



Maine Maritime Ministry

Sharing the love and gospel of Jesus along the coast of Maine and beyond

"In the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

Dear Family & Friends,

November 30, 2016

We are so very blessed to have such a great Savior! We pray for you this Christian holiday season and thank God for you in our prayers every morning in our daily devotions.

Our God is AMAZING! He answers prayer in the greatest of ways. We live in a rural town called Whitefield which is named after (in my opinion) the greatest evangelist since the Apostle Paul. God raised George Whitefield up in the 1740's. After turning down lucrative parishes in England, he preached to the common people in the open -- to crowds larger than any church could hold -- beginning the Great Awakening!

Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few," Matthew 9:37. God regularly drew crowds of spiritually hungry people in the tens of thousands to hear Whitefield! Ben Franklin was skeptical of such reports of the great crowds and determined to measure the crowd when Whitefield came to Philadelphia. Franklin calculated that over 30,000 could clearly hear Whitefield's voice, proclaiming the gospel!

What impressed me most about Whitefield was his powerful preaching and humble attitude. Years after preaching in a town, it was still profoundly changed for God. Instead of bars full of brawlers, there were churches and homes filled with scripture and songs! I believe George Whitfield was used of God for the founding of our Christian nation. I have enclosed another Maine Maritime Ministry brochure reflecting this fact, as a small token of our appreciation of you this Christmas time.

After my evening reading of George Whitefield's book, I prayed that the Lord would allow me to preach to the lost, too. Boy, did God answer that prayer quickly! The next morning, I checked my phone and found a message stating, "We desperately need a pastor this Sunday to preach, the one we had lined up cancelled at the last minute!" I gratefully accepted the invitation. In this old shipbuilding town of Damariscotta, God gave me a captive audience of people who go to church but probably have not heard the gospel in generations!

Another unexpected blessing...when I got up to the pulpit, my eyes would not focus so I could not read the Bible or see my notes. (Still waiting for the prismatic glasses). Fortunately, I had the scripture memorized (Eph. 2:8-10) and the Lord gave me the words to speak that no one knew of my handicap. As a result, I am making a study of Preaching without Notes. It requires more study but also allows you freedom to be led by the Spirit and be more sensitive to your audience. I believed Whitefield must have preached this way because he was constantly asked to preach sometimes more than 20 times a week



We wish you all a blessed Christmas filled with the greatest gift of all, our redeemer Jesus Christ! If you would like to give a special gift to Jesus, please consider His work here at Maine Maritime Ministry. It would be greatly used and appreciated.

With all our love! Your servant and His,

Chris and Vickie Gerardi

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