Rick Barton Ministries

May 2026

"Give and …."

"You're robbing us of a blessing!" I can still hear Ozema's voice 50 years later. We had been bundling up the kids and driving to Lake City CO weekly to hold Bible studies in Ward and Ozema's home. It was a privilege to drive the 65 miles to this small mountain town and open God's word with these wonderful believers. We were in our 20's, had a VW bus, and didn't know better!

The problem, at least in Ozema's eyes, was that we never took up an offering, or asked for gas money. I guess we were concerned that folks would think we were doing it for the money. But she was right! A wonderful part of the Christian's blessing is to give!

Jesus said*, "Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over [with no space left for more]. For with the standard of measurement you use [when you do good to others], it will be measured to you in return."* (Luke 6:38 Amplified Bible). I don't think that applies just to money, do you? How about love, friendship?

In 2 Corinthians 8 & 9, the apostle Paul shares a wonderful example of churches and individuals giving, and stresses the importance of our heart attitudes, "*Let each one give [thoughtfully and with purpose] just as he has decided in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver [and delights in the one whose heart is in his gift]."* (2 Corinthians 9:7 Amp)

April Happenings: April started with a bang as we finished our work at the ski area, conducted a final mountaintop chapel service, held our last Systematic Theology class until fall, and held an Easter service. Then things settled some and we were able to take some time off as well as prepare for upcoming Celebrations of Life and our weekly Saturday Night Worship services.

Please Pray for These Upcoming Opportunities:

May 12: Colorado Springs: Ministry Update Luncheon-Mimi's-7133 N Academy Blvd-12:30.
May 17: Livermore CO Community Church (outside of Fort Collins CO)
May 18: Loveland CO-Ministry Update Luncheon-12 pm-Golden Corral -1360 Sculptor Dr.
May 24 & 31, September 27: Services at Pitkin CO Community Church
June 7 and September 6: Services at Tin Cup CO Community Church
June 21 "Buckboard Sunday" at the Esterbrook WY Community Church
July 9-12: Cattlemen's Days rodeo chaplain and Cowboy Church Gunnison CO
July 20-29: Family Reunion on Melva's home island of Kauai
August 6-7: RBM Board of Directors Meeting-Colorado Springs CO

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Ministry Update Gatherings: Every year Melva and I try to meet with as many of you as possible over a lunch or dinner. These are times of renewing friendships, giving an update on how the Lord has blessed your prayers and financial support, and meeting new friends. Please join us and bring a friend!
Colorado Springs: Tues May 12-Mimi's-7133 N. Academy Blvd-12:30.
Loveland CO: Monday May 18--Golden Corral 1360 Sculptor Dr -12 noon.

First Responder New Testaments and Devotionals: We continue to receive requests from fire and police chaplains for New Testaments and Devotionals. In April we were contacted by chaplains in British Columbia as well as two in Florida. During some of the training classes for new chaplains, copies of the fire and police New Testaments and Devotionals are shown along with our contact information. So far, you've helped us distribute over 40,000 to 1st Responders around the world at no charge. They all say, "Thank You!". *The "Answering the Call" firefighter New Testament is still out of stock at the publisher. Please pray more arrive soon!

Family: Everyone is getting excited planning for our upcoming family reunion. As you can imagine, getting everyone together from London to Los Angeles can be a daunting task, especially with airlines cancelling flights, etc. But we're making progress thanks to the hard work of our more tech savvy sons and daughters. Melva's sinus issues have cleared. PTL!

Finances: Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support! Thank you for joining us as we trust the Lord to meet every need so that we not only have enough for our ministry needs but also enough to assist others. May the Lord Jesus bless you as you invest in His kingdom! (As some of you requested, online giving is available through rickbartonministries.org)

Prayer Requests:

1. For the anointing of the Holy Spirit as we share, especially in the three "Celebrations of Life" we lead the next few weeks. Unbelievers are listening at funerals more than other times.
2. For wisdom as we preach and continue to "equip the saints for the work of service".
3. For continued healing of my knee and wisdom about having another replacement or not.

Thank You soooo much! May God bless each of you! **By His grace and to His glory!** Rick and Melva

Rick + Melva



Saturday Night Worship Team



Riley Butt one of our scholarship recipients headed to the mission field.



Marie, one of our early mentors. 98 and still going strong!



Melva and I