



Rejoice in the Lord Always

By Bill Hahn (MOST Ministries Team Member & Board Chairman)



Bill teaching about eye health & safety

I am sure that many of you are worried, doing everything you can to be healthy, praying for your loved ones, for our governmental leaders, for our pastors, and for our country. Some of you may even be grieving the loss of life on earth of a loved one. I am also sure that many of you are wondering how much is enough? Much of the precautions and trampling of individual freedoms seemed to make sense 42 days ago, but do they make sense now? I am sure that we are all wondering what the next steps are. And wondering whether we are doing enough. Do I follow the government's edicts properly? Do I pray enough? Am I praying correctly? Do I have the right kind of faith? What is God saying to our country and to each of us individually?

I'm sorry to say that I don't know the answers to any of these weighty questions. But today, my mind was drawn to Philippians 4:4- Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. And I will. And I pray that you will also. In fact, even though it's not in the text, I want to add some exclamation points and capital letters! REJOICE in the Lord always!

Consider also who was writing this to the Philippians.

The apostle Paul had been shipwrecked: Rejoice in the Lord always

The apostle Paul had been thrown in Roman prison even though he was a Roman citizen: Rejoice in the Lord always

Paul knew what was important and more importantly, Paul knew Who made the important things. Paul knew that because Jesus Christ died and rose again death has lost its sting. Paul knew that because Jesus Christ died and rose again, there is nothing left to fear. Rejoice in the Lord always.

On our MOST mission trips, we make it a point to rejoice in the Lord several times a day. Morning and evening devotions, prayers not just at meal times but throughout the day! When fatigue is building and tensions are rising we step back and rejoice. Because the Lord led us to that country, to that mission, to that spot at that moment, and we remember to take a breath and rejoice.

We rejoice as we clean and repair and refurbish old eye-glasses. We

rejoice that we're able to help someone see more clearly. We rejoice that we're able to help someone have clean drinking water, or better health through a medical clinic. But most of all we rejoice in the Lord that He uses us to talk to the world one person at a time about what Jesus Christ did for all men, for all time, in all times. We rejoice in the Lord always.

Does Paul's statement apply to us today? The Philippians were getting discouraged.

"Because we cannot see what God sees and cannot know what God knows, we rejoice."

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A Ripple Effect: Never Underestimate the Impact

By Darcy Zent (MOST Ministries Team Leader)

My first international mission experience was back in 2005. I remember my first impressions from that Eyeglass Team to Matagalpa, Nicaragua very clearly. I remember the preparation, the Bible study, the team training, and the thought that I would not be able to put it together on the field. How exactly are we, a band of ordinary church members, going to perform eye exams?

Our Team Members ranged in age from 17 - 78 years old. Included in the mix was a pastor, a physician, a nurse, a realtor, a grade school teacher, and a CPA. How were WE going to do this?!

We worked hard to prepare and to raise funds. One of the most important activities, as it turned out, was team fundraising. We got to know each other pretty well by working side by side in car washes, bake sales, rummage sales and volunteer work. This was so helpful in the field but when we arrived of course there were so many unexpected things.

Some of the most vivid things were the armed guards at the seminary where we stayed. One faucet in the shower marked F – this means Frio, or in English, COLD. We were in the mountains of Nicaragua and I'm going to tell you, even in July, cold doesn't really come close to describing it! Our lodging was simple dormitory style housing, 2 beds to a room, one bathroom without a door in a space about 12 x 10. Nothing fancy!

Each morning we awoke to the sound of monkey chatter and screams from adjoining rooms as our teammates learned what F stood for in their showers. By breakfast we were more than awake.

We arrived at the clinic on Monday, and I recall seeing quite a long line of people waiting outside the door. A small band of musicians played to greet us. We moved through the crowd as quickly as we could eager to set up and start seeing people.

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We worked from 8 am until about 5 pm taking short breaks as we could, but I didn't want to rest. I heard various stories of people waiting in line since 4 am. People really needed what we were offering. I wanted to see as many people as we could.

We got to know our interpreters very well and it was wonderful to speak with them about their lives and how blessed they felt to have the opportunity to work with us. They were happy to have the work and some had come from far away in Chinandega (over 100 miles from Matagalpa). Some were Christian, but some were not. It was another opportunity God had put before us as we witnessed to our brothers. One of our translators was an orphan who was taken in by the church. Some of our Team Members kept in touch with him and were thrilled to hear that he later became a pastor.

During the week, I saw God working in the hearts of our team. Our resident physician saw many people who we could not help, and it was clear this was difficult for him. In later years, he returned annually to work in a clinic in Nicaragua that was opened by a fellow physician from Milwaukee. Several of the Team Members went on to participate in teams and do more mission work. One Team Member, who was a college student, became a physician.

My experience on this team had a profound impact on my life. I later applied to become a Team Leader. I had a deep desire to continue to help others experience missions the way I had. Over the years, I have developed many deep relationships with Team Members and with the hosts and families in Latin America. I know my life would be less without the special people God placed in my path.

If you have ever considered participating on a mission team I would encourage you to prayerfully consider doing it. If you are not interested in being a Goer, then know that we love Senders so much. Your contribution is so valuable and precious to teams and leaders! Every bit of effort you put into serving is noticed and appreciated.

If you want to discuss where you can help, please reach out to MOST Ministries to learn more.



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False prophets were telling them false gospels. Salvation by works was being pushed in some corners. I think Paul's message to the Philippians applies to us today. Ever watch different news channels or listen to different politicians? They all seem to have statistics to back up their points, so who is telling the truth? Is anyone? Does it matter? Rejoice in the Lord always - that matters.

And Paul goes on to say in verse 6: "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." God knows where you are right now and He knows your struggles. He knows whether you're having a "good" day or a "bad" day. The Holy Spirit knows the moanings and groanings of our hearts, some of which we cannot articulate, and takes them to the Father. Rejoice in the Lord always.

And then in verse 7: "And the peace of God, which surpasses all human understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Because we cannot see what God sees and cannot know what God knows, we rejoice. We rejoice that God cares for all people and removes the sting of death from those who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior.

We continue to pray and meet (virtually!) at MOST Ministries about what the future will hold. We are confident that our mission will continue and are listening intently for answers and directions He is providing.

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

This is a wonderful way to remember or honor a loved one.

IN MEMORY OF

Doris Enquist by Laura Dorneman
Doris Enquist by Family of Doris Enquist
Carl Fischer by Eunice Fischer
Rodger Wenzel by Ron & Pat Morley

IN HONOR OF

Lynn Wrightson by B.J. Connor
MOST Staff, Volunteers, and those whom we serve
by Karen Shalfeieff

Gifts can be made online or mailed.
For information, contact Kelly Bone at
734-994-7909 or kbone@mostministries.org

Even though our current circumstances are shifting, and it is a bit nerve-wracking, we are excited to see what He has in store for all of us. We crave your prayers for MOST and for the people we all serve.

Everyday, I wear the MOST bracelet with the beads which we give to people that attend our clinics. The one that we use to tell the people who the Father is, who Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are, and what God has done because He loves them so much. I hope you have your own bracelet. It's a fantastic reminder to me to rejoice in the Lord always. **REJOICE!**



Pastor Herb Burch, host in Belize, sharing the Gospel

2020 Teams

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, MOST Ministries teams scheduled from mid-March through August 2020 have been canceled and will be rescheduled for 2021.

Please keep MOST Ministries, our international hosts, and the people in the mission field who will not be served by our mission teams this year, in your prayers.



Mission Opportunities Short Term

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