

Road Warrior for JESUS

In the last 5 months the company I worked for went bankrupt. Then God opened a new door the following week with another company. After 2 months at the new company I was given 60 days to get on my feet as a salesperson selling to the Building Industry in a severely down economy.

I started looking for a job this time while I had a job. Another door opened for me in Toledo Ohio. I live in Michigan. The ride to work is 1 hr and 15 minutes without interference. The ride home is usually longer depending on when I can leave.

God has promised to meet each of our needs that Believe in His Son Jesus. God has been gracious to me. I questioned at first as to why a job so far away? It seems that the Lord has a sense of humor.

You see life had become so busy that I was no longer making my time with Him a priority. I had prayed for Him to re-awaken in me the passion I had in the beginning of our relationship. I had started to become lukewarm and no longer hot; which is something He doesn't want us to be.

So He opened the door to the company in Toledo, Ohio. My iPod has over 400 hours of topical sermons. It also has 200 hours of Praise Music that takes me into the very throne room of God.

So my drive to work is filled with seminary level teaching and my ride home from work is filled with Worship and Song and JOY. It seems that He went out of His way to bring me back to making Him the daily Priority of my life. I say that because I know that He directs my steps through this life in every detail, no matter how small.

The beginning of my early morning ride is in the darkness. Besides the lights from my headlamps, the only other lights are the red taillights of the cars ahead of me. We follow close behind each other like the elephants in the circus that my parents took me to see when I was very young. The road, like life continues to wind and turn and curve, much like the lives we live.

I am listening to a series of messages about the Signs of the End Times. As I listen, I begin to notice the other lights around me. They are the billboard signs along the road. Lamps light them and the more modern ones are actually huge computer monitors with changing images in high definition on their screens.

It's almost as if I am in a movie theater sitting and watching the screen within the blackness that surrounds me. Out of the darkness come the messages of the world to each passerby that plant seeds of advertising into our psyche as we glance at the signs that impact our minds for five seconds

The message of the world is always one of darkness. But deep within each person God has placed Himself. Within the darkness of each of us is one small voice accompanied by one small light that waits to grow.

The small voice can only be heard if you listen, for it is the whisper of God calling to your heart. The small light will only grow when exposed to the word of God. The problem is that today most everyone around us is Biblically illiterate. Our lives are so filled with Bad News all the time that it is impossible for us to appreciate any Good News about a better life to come.

So we continue down the road of this life following each other down a winding, turning and curving road to nowhere. Just like the elephants at the Circus.

One of the things I cherish is my Biblical Worldview. Simply put, everything in my life and life around me is filtered through the concepts and the truth I have learned in studying Gods Word.

As I am driving I begin to pay attention to the Road Signs along the way. The signs are created with short phrases to make a quick impact on us as we drive by and read them.

I decided to see if I could take these image bites and turn each of them into a Biblical statement. So hold on, we are driving around 75 miles an hour. I know you think that's fast but I am in the far right lane with cars flying by me at a much faster speed; each with their heads stuffed up the tail end of the elephant in front of them.

Road Sign # 1: Road Commission... "STAY at a Safe Following Distance".

Each of us is on a road going to a destination and that destination is one of two places. We either will be in Heaven with God forever, OR away from God forever.

Jesus said come follow me. That meant **not at a Safe** distance. Jesus, when He walked this Earth had disciples. They followed next to Him. But it's even closer than that, because God wants you to call Him Abba, which means Daddy.

When you follow your Daddy He leads you by taking your hand in His. But the god of this Earth says follow at a Safe distance because when you are away from your Source of Life, away from your Daddy, away from the hand of Christ, then you have to make decisions on your own.

Without understanding the Word of God and staying in the Word of God every decision you make is the wrong decision. Your decisions will lead you along the

wide road at a safe distance all the way to the end of the road where you will see the sign that says you have reached a dead end.

While those you know, that took the hand of Jesus and talked as they walked with HIM down the narrow road, kept on walking like Enoch did, all the way home to their new beginning.

Road Sign # 2: Animal Shelter... "BELIEVE that you can make a difference".

Dogs are known for Love, a love that never dies, a love that is unconditional, a love that never changes toward you. So the road sign says BELIEVE and make a difference in a dog's life by adopting and bringing a dog home to be part of your family.

Now I agree that is an awesome thing to do, but the question I see is bigger than our hearts going out to homeless animals. The word Believe without a modifier is useless. So the question becomes Believe in WHOM? The answer is BELIEVE in JESUS and then you can make a difference in the life of your child, father, mother, sister, brother.... your friends and the animals that God loves even more than we do.

Our animal friends are part of the Creation that groans waiting for the Second Coming of Jesus to re-make this Universe brand new again. Those of us that will be part of the new heavens and earth will live together in peace forever. And like us, the animals will also live in peace as God intended from the very beginning.

The difference is our furry friends were born with an automatic into Heaven. They are pre-qualified for entrance, but you and I are not...we have to choose eternal life or by default we gain our eternal 2nd death.

What about **BELIEVE** and HE will make a difference in you. If you believe in Jesus then you will be adopted into His Eternal family. You will be given to Gods Son as a love gift during the grandest Coronation Ceremony the world has ever seen. The Coronation Ceremony of KING JESUS where you will inherit His Kingdom and live forever with HIM.

Road Sign # 3: A Roadside Van with flashing lights... "Courtesy Patrol".

The sign on the truck said Courtesy Patrol. This is a traveling Good Samaritan. The truck stops by stranded motorist who have problems with their cars on the road.

It's as if they bring a cup of cool water for those stranded in the desert that have been desperately waiting for help. People waiting alongside the road anxiously wondering if help will ever come in?

It reminds me of all the stranded people that live here on earth. Legion upon legions of anxiously stranded people, who do not know the God that made them? Stranded people that are looking for Courtesy—a little help, but don't know where to find it.

Did you know that you, yes you who claim to know Jesus are the courtesy patrol on the Narrow Road to Heaven? And at the same time you are the courtesy patrol on the Wide Road to Hell.

God has asked you to go amongst the wrecked lives all around you traveling on the wide road and reach into the flames that surround them...so that they can escape with you and then continue on the Narrow Road to Heaven.

You then will be there to guide them, to care for them, to invest your life into them to help them mature into disciples.

Then they will continue the job of reaching into the flames around them, touching the hearts of others for Christ. They eagerly become road warriors for Christ, because like you, they can never repay His Grace and Mercy. But they know who they are and in whom they now belong.

JESUS said... ***"I know my sheep and they know MY Voice"***.

When Jesus comes to you in your desert experience and whispers your name saying Come...Follow Me...you are among the most blessed people that have ever lived throughout time. You see this earth is nothing but a desert with wandering people who thirst for life giving water.

When the One who IS the very water of life **Courteously** extends out His hand holding a cool cup of water for you...you should take it. For when you accept it, and drink it...His Promise to you is that you will never thirst again...forever.

Road Sign # 4: MacDonald's... "Warm up to Joy".

It's December, and the winter is proving to be one of unusually cold extremes. I look forward to the sunshine on cold days because it makes a big difference. First it always uplifts my spirits when the sun is out and secondly it always takes the edge off the cold during the day.

In the BEGINNING, when God said "Let there be LIGHT"...it was perfect light.

The light generated heat that warmed up the Universe as it covered the cold darkness. The Garden that was on the earth was tropical; created at the perfect temperature for the comfort of both mankind and Gods entire creation.

It was the time when God came down from Heaven daily to walk with Adam and Eve in the Garden. Today we feel both the cold and the warmth of heat. But there is another kind of warmth that we long to feel. This warmth comes over us only when we feel JOY.

Cold and warm are opposites and so are tears and joy. Yet we can experience Tears of JOY for they define the special memories that we all have. Experiencing joy through our tears, represent moments when something physically or emotionally painful in our lives changed unexpectedly.

Times when the clouds disappear that hang over us, and the Sun comes out and we know everything will be OK. You have experienced those tears of joy and so have I.

The problem with each of us is that we never share them with anyone. Each of us is on an anvil of Love. God holds the hammer and with great care and with HIS own tears, He sculpts each of us during the days of our lives.

With each use of His hammer we become more like HIM.

I have learned that only through pain in life can we gain wisdom. The question about how much pain we will need to endure is tied to how fast we learn. But in the end, when we have arrived, the clouds will disappear and every shadow that haunts our lives and the world we live in will run and hide.

Why, because those of us who Believe in the Son of God will experience a Son Rise within our hearts. Our attitudes will change because we know the Truth. We know the ONE who WAS and IS and IS to come.

And when that DAY comes, the cold and darkness will disappear forever as we spend the rest of eternity continually warming up... to JOY in the morning.

Road Sign # 5: United Way... "What are you waiting for?"

One of these days the Holy Spirit will knock on the door of your heart for the last time. When that happens your heart of stone will forever remain hardened and set in its way. That day will be the most memorable day of your forever life that you will spend without being in the presence of GOD.

That day will haunt your eternity, as you then will learn what it truly is to live without hope. Why are you waiting for that day? Jesus said ...”What does it profit a man to gain the whole world, yet loose his own soul?”

Do you understand that the real you is spirit and not flesh? When you continue to play with your soul, you are gambling with you and your forever life. When you look in the mirror, what do you see? No matter what your age, what you see is a body in the stage of continual decay. Yes, you may think your pretty now, but years from now that beauty will be gone.

When we are older we no longer see who we thought we are, instead there is a stranger in the mirror. In fact the real you can now only be seen within your eyes. Your eyes are windows into your soul. Within your eyes you are forever young. Take a closer look, go ahead...see how they sparkle and reflect light.

The value that IS you is what is inside of you. When Scripture says that God made you in HIS Image, it is not a reference to your body. Almighty God, who is Spirit, has no body. God placed within you the image of His Spirit.

Your spirit since the moment of your birth in the flesh has remained dormant, and disfigured by the sin you inherited as a member of the human race. The flesh of your body continues every day of your life to decay and will ultimately turn to dust.

You were born in Sin because of the fall of Adam and Eve in the garden. You need a SAVIOR to put your faith into...not yourself. A Savior who will save you from yourself and the decision that **you Will make** to live without God forever. Only Jesus can save you from yourself...only HE holds the keys to eternal life and eternal death.

Jesus came to become one of us, fully man, yet fully God. Because He came, those of us who believe in His work on the Cross will have new bodies like HIS and our spirits will be Born Again into the Image Of God.

God made you, God loves you, and God wants you to come back to HIM. God whispers your name daily. God shows Himself to you in His creation of the Earth and the Heavens above you.

Instead of you coming back to HIM, you continue to ignore Him. In Genesis 6:3 The God of Eternity said “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever.” God will only chase you and whisper to you for so long and then He will give up on you and let you have your way and live without HIM forever.

The memories of your life will live before your eyes forever. Yet to those you remember...you will have become the forgotten. I cannot understand your decision not to understand the TRUTH and the penalty you will pay for denying it.

Again I say to you...

What are you waiting for?

Road Sign # 6: Semi Truck Graphic... "word Dawn with Sun Image".

I am passing a huge semi-trailer. On its side is a graphic that runs the length of the trailer. This truck belongs to the Dawn Corporation. They make baked goods for grocery store chains. Their logo is a contemporary image of a massive sunrise under the name of their company ...DAWN.

At the same time I am passing the Airport. Thinking back on the scene opening before me, it had to be Gods timing. This winter morning brings with it a sky with a few clouds and the multi-colors of a glorious sunrise beginning to break the darkness apart as the sun begins to rise in the east.

As I look up into the eastern sky that is now ablaze with the dawns light I see airplanes. Not just one or two, there is a steady stream of airplanes lifting their wings upwards bound for the heavens.

It reminds me of another airlift coming in the not so distant future. An airlift of believers in Christ will happen in less time than it takes for light to refract off your eye. We will hear the sound of a trumpet and all of us, representing the remaining light left to witness in the darkness of this world, will be caught up to meet The Lord Jesus in the air.

The Trumpet will be the loudest sound ever **NOT** heard on planet earth. Believers who have been waiting eagerly looking up to the sky and listening will hear the last call for humanity.

Only those who hear with their hearts will hear the Trumpet blast. Everyone else will be blind to our departure and deaf to the sound of the Trumpet.

This will not be an airplane ride into earth's atmosphere but a ride through the universe to where God dwells, and the Holy Angels call home. It is the place where Jesus lives. And when you arrive HE will take you to a special place HE created just for you... to call home.

There is a new DAY coming, a new DAY spring, a new DAWN...the Dawn of Eternity. The world is getting so dark so fast now that it is getting difficult for even one small light to shine and make a difference in the darkness.

GOD is finally Coming Home. But before HE arrives He will shut the lights out in the heavens, so that the only light people will see will be HIS as He arrives to claim what is His.

There was another very small group of believers 2,000 years ago who traveled very far to welcome the arrival of the King Of Kings at HIS first coming.

The Magi traveled by camel back on a trip that easily took the better part of a year to see the ONE Born King of the Jews. The Magi came out of the East, which is the direction of the Sun's Rising. They followed Gods special shining star with their eyes gazing upwards into the heavens in awe and reverence, all the way to meet with the Prophesied KING of the AGES.

Just like the Magi came out of the East, just as the Sun rises out of the East and brings with it a new born day...JESUS...

the Creator of the Universe and you and I , the One who called forth the Light out of the darkness; the ONE who was there in the Beginning with God, the ONE who reached down and took a handful of dust and created Mankind and then breathed life into us.

He, who IS LIGHT will come forth out of the darkness.

You and I will not have to travel by camel back over the distance through the Universe to the Throne Room of God.

If you have a ticket to ride the Second Coming Christmas Train, then I will meet you at the station. Then together we will take the ride of our lives; as bathed in HIS Light we will chase the **DAWN** all the way home to heaven.