



Mission USA:
Door knocking in those
700+ USA counties
without the church and
helping small congregations



Perry Sexton, Evangelist
1763 Highway 166 N
Mt. Pleasant, TN 38474
Cell: (540) 742-3658
jpsexton@peoplepc.com
www.mission-usa.org

Sponsoring congregation:
Church of Christ at Greenfield
P.O. Box 156
Greenfield, TN 38230
Phone: (731) 235-2341

"For we are labourers together with God" (I Cor. 3:9)

Whither We Goest, Thou Goest: By Your Prayers And Financial Support

Greetings to our beloved family in Christ. Please pardon me for writing so much this time but I feel compelled to do so. The things which I write are so pertinent to our work of evangelism.

I have done a short series on evangelism (in *Sound Words*) covering just a few items in just a little detail – much more could and should be said and many brethren have written good sound articles on the subject. Here I want to mention two brothers in connection to evangelization:

Kenneth Osmer's (passed from this life on 11-25-12) last thoughts were on evangelism (support for a missionary, etc.) and called for his granddaughter, who had not obeyed the gospel, and encouraged her to do so. At his visitation, his wife said that many people made mention to her how that Kenneth had invited them to church services, etc. He was a great encouragement to many people, us included. Brethren, this is an outstanding example for us all to follow (please see part 9, page 4, point #2 and 3 of January 2013 issue of *Sound Words*). We appreciate all the help he and his wife, Pauline, gave us including helping raise support for me to preach the gospel. By the way, Pauline is Sandy's only family member (first cousin) who is a member of the church.

Bill Crossno (passed from this life on 1-5-13) was a true friend of the church. He helped many preachers and congregations in many ways including helping to raise support for them. Near graduation at MSOP in 1988 the other students and I were at the FHU lectureship one day looking over the displays and books for sale. A brother came up to me and asked if Bill Crossno had found me. I said "No," but it wasn't long until he did. I had never met Bill before, but he was the new preacher at Clarksburg, TN which was supporting me at that time. I had written a letter to all my supporters expressing my desire to work with a small congregation upon graduation and the need for support (this was the purpose of me becoming a preacher – to help small congregations and I am still doing that). From the day I met Bill, he helped me with financial support (raising it), almost weekly calls of encouragement, holding meetings for us, etc. I can remember being down with the struggles of working with small congregations and problems from unfaithful members, etc., and Bill would call almost as if he knew that I was having a bad day. He lifted my spirits many times, and in fact I am probably still preaching because of Bill's encouragement and confidence in me. He told us more than once that he prayed for us every day! He did these things throughout the years until he was no longer able. How much more encouragement can one have? I write these things not because Bill is gone, but because they are true and should encourage us all and I have written such things before while he still lived. Let us all be mindful of one another and encourage one another (Heb. 3:13; 10:24).

What a glorious reunion the faithful will have with those gone on before and with all those faithful throughout the ages when they leave this old world of sin and corruption! How grand it will be to meet again those who helped you/us become a child of God and those who helped you/us to remain faithful to God. And also to see again those you/we have helped to understand God's Word and become Christians and to remain faithful. What a great life and it gets better going forward growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord (2 Peter 3:18), and getting closer to the day we all too can have that blessed reunion.

There are so many others we cannot mention. We are mindful and thankful for all the faithful and those who have helped us in times past and those now doing so. These two brothers and all of you will continue to be in our minds and encourage us each and every day, including those days that are hard. May God bless you all and help us all to be faithful.

Our summer's work and an example of small congregations (following are two emails which say it better than I can:



Perry:

My name is ... and I am the preacher at the ... AZ church of Christ. ... **I was hoping you might consider our town for some of your future work.** ... in the smaller towns here in the north things are hard. Our towns are spread apart and we do not have much contact with, or are able to help each other out much, **many of the churches have become very small and are getting smaller each year Liberal preachers** have also done and are **doing much damage** to the Lord's church in some of the churches. This is by far the hardest work I have ever done. **The church here has mostly older people** who do not have the strength to do work they once did, **We are a poor church as this town has very high unemployment and much alcohol use.** ... I have been here nine years now and I have to admit **the strain of the work here and the feeling of being without much help in the work is very hard.** ... **So, what I am asking is if you would be able to come for a time and help us with the work here, we would sure be grateful.**

Signed

Perry:

I have presented you coming to work with us next summer to the congregation **and we are very excited about it.** ... **we would not be able to supply support money.** Also the Mormon, Catholic and native America religion is very strong here, next would be Baptist and charismatic type religions. We are also a railroad and prison town so there is **a great deal of ungodliness of all kinds throughout this town, and it is very hard to keep it out of the church.** I have been here, as I said, for about nine years now, feeling like other than my wife **I have been very alone in the work here. I am so looking forward to working with you next year as long as you are all right with the circumstances I have stated above.**

Signed {I added the emphases to both emails –Perry}

I left out the preacher's name and location because this bulletin is posted on our website. I believe this gives good sentiments of what many preachers feel in their struggles, and we have felt and still feel from time to time; because for the most part we are in strange areas and small congregations. Even though it is very good to be with the brethren, we are still the outsiders. Also, we are unaware of even the dangers that the locals know about because we are new to the area. Two examples: (1.) We were having some car trouble and casually made mention of it in a conversation at the church building, then the brethren told us not to buy gas from a certain station because they had bad tanks. (2.) At another place upon mentioning the section we were working, the brethren warned us not to go there at night and be very careful even during the day because of armed robberies even during the day. We continued working this bad area and at times were a mile or better from the car. Brethren often do not think to warn us of such things ahead of time, but we try to always be cautious.

Struggling congregations: I think the two emails say a lot and say some of the things I have written about over the years. Many congregations are unable to make a contribution to help cover the cost of the material we use. **We make mention to the congregations of you who make it possible for us to help them –** we are grateful to you all and so are they.

Materials ordered: We have just ordered 33,500 more tracts which will give us another 5,000 packets in addition to what we still have on hand. We presently use 6 ordered tracts and 2 printed for us by the Mars Hill congregation. Plus we insert the local church's info into each packet. By the way, since we started this work we have ordered over 110,000 tracts from Barber Tracts alone and have used hundreds of other tracts given to us. We are looking at around \$2,000 for material including the bags. **We appreciate any extra donations.**

We are so grateful for all of you who financially support us in this work. It could not go on without such generous and evangelistic minded people as you all. We also covet and appreciate your prayers. Please pray for us when we leave here (TN) to travel the 1,500 miles to AZ.

In His Service, Perry & Sandy