

Evangelist Paul Mershon
Ministry Update
February 6, 2019

Dear Supporting Churches and Praying Friends,

Our greetings to each and every one of you, beloved friends, in the precious Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Here we are already in the beginning days of the month of February. My, how rapidly time seems to pass us by, especially for those of us who are getting a bit older. If the Lord allows me to live to see it, it is hard to fathom that in just a few short years my sojourn on this earth will have encompassed three-quarters of a century! How I thank God that He has allowed me to live this long in service to Him. Each day of life is indeed a gift of God to be used carefully, prayerfully, and fruitfully. Most of all, I am humbled that God uses me at all, but reflecting on a thought shared by my dear friend, Missionary Derek Thomas, he quoted I Timothy 1:12. "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry" What an honor that God would count me faithful, just an old sinner saved by grace, allowing me the joy and privilege of serving Him in the preaching ministry. All of the glory and honor belongs to Him, and Him alone.

Upcoming Meetings

We have upcoming meetings with the following churches:

Faith Baptist Church
Pastor Randy Hoxie
Chilliwack, British Columbia
Canada

Cornerstone Baptist Church
Pastor Bruce Carlson
Twin Falls, Idaho

Victory Baptist Church
Pastor Richard Peil
Bend, Oregon

Cornerstone Baptist Church (one service - tentative)
Pastor Nick Loewen
La Pine, Oregon

Grace Baptist Church
Pastor Ryan Banducci
Tri-City, Oregon

Mountain View Baptist Church
Pastor John Simmons
Modesto, California

We will cover 4,000 road miles on this round of meetings and would covet your prayers for safety on the road and good performance from our vehicle.

Hawaii and Alaska Trips

We are still in the process of planning for trips to Alaska and Hawaii this year. Quite a contrast between the two places, but each has its beauty and great spiritual need, no question. I always enjoy preaching when we are in Alaska, and definitely enjoy seeing and spending time with our daughter and husband, our grandchildren, and our great-grandchildren, the principle reason for our going. At some point in the near future I want to fly into Juneau to spend time with Missionary Jonathan Fisher. He is just beginning his missionary work there on his first term. He will be operating an ocean-going vessel into some of the remote villages on the Inside Passage. We will report back later as these plans come to fruition.

Time Out With our Daughter

We took time out to spend with our daughter who flew down to be with us for a visit from her home in Alaska. Her husband, Bill, serves as pastor of Jubilee Baptist Church in Sterling, Alaska. She is the mother of five adult children, and grandmother to nine grandbabies. We took her to my favorite fish house in Leucadia, California, for some of the best shrimp and chips in southern California. It was a joy to have her with us if even for a short time. She is our only child and a blessing to us.

Health Update

Several kind folks have inquired as to my current health status. I am happy to report that my last cancer screening has shown no recurrence of bladder and ureteral cancer, but I am now told that due to the high rate of recurrence I will have to be closely monitored for the rest of my life. This will mean having a cystoscopy every six months. The urologist is also closely monitoring a growing lesion on my prostate due to the potential for cancer in that gland along with a very high PSA. But, praise the Lord, it's all good and I am thankful for the hand of the Great Physician upon me and the provision of wonderful doctors. I am also now officially enrolled in the Veteran's Healthcare system in addition to my private insurance provider as I am pursuing help with service connected issues. Despite all of the dark and gloomy news and bad press we hear about the Veteran's Healthcare system, I have so far found it to be excellent with a caring and respectful staff.

A Letter to Pastors

Just a couple of weeks ago I sent out the following letter to pastors and thought it good to share it yet again in this emailed ministry update.

Dear Pastor Friend,

"We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you" (Colossians 1:3).

My greetings to you in the precious and lovely Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, "a name which is above every name" (Philippians 2:9). It is my sincere prayer that this short letter finds you and yours well, and the work of the Lord prospering as you labour in the Master's vineyard.

This year will mark my 25th year doing the work of an evangelist. It has been a blessed and momentous 25 years, and I thank and praise God for being allowed of Him to preach the precious Word of God. As I look back over the years, I am reminded of the many wonderful revival meetings, missions conferences, family conferences, and other ministry endeavors that my wife and I have been a part of. How we praise God for the souls that have been saved and the saints who have experienced revival in the various meetings for which I have preached. I am humbled by this! Along with J. Hudson Taylor, who once was heard to say, "I am a little servant of an illustrious Master," I am thankful that God has extended to me the privilege and honor in having a part in all of this and would deem to use even me, just an old sinner saved by His amazing grace to preach His Word. To God be the glory!

I am 72 years young and, by the grace of God, still have a full head of steam! God has been so good to me in this, for which I thank and praise Him. I have no intention to retiring but just look to the Lord to keep me up and running for as long as it is His will. We want to stay busy in the years ahead. With that said, I just wanted to let you know that I am available for meetings and would consider it an honor to serve alongside of you as you pray about having a revival meeting or other ministry endeavor in the days ahead. I still have several dates open in 2019, and am scheduling for 2020 and beyond. Please know that my ministry is conducted on a by-faith basis. We do not request or require anything upfront to come to your church, and serve strictly on a love-gift basis. We always trust God to provide for our needs at the hand of His people as a matter of faith.

Pastor, if you have had us for meetings in the past and we have been a blessing to you and your people and have helped your church, please mention my ministry to your friends and those men you know that could use an evangelist. I would greatly appreciate it.

Thank you for your kind attention to this letter. May God continue to richly bless you is our prayer.

We had a relatively busy 2018 with several wonderful revival meetings. In recent years I have started out with more openings in my revival meeting schedule than I like, but we commit this to prayer and the Lord has been good to fill in many of our open dates for us. While God has been gracious to give me the energy and ability to continue on in the ministry He has given me, I never want to be found other than redeeming the precious time allotted to me. I recently saw Evangelist Ron Comfort preach a powerful message via You Tube. He is nearing 80 years of age and his energy and intensity has not been diminished by advanced age. While men have the God-given ability to do so, it would be a waste and an affront to Him to not use that ability to stay on the firing line. By God's grace, that is my heart's desire.

THANK YOU!

I know that I have said it before, and mere words alone could never express our deep sense of gratitude, but we want you to know how very much we love and appreciate you all, and for your investment in our ministry as we invest in other for the glory of God. It is a joy to partner together with you as I have the honor of ministering in churches around the country doing the work of an evangelist and preaching the old-fashioned revival message. How humbling to realize that we sinners saved by grace are "labourers together with God." May He, and He alone, get the glory as serve Him.