



Jamie Holden
AGUS Missionary Assoc.



Dear Friends,

I love December!! Christmas is my favorite time of the year!! Everyone is busy, houses are decorated, Christmas music fills the air, and you can watch Elf! (Although I must admit I watch Elf when it isn't Christmas time.) I also get to listen to Elvis' Christmas album while I sit and schedule all the promo emails and Facebook posts to promote the upcoming season of Mantour Conferences. The world just seems happier in December (especially since the election is behind us!) and everyone focuses on giving and not being a "Cotten-headed-ninny-muggins"...did I mention I love Elf??

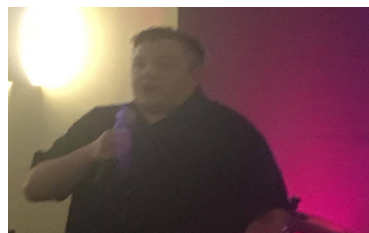


As we head towards the end of the year, I wanted to share with you about some of the ministry we were able to do in November thanks to the support of our ministry partners. I started off November by speaking at men's breakfast at New Life Worship center in Grantville, PA. It was great being with Pastor Rob Steim and the men at his church and to share my testimony with them.

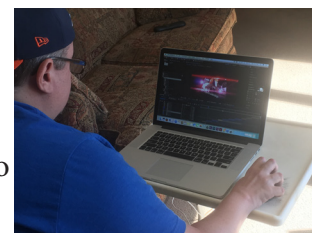


I also enjoyed travelling to Philadelphia to visit Highpointe Church and share with them the vision and passion God has placed on my heart to reach men with the Gospel both inside and outside of the church. I also got to tell them about our 2017 Greater Philadelphia Mantour, which will be our first Mantour in the Philadelphia area! I was touched by the positive response of the people of Highpointe Church to the work we do, especially our outreach to men in prisons and Teen Challenge Centers.

We were so happy to be able to send 75 books to a prison in the Altoona, PA area, as well as 36 books to a work release program and another 36 books to the Hope Homes in Pittsburgh, PA



A big chunk of November was spent doing Mantour Videos and Promo videos. The picture to the right is me working on the "Get In The Game" Promo video. I was also able to put together all the in-conference videos and session countdowns. This years workshop countdowns are quite different than last years as I really embraced our sports theme. I had a blast making them, and am looking forward to seeing the men's response.



The other picture to the right was from one of our video shoots we did. The Holy Spirit gave me a great idea to promote this year's conferences over the month of December. It is really tough getting the word out during the holidays, but this year we are doing "Jamie on Saturday Morning" videos, inspired from Peyton Manning's commercials. The premise is there are no Mantours or men's breakfasts on Saturday morning, and I need something to do. I am grateful to all the pastors and friends who helped me out with these videos. So far we have posted one video, and it had over 1000 views! Looking forward to posting the rest over December and early January!!



I hope you will continue on to page 2 to check out the devotional for December, as well as the Pray, Give, and Go.

Thank you all for your continued prayer and financial support. If you are interested in having me come share with your church about our work with AGUS Missions, email me at jamie@mantourministries.com. I would love to share with your church or your men's group!

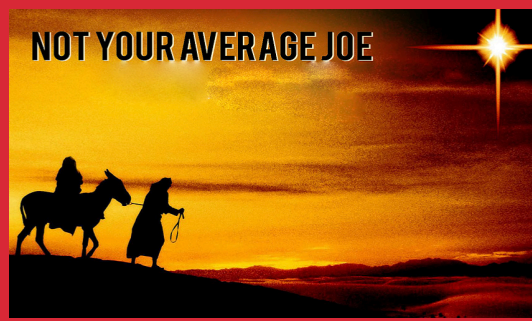
Have a great December!!

Jamie Holden

Jamie Holden

Founder, Mantour Ministries, AGUS Missionary Assoc.

NOT YOUR AVERAGE JOE



It's that most wonderful time of the year...Christmas! As we light our houses and buy presents for those we love, our hearts and minds focus on the real reason for Christmas...the celebration of the birth of our Saviour in the manger over 2,000 years ago. Many a play will retell the story of how Mary, a virgin, gave birth to the Son of God. We will remember the shepherds watching their sheep. We recall the wise men travelling far to worship. We even remember the innkeeper's infamous words "There is no room in the inn." However, few people focus attention on Joseph. I think this is sad. Why?

Because he wasn't just your average Joe. Joseph is an excellent example of a godly man. He lived his life in complete surrender to God. He did whatever God asked of him, even when obedience involved personal sacrifice on his end. Joseph was a righteous man who loved God and obeyed Him. As

we begin our holiday season, I want to re-introduces us to this incredible man of character and integrity.

Joseph was engaged to Mary as a teenager. It was probably an arranged marriage, but Joseph loved Mary very much. He prepared for his life with Mary by learning the carpenter's trade. His future seemed clear and bright.

Shortly before Joseph and Mary were to be married, Joseph learned that Mary was pregnant. Can you imagine the feelings of anger, hurt, and sadness Joseph must have felt? He must have felt like Mary had betrayed him. Even worse, she had betrayed God's law, which also said Mary was supposed to be stoned for her actions.

In the middle of this horrible situation, Joseph still found love in his heart for Mary. He couldn't bear the thought of exposing her to the shame and disgrace she would experience. He still wanted to marry her, but yet, how could he? Joseph didn't know what to do. He decided the only thing he could do was quietly divorce Mary, trying to spare her any undue disgrace. After all, he did still love her. Heartbroken, humiliated, and unsure what to do, Joseph collapsed on his bed in exhaustion.

At this point, the Bible tells us that Joseph was visited by an angel of God. The angel told Joseph to believe Mary...everything she had told him was true. Even more, the baby in Mary's womb was no ordinary baby. It was the long-awaited Messiah!

Can you imagine what Joseph must have thought? Honestly, would you believe it if you were Joseph?

This is what makes Joseph such an incredible man. He not only believed God, but he obeyed Him fully. He accepted the difficult life God was asking him to live. Face it, people talk. For the rest of his life, Joseph faced snickers, gossip, and shame from ignorant people. However, it was what God asked of him, and he did it.

Joseph accepted the truth about Mary's pregnancy as fact. He believed what God said and that was that! He not only married Mary, but he abstained from having sex with his wife until after Jesus was born. He wanted God's miracle to be just that. He didn't allow for anyone to think that the baby was his baby born premature. He wanted people to know it was a miraculous birth. By doing this, he also opened himself up to gossip and stares, something he endured until the day he died.

This is not the only time we read of Joseph obeying God even when it cost him dearly. After Jesus was born, we read that Magi came to worship the new king of the Jews. This fact didn't go unnoticed by the old king of the Jews, King Herod. He became paranoid and jealous, ordering the execution of all male babies 2 years old and under in Israel.

God warned Joseph to take Mary and Jesus and run for their lives. You have to realize this happened a year or two after Jesus was born. They were living in a house in Bethlehem, and Joseph had opened his own carpenter's shop to support his young family. Now God was asking Joseph to leave everything behind and move to a foreign country and culture. Joseph never wavered. God told him to do it, so he did it immediately. He didn't even wait for morning. God said to go, so he went. He left it all behind. He was going to obey God, no matter the cost.

Although we read very little about Joseph from here on in, we know he was obedient to God throughout the remainder of His life. He raised Jesus as his own son. He made sure Jesus felt loved, protected and safe. He taught Jesus about serving God. He made sure Jesus learned and observed all the Jewish religious ceremonies. He took Him to the temple. He loved Him, raised Him, and taught Him his profession as a carpenter.

Joseph is one of the most honorable men we find in the Bible because he was a man of character and integrity. He had a submissive, obedient heart toward God, and a steadfastness to serve God no matter what the cost. He did whatever God asked of him. We need to learn from his example.

We need to be committed to serving God no matter the cost. We must obey Him even if it disrupts our comfort zones. No matter what God asks of us, we need to do it out of a heart of love and devotion.

Trust me, this can be hard. He could ask us to do something we don't think we can do. He may want us to forgive someone and restore a relationship with someone we feel we can't possibly forgive. He's asked some to leave their successful businesses and start a totally different career. He may ask us to surrender an activity or hobby to Him. He may make us focus on an area of sin we would rather not look at. God is not nearly as concerned with making life easy for us as we are. However, when we obey God and go through the hard times He presents to us, we develop character and integrity.

God never promises us an easy life as His sons. He promises to be with us every step as we live a life of obedience to Him. So as we enjoy the Holiday Season and prepare to start a new year, let's all commit to following Joseph's example and live a life of obedience to God and His will, no matter the cost. Have a very Merry Christmas!!!

PRAY:

We are so appreciative of your prayer support. Please pray for us:

1. Pray that our "Jamie on Saturday Morning" Promo campaign connects with people and spreads the word about our 2017 Conferences.
2. Please pray for us as we go to churches and men's groups sharing with them about our work to reach men. Pray for a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit as I share my testimony with the men and with church congregations. Also, pray that God opens even more doors for me to share this message.
3. Please begin praying for the 2017 Mantour Conferences. Pray for a mighty move of God among men as they attend the conferences and that men's lives, relationships, families and churches experience a revolutionary touch from God

GIVE:

I am in need of individuals and men's ministries to partner with me as a Missionary Associate on a monthly basis. I work on Mantour Conferences and the Mantour resources full time year round, and would value your financial support. Will you prayerfully consider partnering with me and with Mantour Ministries on monthly or yearly basis? You can give online at www.giving.ag.org using Account Number 2813962, or print and return the form below using account Number 2813962.

GO:

Finally, will you commit to adding your local Mantour conference to your church's 2017 calendar? I know the men in your church will be blessed as they attend the 2017 "Get In The Game" Conferences!



Merry Christmas
from MANTOUR Ministries
Jamie Holden, AGUS Missionary Assoc. #2813962

Missionary Faith Promise

Assemblies of God U.S. Missions • 1445 N. Boonville Ave • Springfield, MO 65802-1894
Phone: 417.862.2781 ext. 3264 • Fax: 417.873.9734 • E-mail: AGUSMFinance@ag.org

DONOR INFORMATION

☐ Church ☐ Individual

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Tel _____

Account Number _____

☐ Check here if you do not wish to receive promotional materials from U.S. Missions.

CREDIT/DEBIT CARD

Account Number _____ Exp. Date _____

☐ One-time

☐ Monthly

Name of Cardholder _____

Authorized Signature _____

For individuals: Church to Credit



**You Can Give
Online At:
www.giving.ag.org**

MISSIONARY INFORMATION

As the Lord enables us, we promise to invest \$ _____ each month for support of:

Missionary **Jamie Holden**

Account # **2813962** Department **Missionary Church Planters & Developers**

Donor Signature _____

Date _____

IMPORTANT: Please help this missionary get to his/her place of ministry.
Sign, date, and mail this form today along with your first check. God Bless You!



MISSIONARY
CHURCH PLANTERS + DEVELOPERS

