



Rick Barton Ministries

June 2023

"Come Away...and Rest a While"

"The apostles gathered together with Jesus; and they reported to Him all that they had done and taught. And He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest a while." (For there were many *people* coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.) They went away in the boat to a secluded place by themselves."

BUT

"The people saw them going, and many recognized *them* and ran there together on foot from all the cities and got there ahead of them. When Jesus went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and He felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things." (Mark 6:31-34)

God's word tells us to take times of rest. The Father rested, the Son rested, and we are told to take time off for our bodies, minds, and spirits to refresh. I frequently hear pastors and missionaries share about their fatigue, and even sickness, due to overwork. As a young worker for Jesus, I remember a pastor telling me that he, "would rather burn out than rust out", and I began to adopt that mindset (I'm afraid I may still err in that direction). However, looking back over 54 years of ministry, I have to say that neither of those extremes are biblical. We certainly don't want to be "lazy servants" of our Lord. On the other hand, our Lord told His disciples to "come away and rest".

Yes, there are times when our plans for respite are interrupted as Jesus' were, still, His directions to take rest are true and necessary. Please encourage your pastor to take regular as well as extended periods of rest. He will serve the Lord, his family, and you, more effectively. Please pray that Melva and I will know how and when to do so as well.

May was a wonderful month of ministry as we spent more time at home in Gunnison, holding our Saturday Night services, teaching a systematic theology class, and visiting shut-in saints. We were privileged to conduct a service in Pitkin CO as well. A special highlight was visiting our daughter Rebekah and granddaughter Kailani for an afternoon of fun in an adventure park in Glenwood Springs. I was asked to do a fire program for golf course managers and we were able to arrive early and have a great time with Kai and Bekah!

Melva's Corner: One day, in my quiet time, three things came to mind; to love God more, to hear Him more, and to obey Him more. We know a family with 4 young children who have recently experienced the death of a family member, followed by a fire destroying the home they were renting. As I walked into a store the Lord impressed me to buy towels for the children. That evening I gave them to their mother and a big smile appeared on her face. She told me that she had been hoping to be able to buy the children new towels. I pray I can hear God's voice more, and in faith obey what He tells me. We are truly blessed when we follow His leading!

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1st Responder New Testaments and Devotionals: In May, we had requests for New Testaments and devotionals from chaplains in Canada, New York, Michigan, Alabama, New Hampshire, and Florida. One chaplain in Florida shared that he had been a fireman for 13 years when his county decided to appoint a chaplain. He volunteered and went through the training. When he finished, he was given a case of Answering the Call New Testaments and now needed more! We discovered a chaplain we had supplied had passed on his first case! The new chaplain shared, "Without you, I would be buying these out of my pocket". He had no budget to purchase the New Testaments. That's why we don't charge. Many first responder chaplains have a very limited budget. You are God's instruments in helping these faithful workers. They say, "Thank You"!

Upcoming Lord willing: In addition to our Saturday Night Worship service and class:

- June 3rd: Celebration of Life and Wedding
- June 4: Tin Cup Community Church
- July 9: Tin Cup Community Church followed by a wedding.
- July 23: Sargents Community Church
- September 3: Tin Cup Community Church

Board Meeting: We plan to have our annual RBM Board meeting August 29th at Glen Eyrle Christian Conference Center outside of Colorado Springs. We'd really appreciate your prayers and any input you might want to share. We have a wonderful board and are so thankful for each of them!

Family: Lord willing, we will travel to Los Angeles in mid-June to spend some time with Steve and Annie (Samuel and Abigail) as well as Tim and Sara (Elizabeth and Sydney). Joy and our granddaughters Hannah and Bethan were able to go back to Scotland for a week with friends.

Finances: By God's grace and your faithful support, every bill is paid, and we are able to help others. Thank You! As the Apostle Paul said, "Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account." (Phil. 4:17)

Prayer Requests: Please pray for the anointing of the Holy Spirit to be upon us as we share. Please continue to pray for the Lord to heal the blood clots in Melva's lungs, our thumbs, my knees, and voice. Also, please pray He shows us who is to come alongside us in ministry leadership. We are so grateful for your prayers!

The Lord Jesus has showered His grace on us. We know we are unworthy and give Him praise!

By His grace and to His glory, Rick and Melva

Rick + Melva



Thank you Veterans!



With faithful coworker and Vietnam veteran Tony Cecere at the Pitkin service.