

DeVine

MINISTRIES

"Taking the gospel where it has never gone before"

February 2016 www.jdevineministries.com P.O. Box 7138 Rainbow City, AL 35906-7138

I discovered a new love for "church." What seems to happen in our present church system is that people are trained to be listeners. We just sit and listen to the praise and worship "performance" rather than participating. We sit and listen as the pastor gives us good advice and sometimes expounds on his personal revelation of a scripture or concept of Christian life, again we are not participating. We are just filling a seat and going through the religious rituals: Meet and greet one another, sit down and observe three fast songs and three slow ones, or perhaps in the extra spiritual churches, a mini concert, then the message, offering and closing prayer. As we leave, we are admonished to invite our friends to come to church next week; so they too can become Christians. Then, most people just go about the other six days of the week pretty much like everyone else.

In the church where I am responsible for bringing the message and my girls lead the praise and worship here where we live now, I was feeling the same thing; I was starting to dread Sunday morning. As I spent time in prayer about why I was feeling this way, the Lord began to minister to me. He reminded me of the same thing He spoke to us a couple of years ago, "You are just doing church and not being the church." Although we learned this before, we had allowed that "old time religion" to creep back into our lives.



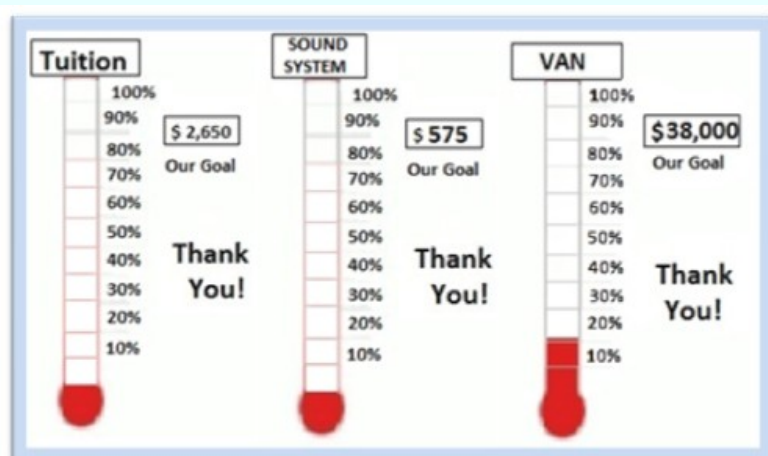
We started praying every time we left the house for divine appointments; opportunities to share our faith, opportunities to pray for someone, to present the Gospel, to heal someone. To our surprise, we began having so many amazing experiences. We decided to take it a step further; rather than just make this change in *our* lives, we would change the way we ministered at church as well. Beginning the last Sunday of last month, we asked the church if they would be willing to have our church service in a local park. We scouted a suitable place, a place where lots of people would be sure to hear us and see us

We went early and set up our chairs and equipment. I purchased a converter to operate our sound system with a spare car battery. We praised and worshipped the Lord as loudly as we could. People all around and in the distance were stopping and listening. I prepared a very straight forward gospel message and we broadcast it as loudly as our little speaker would go. We could see people in the distance listening. Most of them stood still and listened to the entire message. Afterwards we went out to meet the people, pray with them and give them gospel tracts with our contact information on them.



Passing out tracts and sharing the Gospel.

The church was so excited about this new way of worship; everyone agreed to continue to hold our services in the park. Afterwards we went back to the church building for fellowship and to receive the offering. We are praying for a better sound system that is better suited for outdoor use. The Lord blessed us with the money to have more of our tracts printed; I will pick them up at the printer next week. We were able to get 3,000 tracts for \$285. Please pray with us for a better sound system, approximately \$575.



This time of year is when most of our biggest annual expenses come due; car registration and insurance, children's tuition and rent. The Lord has always provided and we know He will continue to.

Thank you to all our faithful partners that make it possible for us to continue to disciple the children we have rescued and to care for them and to reach the lost with the gospel.

Bless you,
The DeVine Family

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