

Motion is Lotion

March 2016



Dear Friends,

Some of you may know that I have had chronic pain in my upper back for years when I sit up in a straight-back chair. It is caused by degenerative arthritis. Pain pills helped to some degree, but I finally asked my doctor if physical therapy might help. Like most men, I don't like going to the doctors but prefer to endure such things. (Why are men like that?) My doctor felt that if I made the effort to visit a physical therapist, it most certainly would help my situation.

So with his advice, and the urging and support from Joan, I made the appointment. In my first meeting with the physical therapist, he told me "Motion is Lotion". And to my surprise, he was right. My upper back pain is greatly diminished, and I can now sit in a chair to work on my computer for hours at a time.

I'm wondering if there isn't a spiritual application to this. Certainly, the Bible teaches that at times we need to be still and know that the Lord is God (Psalm 46:10). And we certainly need to avoid the wrong kind of motion - the typical knee-jerk reactions which James warns us against in James 1:19: "... Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." But how often do we use such verses to avoid the Spirit-led motion to which God is calling us? Isn't it just easier to veg out and not be as active as we might should be for the Lord?

Stiffness can set in, joints can become inflamed and we can spiritually grind to all but a halt in presenting our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, which is our spiritual act of worship. Certainly attending church and worshipping with others is important, but isn't there more? Yes, and it's found in the moment by moment abiding in Christ, reflecting on His Word and following the Spirit's prompting ever so carefully. This communion with God is available to each of us who has genuinely trusted Christ for their salvation.

On my recent mission trip to Kenya, I could feel my body dictating to me in ways that were contrary to the Spirit's prompting ... "I'm tired, my back hurts, I'm jetlagging, it's too much!" I've had to learn to turn off this loud voice and listen harder to that still, small voice in my heart when the Lord urges me to move on. And I'm always glad when I do. It's the battle that can result in true peace and joy when He uses me to bring the Gospel of Grace to so many in need.

In fact, on this past trip to Kenya in January, the Lord rewarded us with just over 2,000 who came to faith in Christ! What a blessing! Thanks so much for your part, in all your prayers and support for this ministry.

Moving onward with you, for Him,

Dean Chollar

Motion is Lotion with Teamwork in Kenya

Before that same recent mission trip to Kenya this past January, our Field Director, Ken Gatithi, had already done the heavy lifting. For months prior to my coming, he had contacted and visited the communities where I was scheduled to preach. He is known in Swahili as the "mtu wa maji" (water-man), because of the many wells and water projects he has overseen in the Lord's name. In addition to this, as our Field Director, he is overseeing the donations of milk goats to widows, caring for orphans, painting schools and showing the Jesus film. All of this prepares their hearts for when the Lord allows me to come in and preach the Gospel.

This is all about our simple 3-fold approach:

1) Opening Hearts for the Gospel

First, we look for ways to meet the physical needs of truly hurting people and gain a hearing for the Gospel. It reminds me of the Apostle Paul's approach in Galatians 2:10: They (the leadership in Jerusalem) agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the Jews. All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I (Paul) was eager to do." This is also reflected in Proverbs 29:7, "The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern."

2) Sharing the Gospel

Once we have done that, our second strategy is to build on showing that kind of concern for the poor by making special efforts to take them the Gospel of God's Grace. And it certainly seems to work, with thousands coming to faith in Christ.

3) Training Others to Share the Gospel

Our third strategy is then to return once more and train others in the Gospel and sound doctrine. We have plans to do that in Kenya this May, when I and two other teachers go to Kenya to teach a 3-day Pastors Conference to 50 Pastors in the Kangundo area, where we have had 650 come to faith in Christ.

And this is being replicated by our other team members. Read on for more updates.



Goats for Widows in Kenya



Opening Hearts with Clean Water



Sharing the Gospel in Schools



Training Leaders to Share the Gospel



Motion is Lotion in Action | Dean Chollar

On March 7, 2016, I sent out a tweet to pray for an opportunity to share the gospel with someone on the plane. I was headed back from a missions conference in the Tampa area. The plane was full but I was allowed to sit in a bulkhead seat and board early because of my blindness. The seat next to me was empty and I thought, "Well, maybe I will get some sleep", since I had been up since 3:30 that morning. But that was not the case. A giant of a man, 6 foot 9 inches tall, came and sat down. We laughed about how small the seats were and rubbed shoulders in that awkward way that most have experienced on a plane.

So how do I start the motion of moving things toward spiritual issues (Motion 1)? Well, I asked questions and showed genuine interest in him. He opened up and told me about his short professional basketball career in Ireland, about his short marriage and divorce when he was 30, his work in the construction field, and now how he is living with his girlfriend and her 2 kids. And at this point, he knew nothing or very little about who I was, which is okay ... it wasn't about me but about him and how I could connect and share the Gospel with him.

Then I sensed from the Lord that it was time to move the questions forward (Motion 2). So I asked him if he had any interest in spiritual things. Again, he was very willing to tell me about his background and experience as a Catholic. But he had not found much value in it and had not been to church in 20 years.

So it felt comfortable to move the conversation once again (Motion 3). So I asked him who Jesus was to him. He had a general idea and shared how many religions seem to teach the same thing - to be good to one another. We were moving in the right direction and

getting to the question I really wanted to ask him. But we weren't quite there yet.

After discussing some different religions and what they had in common, I asked him if he had ever heard that going to heaven was a free gift, not on the basis of our good works (Motion 4). He admitted he had never heard this before. And I asked more questions in this area and explained John 3:16 and Ephesians 2:8,9. He considered all this and listened when I explained that if Christ paid for our sins on the cross, that it was not necessary for us to pay again but simply to put our faith in Christ and receive his gift of salvation.

Then we were almost there, at the question I truly wanted to ask him (Motion 5). So I moved carefully and prayerfully forward. I asked him if there was anything that would keep him right now from telling God he was trusting in Christ alone to forgive all his sins, and to receive eternal life and the guarantee of heaven in the future?

He said there wasn't anything. So we had arrived at the opportunity I was hoping the Lord would give me (Motion 6). I told him he could do it right now. He could tell God in the quietness of his mind and heart that he understands the message and that he is trusting in Christ alone, Who died for his sins in his place and rose from the dead ... that he is trusting in Jesus alone, not in Jesus and his good works or a religion, but in Christ alone.

After pausing for 30 seconds, he told me he had done that. We had arrived at the point of salvation and the answer to our prayer to give me an opportunity to share the gospel. Thank you for praying!

Motion is Lotion in Nicaragua | Part 1

I had the opportunity to go to Nicaragua by myself in December. One purpose of the trip was to get to know our Field Director, Francisco, better. Another was to get a feel for the outreach projects that CrossWay International is involved in. It was a busy week! Francisco and I visited a hospital, preached the gospel at a couple of prisons, met with local church leaders, and did a children's outreach project. I also led two music trainings, made connections for doing a music mission trip in April, preached at a church in Chichigalpa, and taught the youth group at Los Cocos. Overall it was a fruitful trip, and I am so thankful for your prayers.

March 30th-April 5th I am off to Nicaragua again, planning on doing all sorts of ministry with Francisco and his team. We will be doing outreach in hospitals and prisons, and training our brothers and sisters in the local church to do the same. We would appreciate your prayers for this trip, too.

by Jason Chollar



Preaching the Gospel in the Prisons

PRAISE

PRAYER

- Praise for the many milk goats we were able to purchase for widows in distress in Kenya.
- Praise for the continuing harvest in our active target countries (Nicaragua, Kenya, Ethiopia, Liberia).
- Praise for the increase for the team in speaking and travel opportunities.

March 2016

- Pray for both Francisco and Jasmina in Nicaragua. Francisco was attacked and robbed this month, and Jasmina is thankful her chemotherapy succeeded.
- Pray for Dean's trips to Liberia and Ethiopia. He will visit our schools (which have 374 kids total), in addition to preaching and teaching. Also for the team that will go with Dean to Kenya in May to teach at a Pastors Conference and to evangelize more communities.
- Pray for Jason's trip to Nicaragua in April, where he will minister with Francisco.

Motion is Lotion in Nicaragua | Part 2



Training Leaders in Nicaragua

In January the CrossWay Training Center in Laguna de Apoyo, Nicaragua, hosted its first mission team. The team consisted of CrossWay International missionaries Gary Jones and Bruce McIntosh, Fort Worth pastor Ken Parlin, and University of Texas at San Antonio student Tim Jusko. In addition to training 18 Nicaraguan pastors and church leaders, the team conducted numerous gospel outreach activities and events. They shared the gospel in hospitals, prisons, parks, athletic fields, and churches. This resulted in about 100 people trusting in Christ for the gift of eternal life.

Please join us in thanking God for providing this facility and spiritual fruit harvested by this first missionary team. And please pray for future teams and the funding needed to continue the build this Training Center site and the Kingdom of God in Nicaragua.

by Gary Jones

We shared our testimonies with the prisoners in this crowded cell - 7 of them told us they were putting their trust in Jesus Christ to save them (the one smiling at the bottom said he had trusted Christ when our last team visited the same prison in December.)

by Bruce McIntosh



A pastor and his wife with Bruce McIntosh, discussing the Biblical counseling training they were receiving.