



Rick Barton Ministries

March 8, 2023

"Go Tell It OFF the Mountain!"

Mountain Top Experience: I just returned from the High Ground Men's Bible/Ski Conference at Beaver Creek, CO. It's been my privilege to help lead worship at this conference for over 25 years and I have always received a blessing. This year was no exception! 85 men gathered from around the country to worship, fellowship, and hear great speakers including Charlie Duke-who walked on the moon, Kelly Shackelford-president of 1st Liberty who defends religious liberty before the Supreme Court, Jason Brown-former National Finals Champion saddle bronc rider, Pastor Craig Smith-former Milwaukee Brewer baseball player, Coach Joe Kennedy-who just won his case before the Supreme Court, and singer Bruce Carroll-winner of 7 Dove awards and 2 Grammys! By the end of three days our lives were truly enriched for Jesus.

But, when Saturday morning comes, there is a sort of melancholy that can sink in. You don't want to leave this wonderful "mountain top experience". I'm reminded of three of Jesus' disciples who were privileged to join Him as He was transfigured on the mountain. Peter, James, and John witnessed Jesus being transfigured and speaking with Moses and Elijah. Wow! Peter did what most of would like to do, he asked Jesus if they could stay on the mountain top. I'm sure they were all disappointed when Jesus led them back to the valley. Yet, there were people in need and work to be done.

It's the same today, isn't it? Jesus takes us to some wonderful "mountain top experiences" which bless and re-energize us. Then He calls us back to the valleys where a lost and dying world needs to see and hear the good news. As someone once told me, we go from the "sweet by and by" to the "nasty now and now". Or, as another said, "a ship is safe in harbor but that's not what it was built for". Mountain Tops are great, we need to enjoy them and then go back to work!

New Testaments and Devotionals: This month we were able to send more firefighter New Testaments to New York. We have seen a wonderful outpouring of support to "Sue's Bible Fund" in honor of Gay and Sue Reynolds, our RBM board members who've passed into glory!

February Happenings: In addition to the High Ground conference, we hosted pastors and their wives from Gunnison, Crested Butte, and Lake City at our 11th annual Evangelical Pastors and Wives Prayer/Dinner. We held chapel services on the mountain, Bible studies at the ski area, taught an introduction to Christian theology class, held Saturday Evening Worship services, and taught a fire safety class for the Gunnison Volunteer Fire Dept.

Upcoming: Lord willing, we will continue the above activities, teach a class for the Crested Butte Fire Dept (March 16), hold services in Guthrie OK (April 23-28), speak on forest fire safety to golf course managers (May 8), and preach in Pitkin CO (May 28), and Tin Cup CO (June 4, Sept 3). Your prayers for the Holy Spirit's anointing really support and encourage us!

401 Ute Lane Gunnison, Colorado 81230 (970) 641-3583
Email: barton@gunnison.com Website: rickbartonministries.org

Benevolences: This month the Lord has allowed us to assist pastors and their families in need as well as local families. We are grateful the Lord allows us to be His instruments!

Missionary Support: For the past few years we have been able to send extra financial support in the form of retirement and emergency funds to 20 missionaries, pastors, and widows. This year we can increase our giving to each family! You have been God's instruments in allowing this to happen. Thank you!

Family: Melva and I were able to visit and ski with Nick, Rebekah, and Kailani for Kai's 4th birthday. Steve (Annie, Samuel, and Abigail) is working on a video project for a Christian ministry and is really enjoying it! Tim and Sara are enjoying their new home in CA. Stephen and Joy (Hannah and Bethan) are continuing to adjust to their new home and ministry in London. Please pray for them all and especially the girls during this time of adjustments.

Finances: As 2022 ended we were overcome with gratitude for the Lord's provision! We were able to give away thousands of 1st Responder New Testaments and Devotionals, help missionaries, pastors and families in need. Share the gospel in several states and remain debt free as a ministry. The blessings still continue in 2023. Thank you!!!

Prayer Requests: For the anointing of the Holy Spirit as we share the good news of Jesus. For Melva's blood clots to dissipate and my voice to regain its strength. For our family, that Rebekah and Nick will commit themselves fully to Jesus, that the Lord will bless Hannah and Bethan with godly friends and joy in their new ministry in London. For our long-time accountant Sally who has been going through several medical issues. That the Lord will show us who He has prepared to assist and fill in behind us.

We are so grateful for each of you! May the Lord Jesus richly bless you, on the mountaintop and in the valley! Rick and Melva Colossians 4:2-4

Rick + Melva



With my friend moon-walking astronaut, Charlie Duke!



Our ski area employee and guest weekly Bible study group.