

In All This You Greatly Rejoice by Shawn Ohlms

Accepting the position of Office Manager with Righteous Rides led me to a variety of emotions: the sadness of leaving my previous position; the excitement of starting a new job; and a varying degree of fear. Stepping into the office for my first week of work, it is safe to say the latter of those three was most prevalent. It is funny, however, how quickly God dispels feelings of inadequacy, and replaces them with feelings of confidence, strength, and more importantly, understanding we are to trust Him in every situation.

I introduced myself to everyone, and I soon met Josh, who is serving in Nepal. His eight month old daughter, Brianna, has battled a number of medical issues, and I was so moved by his family's story, I asked if he would mind me sharing it in our newsletter. The following is an excerpt from the message we received from Josh and his wife, Tina.

One day in mid-May, while driving back to the house, I began crying because I had just realized that I had not asked God for those things which I really wanted. I needed to say out loud that I wanted a miracle. I didn't only want the surgery to go well for Brianna. I wanted her to not need the surgery at all. So why wasn't I praying for that? Our Nepali friends told Josh when he visited in April, "We will pray that she won't even need the surgery". They had it right. It was so simple. So as I drove home that day I prayed out loud, "Lord, I want a miracle...I don't want Brianna to have surgery...please heal her of this lung mass."

It was cold in the room and Brianna was screaming as her arms were stretched above her head for the chest x-ray. I felt terrible for having to do that. After the x-ray, we made our way upstairs to the doctor's office. After waiting for a few minutes, the first doctor came in along with some residents and students. He asked a few questions and we chatted until our surgeon came in. After greeting us, Dr. Kayton asked with raised eyebrows, "Have they told you about the x-ray yet?" Inside I worried, "Oh no, they messed it up, so they'll have to do it again". Instead he said, "We can't see the CCAM on the x-ray".

*As they brought the x-ray up on the computer, I was getting excited. Was this the miracle I had asked for? There was Brianna's x-ray, with **nothing but healthy lung tissue**. Dr. Kayton commented about how he had told us to alter our plans to go back to Nepal. This was because he hadn't thought it was a good idea to fly with the cysts inside the lung mass.*

"Now" he continued, "there is no reason to restrict her from flying to Nepal, because there is no danger if there are no visible cysts. We don't have a good explanation right now as CCAM doesn't just disappear, maybe it wasn't CCAM-maybe it's just too small to see on x-ray-we are just not sure", he admitted. "We would still like to do a CAT scan in November to try to understand this better."

Josh and I looked at each other with knowing smiles and testified to him, "We have had a lot of people praying for healing for Brianna that it wouldn't even be there."

It can be so easy to feel overwhelmed or afraid when things don't go according to plan, but it is essential to remember that nothing comes as a surprise to Christ. It is only when we get out of our own way, have a child-like faith, and trust in His plan, that we can truly experience the intimacy with Christ we are called to have. When we lose sight of that fact, we inevitably miss out on the wonderful, life-altering blessings only our Father in Heaven can provide.



Please keep Josh, Tina, and family in your prayers.

Sharing Christ 'In The Bush'

One of the most rewarding aspects of being a part of the Righteous Rides team is interacting with missionaries. Dean and Melinda McDonald recently experienced this, as they joined Righteous Rides as a volunteer Pit Crew. Here is what they had to say about the experience:

"Dean and I recently had the privilege of serving missionaries through Righteous Rides as a Pit Crew. This was our first experience with this ministry and it was an absolutely fantastic time of serving for our family. We have three children, 9, 7, and 3 who were along for the ride and they can not wait until they get to do it again and meet some Missionary Kids.

We met the missionary couple in St. Louis, near the airport. They told us about how they began as missionaries with a two year serving vision, but 17 years later, they remain passionate about sharing the word of Christ "in the bush". They also shared how the van has been such a blessing to them. Through Righteous Rides, they were able to care for ailing parents, visit their support church, and help to get their college-aged daughter assimilated to life back in the states. We completed our time with them by praising God for the Righteous Rides Ministry, praying for their travels, their personal prayer requests and for the furthering of His Kingdom through them."

- Melinda McDonald -

The Dash Board

- 49 vans are currently providing transportation for missionaries.
- 140+ missionary families are utilizing a van or are on schedule to utilize a RR van.
- 46 vans drove a total of 275,352 miles in the 2nd quarter of 2012.
- Over 2,722,528 miles driven since inception.

God Does Care About Goody Bags!

Several months ago, we included in the newsletter an article about the goody bags that Righteous Rides provides for missionaries utilizing one of their vans. Included in these bags are snacks and personal care items to welcome missionaries after they return to the U.S., often from many hours of exhausting travel.

When we began putting goody bags in each van, the fleet numbered less than 10 vans. We were able to manage the amount of snacks and personal care items with a little help from friends.

Today, the RR fleet consists of almost 50 vans. That's a lot of chips, water, toothbrushes, granola bars, deodorant and body wash! Although we may have been fretting, God knew exactly what needed to be done...and, after we spoke to a few surrounding churches full of brothers and sisters in Christ who love missionaries as much as we do, our bins were being filled with much-needed goody bag supplies. One church collected gift cards from its members so that we could purchase



The Cook children were the first to receive the child-specific goody bags!

whatever was lacking for the bags. God is good!!!

This year, we decided to enlarge the "goody bag project" to include small back packs for each son and daughter traveling with their parents in a RR van. Included in these bags are items like crayons, markers, coloring books, fruit snacks, juice, books, small games, water bottles, etc. to help make the many miles these families travel a little more bearable. One of our wonderful volunteers stitches the child's name and RR logo on each bag to add a personal touch.

Local VBS groups, Sunday School classes, and church mission organizations have graciously helped in collecting goodies for the backpacks. We could **not** have filled the **90+ bags** this summer without their help! Thank the Lord with us for the generosity of His people!

If your church would like to help with goody bags/backpacks in any way, please contact Renee' at renee@righteousrides.org.



Volunteers needed to assist with vehicle/facility care!

When presenting families with a Righteous Rides van, we strive to make the experience as enjoyable as possible. This means providing them with a vehicle that is in excellent mechanical condition, as well as being exceptionally clean. In trying to accomplish this, we have recognized the need for more volunteers.

We need more volunteers to assist with mechanic work, Pit Crews, vehicle cleaning, and the cleaning of the Righteous Rides facility!

To help us pay forward the blessings God has provided, call 636-366-9500 or e-mail us at info@righteousrides.org.

Praises

- The **dedicated** team of volunteers who assisted during our recent busiest time of the year.
- Shawn Ohlms has joined the RR team as our new Office Manager. Welcome Shawn!
- What a blessing to connect with 50+ missionary families so far this summer.
- Provision through churches/individuals in providing goodies to fill the goody bags and backpacks for missionary families.

Prayer Requests

- Fred and Pam Tuggy as they raise their support.
- The Kimball family as they raise their support.
- Volunteers needed for mechanical work, vehicle cleaning, and cleaning the RR facility.
- Summer brings more travel for missionary families. Pray for safety, minimal van maintenance, and contentment within these families as they travel.
- Wisdom for the Board and RR team in handling a larger fleet of vans...we're almost to 50!

Righteous Rides

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Accelerating the Gospel

Our Mission: To further the spread of the gospel message of Jesus Christ by assisting evangelistic organizations in meeting their personal transportation needs.

Our Team: Righteous Rides is a team of auto enthusiasts donating their time, money, and expertise to ease the hassles often experienced by missionaries and mission organizations in acquiring and maintaining their vehicles. We invite you to join us by praying for Righteous Rides, giving financially, or donating vehicles.

Newsletter: If you would prefer to receive this newsletter via e-mail instead of receiving a hard copy, please notify us at Karen@righteousrides.org.