



Rick Barton Ministries

May 2023

"New Every Morning"

Years ago, I was asked to speak at a wonderful church in Oklahoma for several consecutive Sundays. While there, I sensed a bit of "worship music wars". There were folks who preferred the wonderful older hymns of the faith, and those who favored the newer praise songs. (Believe it or not, the devil even tries to use worship styles to divide Christians. Years ago, some churches split when pianos were introduced into worship along with the organ .)

This church had an amazing classical singer named Liz. She and I teamed up to try and bridge the divide. We sang two songs during the next service. One, a more contemporary scripture song, and the other, a favorite hymn, both based on the same scripture. "The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23 ESV). It seemed to help as we focused on God's truth, not our "preferences".

April Happenings: April went by very quickly with many blessings, and some sadness. Through it all our God was faithful and showed us new mercies each morning.

"Homecomings": The month started with the sudden passing of former church member, Susan Deforest, who died while serving with the Christian Motorcycle Association. Then, the unexpected "homecoming" of friend and missionary David Horn. David and Gay Lynn have directed the YWAM base in Cimarron CO for many years and I performed their wedding. Finally, the entrance into glory of Fred Haverly, a godly friend of many years. The Lord was present at the side of each of these as they closed their eyes on earth and opened them in glory. Great is His faithfulness!

On April 17th, Melva and I met with friends and supporters in Colorado Springs for a "Thank You" and ministry update dinner. Then it was on to Edmond OK for a "Thank You" lunch followed by five great days of services at Abell Community Church outside of Guthrie OK. We've had the privilege of sharing with this wonderful church family for over 30 years!

When we returned, we held a luncheon for church/parachurch leaders in Gunnison. The goal of this first-time event was to provide a time for meeting one another, hearing of their unique ministries and how they could assist each other, and then a time of prayer for one another. We had 20 attend from 8 ministries which we felt was a great beginning!

Some Highlights: Hearing of the wonderful ministries so many of our "alumni" and friends are involved in! Seeing the Holy Spirit work during the revival services and with individuals attending the funeral services. Experiencing the Lord's protection while driving. (In Oklahoma, a wheel came off a trailer ahead of us but missed us completely!)

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

New Testaments and Devotionals: We received this testimony from a volunteer firefighter who requested firefighter New Testaments and devotionals to hand out to his department. He said when they arrived, the chief and assistant chief didn't want them. The firefighter got permission to leave them out in the station where the crews picked them up. Shortly afterward, the asst chief was badly burned. He began reading the NT and Devotional and now both he and the chief have given their lives to Jesus and are active in a local church!

Driving through Clayton NM we stopped and met a clerk whose husband pastors several small churches of ranching families. We were able to send them a case of 50 cowboy New Testaments to give out during their Vacation Bible School. More requests for 1st Responder New Testaments and Devotionals came this month from OK and MI. Your gifts make this possible!

Finances: By God's grace and your faithful support, every bill is paid, and we are able to help others! (2 Corinthians 8:14, Galatians 6:10). We are so grateful for each prayer and each gift. We pray for each of you and ask the Lord to bless you. Thank You!

ALERT: As we are transitioning from our faithful accountant of 27 years to our new accountant, and changing over to new software, there have been delays in sending out receipts. We apologize! It looks like things are finally smoothing out and you should receive your receipts soon. If you are missing any after June 1, please contact us.

Prayer Requests: Please pray for the anointing of the Holy Spirit to be upon us as we share. Please pray for our family to grow closer to Jesus each day and for Stephen, Joy, Hannah and Bethan to find peace and blessing in their new life in London. Please pray for the blood clots in Melva's lungs to completely disappear, and for my voice to be completely recovered. Please pray I have wisdom about having knee replacement or not. Thank you for your prayers, we depend on them!

Upcoming: Lord willing, we will be sharing at:

May 28: *Pitkin* Community Church

June 4: *Tincup* Community Church

July 9: *Tincup* Community Church (New Date)

July 23: *Sargents* Community Church (New Date)

September 3: *Tincup* Community Church

Great is Thy Faithfulness O God our Father!

Rick and Melva Barton

Rick + Melva



Abell Church Symphony



Church and parachurch leaders, praying and sharing at our luncheon



Gideon's legend John Kellogg



FCA Coach Joe Sindelar



Russell Davis "Praying" the Saxophone



Recording artist, and good friend, Barry Ward singing the gospel!



Children's Choir at Abell Community Church