



# Maine Maritime Ministry

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

*Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season. 2 Timothy 2:4*

Dear Family & Friends

May 11, 2017

It is neat how the Lord prepares us for His service. I have been developing sermons in such a way that I can preach without notes. This has proven helpful and effective in a number of ways. First, I am ready at a moment's notice. Last Friday afternoon I was asked to preach for Sunday's service. I replied, "Yes, I can and here is the text and verses you can put on the overhead." I had the outline and 18 supporting verses memorized for the message from James 1:2-8 "Are You Like the Surf of the Sea?"



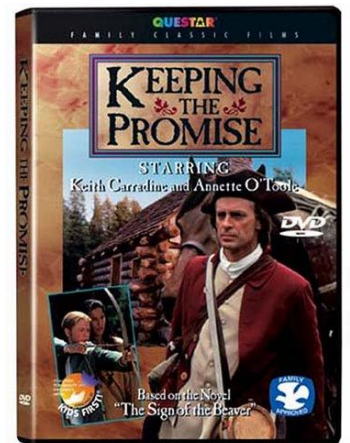
Secondly, it turned out that two days after I preached, I finally received my prismatic glasses! PTL! Thank you for your prayers! Because I damaged the vision part of my brain, I cannot use bifocals or progressive lenses with the prismatic glasses, which means I have to wear either one of the two glasses I received, reading or distance. Since it is more important for me to see the audience and read their eyes, it means that notes are not much help anyway. Who knew? – GOD!

Finally, constantly having verses on me to memorize and meditate on has deepened my walk with God, experiencing His word to be true, and challenging me moment by moment. I have also found it to be a good witnessing tool. I often ask people, "Would you mind helping me, I am trying to memorize this Bible verse." I quote it to them, which turns out to be a natural segue to sharing the Gospel.

A couple of weeks ago God gave us a divine appointment to share the gospel with a couple of ladies. We went to the Whitefield Historic Society meeting to find out the date our property was settled. (We discovered that our property was first settled in 1786.) There were only two ladies present because the meeting was cancelled, due to icy roads. They are the archivists and have access to all the records. Vickie spoke with one woman, Libby, and I spoke with another, Marie, who said, "I am a retired scientist and a flaming liberal."



I started with a point we both had in common, living in Whitefield, named after the world famous evangelist George Whitefield. She was well read up on him and had to admit he was a humble, godly man. She explained that the followers of Whitefield settled my part of town, causing the name change of our town. It is interesting to note that there is a movie about one of the earlier settlers who moved to Balltown, Maine in the 1700's. Balltown was our original town, comprising both the current day towns of Whitefield and Jefferson. In 1809 the town was split (in more than one way). The western half took the name of the godly evangelist Whitefield, and the eastern half took the name of the deist, Jefferson. It is great that God is bringing the gospel back to Whitefield again! As we spoke, Marie confessed that her son was a fundamentalist. Her grandchildren say, "Grandma, will you receive Jesus so we can see you in heaven?" I shared the gospel with her and we gave both of the ladies our gospel tract to "get their opinion on what they think of it." A natural follow-up opportunity!



With all our love and gratitude! Your servant and His,

*Chris and Vickie Gerardi*

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