will find a belief that defies God.



The gospel is God's answer to the brokenness in all of our hearts.

He offers everlasting life starting now based on His resources, not ours.

He only asks that we take a leap of faith and believe.

Shawn Weaver serves as the senior pastor at ACTS Covenant Fellowship and as a driver for NHT Logistics.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

13-15, JULY

Iowa 90 Jamboree
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15-16, JULY

Expedite Expo
Fort Wayne, IN

15, JULY

Susquehanna Prayer Breakfast
First Baptist Church, Sunbury, 8:00 am
Contact Don at 570-374-9479

21-23, JULY

GearJammer Magazine Truck Show
Greenfield, MA

If you were to die today, where would you spend eternity? You can know for sure.

- A. Admit you are a sinner. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)
- B. Believe in Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins and for eternal life. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16)
- C. Confess Jesus as your Savior and Lord, and turn from your sins. "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9)

To accept this free gift and ask Jesus to be the Lord of your life, pray the prayer below.

"Lord Jesus, I know that I'm a sinner. I believe that You died on the cross and shed Your blood to pay the penalty for my sins. Please forgive me and come into my life. You are my Savior and Lord."

We would love to hear about your salvation. Email TFC Global at info@tfcglobal.org or call 717-426-9977. Resources will be sent to help you grow in your faith.



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In Memory of or In Honor of:

In Memory of Doug Olander
by Robin Hubbard

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