Rick Barton Ministries

TO DONATE

October 2026

"We Thought We Had More Time"

Late last night I received a text message from a wonderful Christian worker. A loved one had passed into eternity. She had planned to visit her friend, but they died so quickly. "We thought we had more time." One morning, years ago, a college student came into our Bible study in tears. "My best friend from high school was just killed in a car accident. I never shared Jesus with her! I thought I had more time."

Melva and I were sharing in a Salvation Army church in Cheyenne WY. It was a small group. Faithful Army members in the front, empty rows, and 10 or so from the shelter in the back. As I closed the service, I hesitated to give an invitation to receive Jesus as Savior and Lord. After all, the ones in the front were probably saved and the ones in the back didn't seem interested. But the Lord prodded me to offer salvation to any who would respond.

One man in the back raised his hand. The Captain (pastor) and I met with him and he gave his life to Jesus! The next morning, we awoke to the news that he had died in his sleep. An autopsy revealed he had died of alcohol, smoking, and more. I asked the Lord, "What happened?" The Spirit clearly told me, "Someone prayed he would have one more chance to be saved. That's why I sent you."

How do we know we have more time to respond to Jesus' offer of salvation, or to share it with someone? As 2 Corinthians 6:1-2 says, *"And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain— [2] for He says, "AT A FAVORABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON A DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU." Behold, now is "A FAVORABLE TIME," behold, now is "A DAY OF SALVATION".*

September happenings: As I mentioned last month, I had my other knee replaced August 25. I've had a couple of minor setbacks but overall doing well! Thank you for your prayers. While "out-of-service" we were blessed to have wonderful brothers cover our services. It's hard for me to miss any preaching, not because I think I could do a better job, but because folks will realize how much better these guys are! In the past three weeks we've been privileged to share twice in Pitkin as well as our Saturday Night Worship services in Gunnison.

I had the privilege of leading a local businessman to Christ in August. This week he brought a relative to our Bible study who gave his life to Jesus! We've had more "alumni" check in from around the country. They're still loving and serving Jesus after 40 plus years!

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

Upcoming: Lord willing we will be sharing at:

October 4: Conducting a Celebration of Life in Gunnison.

October 9-11: Sharing at Melva's family reunion on Oahu. (Because of our children and grandchildren's work and school schedules we couldn't combine family reunions.)

October 25: Rocky Mountain Chapel outside of Cripple Creek, CO

November 8-11: Abell Community Church, Guthrie OK

1st Responder New Testaments and Devotionals: In September a church in Durango, CO held a First Responders appreciation meal and distributed New Testaments and devotionals we had provided. A dispatcher in Plano TX requested the same to distribute to police, fire and EMS. Please pray the Lord uses each copy!

Family: Our newest granddaughter, Riley Grace is due this month. Please pray for mom Sara and Riley for a safe delivery and healthy baby. Melva has finally recovered from the "mystery illness" she struggled with for over 6 weeks. I am getting stronger each week. During my knee replacement they implanted a chip in my new knee to monitor my progress. It gives me exercises to do, the bike they sent gives me exercises to do, and the physical therapists give me exercises 😊. All our family is doing well, back to school, work and activities. Thank you for your faithful prayers for our family!

Finances: By God's grace and your faithful support, we are moving forward. Every spring and fall we try to send extra support to 20 "alumni" missionaries, missionary widows, and small church pastors. You are all a wonderful part of that. One of our alumni serving in Mexico had an urgent need for $3,000 and our local folks pulled together and met their need and even more in just a week! What a joy it is to give back to our Lord and His work!

Prayer Requests:

1. **For the anointing of the Holy Spirit as we share locally and out of town! We are expecting several hundred at the Celebration of Life, many do not know Jesus.**
2. **For continued recovery for several Christians struggling with health issues. Jennifer, Lili, Josh, JoAnn, and others.**
3. **For Melva and I as we recover and that my knee is ready for ski season. Thank You!**

By His Grace and to His Glory! Rick and Melva

Rick + Melva



Marie, 98 years old and still serving Jesus!



Melva's Birthday Lunch



Sharing at the Pitkin Community Church



Lunch with Alumni Missionaries Mike and Beth