



Rick Barton Ministries

September 2023

"May All Who Come Behind Us Find Us Faithful"*

Who has influenced your life? All of us have people who have influenced our lives, good or bad! In my life I can think of many. Two of the best passed into glory in August. Ray Hildebrand, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes song leader who took me under his wing in 1969 and mentored me in leading worship, joined the heavenly chorus August 18. Ken Henry, a retired submariner that I only met once, but who helped underwrite our sending thousands of Fire/EMS and Police New Testaments to chaplains around the world, answered the Master's call a week later. Men who truly left a legacy in our lives and thousands of others!

Whose life are you influencing? Whether we like it or not, all of us are influencing those around us! For good or for bad. But what type of influence are we to be? Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (John 5:16) Some translations read, "Your light must shine". I sometimes wear a t-shirt that says, "Live your life so the preacher doesn't have to lie at your funeral". I guess the point is, do those who come behind us see a faithful follower of Jesus who helps "light their way"? (* Find us Faithful by Jon Mohr)

August Happenings: August was a month filled with "unplanned blessings". We had planned to spend the month in a "restful sabbatical" after a busy year of ministry. The Lord had other plans. After finishing work on a forest fire (8/4), Melva and I drove to Colorado Springs for the first of two knee surgeries (8/8). I was able to pray with one of the doctors as well as two nurses, one of which had stopped going to church. I suggested a local one she might enjoy, and she said that others had invited her there as well, and that she'd try to attend that week. Thanks to prayer, the first surgery went well as they removed torn meniscus, arthritis, and a cyst from my "good" knee.

We returned and spoke in Gunnison (8/19) and Lake City CO (8/20). Both services went well, the Holy Spirit was truly present! Then, several days of rest followed by our RBM Board meeting and dinner with prayer partners in Colorado Springs. Both went great! We are blessed with a diverse and Spirit-filled board. A special shout out to Rich and Shelba Townsend and Jason Starinieri who ministered while we were away! Even though August wasn't how we planned it, it was perfect!

Upcoming-Lord Willing: Saturday Night Worship in Gunnison (9/2), Tin Cup Community Church (9/3), and then to Denver for a knee replacement (9/6). Lord willing, I will preach in Pitkin (9/24) and conduct a funeral (9/30). Your prayers sustain us through all this, Thank You!

Family: Everyone is doing well and grateful for your prayers! While in Colorado Springs we were able to join Rebekah and granddaughter Kailani for a wonderful day at the Colorado Springs zoo.

1st Responder New Testaments and Devotionals: In August, we were blessed to send out 1st Responder New Testaments to MA and CO!

Prayer Requests: Please pray for the anointing of the Holy Spirit as we share in Tin Cup and Pitkin CO. Please pray for Melva's blood clots to completely disappear. Please pray for the Lord to guide my knee replacement and rehab. Please pray for Michael Marx (brain tumor) and Milt Hughes' (93 yr. old campus minister recovering from a fall). And please pray for an 8-passenger replacement van for Milt and Ruth's ministry to international students in San Diego. Milt was one who influenced me for Christ. *Bonus:* We are having our well replaced. Please pray we will have clean, pure water!

Finances: *"Now I say this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows generously will also reap generously. Each one must do just as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace overflow to you, so that, always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed"* (2Cor. 8:6-8). What a blessing it is to share a portion of the gifts you entrust to us with others, through assisting widows, struggling families, cases of 1st Responder New Testaments and devotionals, and helping missionaries serving around the world! Every time the funds seem to be getting low, the Lord replenishes them! Thank you for being His instrument!

"And now, may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit". (Romans 15:13)

Rick and Melva

Rick + Melva



Milt, Hughes, campus minister, and warrior for Christ



Board and prayer partners in Colorado Springs



Rick Barton Ministries Board of Directors Meeting 2023



Alumni Pat and Katharina Jungels paramedic for Jesus



With Music Mentor Ray Hildebrand