# **Get Out of the Boat**! 10/04/2016

by G. Allen Penner <http://returntograceministry.site123.me/>

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|  |  | |  | | --- | | A Ministry is Born!!  Return to Grace: Restoring Those That Fall Away | | Issue Date | |
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| braving the waves |  | Daily encouragement |

In Matthew 14:22-36 we see a great illustration of the type of active faith it takes to do great things in the Kingdom; as well as the danger of losing our focus on the object of our faith. When Peter asks Jesus if he may walk out upon the water to Him, Jesus allows it. At first, Peter is walking atop the surface without issue; however, as soon as he stops looking at Jesus and becomes anxious about the waves-he begins to sink.

Folks, any time we let the worries and concerns for our situations to derail our focus on Jesus; we will then begin to, “tread water,” in the tumultuous seas of our lives. We do well to realize that focusing on the situations rather than the only solution is a very counterproductive approach. If we wish to find success in our lives, we must always keep in perspective that our successes in life are products of our faith in Christ.

Even then, we will never know if we don’t get out of the boat to begin with. Let us at least step forth in faith when God calls us. Why is it that we do not take that leap of faith? Quite often it is our own doubts, fears, or the feeling that we aren’t worthy or aren’t capable of what we may feel God wants.

It is said in Hebrews 11:1- “What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see. “Truly faith is not faith when it is evidence based. If we want to achieve great things in God’s greater plan it will take a great faith. The world will always present the idea that we cannot achieve; that we are not enough, but it is not our own power by which we find victory in any circumstance. It is through faith in Christ alone.

Let us at least try; for the surest way to lose a battle is to give up before it begins. So let’s exit the boat and follow Christ in spite of the frightening appearance of the waves in our lives. Let us step forth knowing that even if we begin to sink; one call to Jesus will lift us up out of the waters!

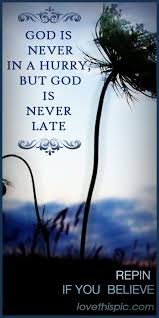




“‘For I know the plans I have for you; they are to prosper you,’ says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11



Never

**Never late**

There is a three-fold purpose to both the restoration ministry, and its two companion resources. (IE, this E book, and the soon to be released paperback version.) They both are designed to do the following:

1). EDUCATE the Body regarding the issue of backsliding; what God’s Word says, and what God’s will actually is. The idea is to promote a much deeper understanding, so we may recognize the signs and halt a struggling believer’s slide before they fall away.

2). EMPOWER the Body in order to break the chains of external and also self-condemnation; so we do not continue contributing to backsliding. the sense of judgment that makes a

### *E Book Resource*

By Penn Jefferson

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| Three-fold purpose |
| “For God so loved the world that He gave His Only Son, so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life. God did not send His Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it.” JOHN 3:16&17 |

God is sometimes early, and He often waits until time is right, but He is always right on time!

### **Salvation *vs*. Backsliding**

***BY: G. Allen Penner***

These things make a believer feel pushed away from the Body and perpetuates the cycle of white-wash and condemnation. This nurtures a spiritual environment that is hostile to struggling Christians. 3). EQUIP the Body to be obedient to the pattern set forth by Jesus in Luke 15; so we can go out into the wilderness and seek those who fall away. To no longer surrender ground and souls to the enemy. We will reclaim these souls as we show-they too can Return to Grace! See more about this resource and author at: [amazon.com/author/byjefferson](file:///C:\Users\jacob\Documents\word%20template%20stuf\amazon.com\author\byjefferson)

 For the longest time I looked at Luke 15 as the backslider’s chapter; geared specifically for the backslider alone. Others would tell me that the parables were purely salvation principles. However, I now realize that the two concepts are not mutually exclusive; but in actuality, are almost literally one and the same. I will explain how I finally came to this revelation, because it’s a critical element for us all to recognize; so we no longer use distinction as an excuse to approach the issue of backsliding differently.

Ever since Adam and Eve took the first fatal bites in the Garden; mankind has perpetually backslidden and fallen away. Israel spent thousands of years falling away, and being restored; only to repeat the issue time and again. At some point it became apparent that the daily sacrifices were simply not enough to restore a perpetually “falling away,” nation.

That was when Jesus set down His crown, left the comfort of heaven, and came to live, suffer and die for all mankind. Jesus was the first and greatest restoration minister EVER! Yet in today’s Christian society we look at backsliders like they are too evil and unworthy to merit restoration. Do we not realize Jesus could well have had the same approach?

Let us keep these things in mind; and follow the path Jesus laid out for us: Go seek those who stray and restore them! Sure the backslider may not “deserve,” help; but neither did we as God’s children when Jesus died for us. Let us set down judgment, and pick up the torches of mercy and grace!

### Convoy of Hope:

### *A Bit of History*

***BY: G. Allen Penner***



RANDOM RECAP OF WHATEVER FINAL PICTURE ENDS UP ABOVE THE TEXT BOX

Convoy was officially founded in 1994 by the Donaldson family. Yet its roots and inspiration stem as far back as 1969 when the Donaldson family lost their Father/husband to a drunk driver. The family received critical and timely help from people who were selfless and compassionate to their situation. When they lost Harold; it destroyed both their financial foundation and sense of stability/security.

That meant they went from stable and cared for, to broke and homeless for all intents and purposes; basically “overnight.” If not for the generosity and true compassion of others for their situation, they would have had far more obstacles to rebuilding the family unit and providing a stable home.

Well, given the support they received, the number of folks out in the world still in need; and the incredible gratitude for God’s providence; Convoy was born. What began as a pickup bed filled with groceries, has grown into miraculous global ministry. Praise the Lord Almighty! Amen?

Convoy has now served over 79 million people in its quest to feed the hungry, comfort the

afflicted, and support those in situations of need. As it stands so far, a tad more than 150,000 children in 10 nations are being fed nutritious meals by Convoy. Currently, they are feeding children in the Philippines, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Haiti, Kenya, Ethiopia, Guatemala, South Africa and Tanzania.

Each year — in dozens of communities throughout the nation — guests of honor receive free groceries, health and dental screenings, haircuts, family portraits, hot meals, job-placement assistance and much more at our signature events. This event here in Sioux City was one such event.

Additionally, Convoy is consistently among the first to respond to disasters throughout the world. It is highly regarded for their scalable distribution model, Disaster Response teams, six international warehouses and Mobile Command Center.

As a faith-based, international, humanitarian-relief organization strategically based in Springfield, Missouri — the crossroads of America — their goal is to bring help and hope to those who are impoverished, hungry and hurting. They are truly showing what it means to “be salt and light,”. This being said, NOBODY is refused aid simply if they are not Christian; now that’s love!

In any event, I would offer some general advice if I may. If you see a Convoy event in your area; sign up! The reward is priceless as hearts are mended, souls are won, and God is glorified. This is the most rewarding thing I have done all year, by far. Volunteering is well organized and any with a heart to serve are welcome to. Disabled are welcomed and honored to serve, and bi-lingual folks are in high demand.

PRAISE GOD ALMIGHTY. AMEN!

(NOTE: Most of this article is either a direct quote or a paraphrase from Convoy of Hope’s “About Us,” section. This was to maintain integrity with their mission. Thanks and God Bless!)

The event may have been scheduled for a 10 AM start on Saturday, Oct. 1st; yet, it unofficially kicked off at 7 PM the night before. Convoy of Hope staff, MAG Pastors and facilitators called the volunteers together for an orientation and rally; that we would be fully prepared the following morning. We had some great worship and fellowship; some preparatory prayer, guidance from Convoy staff regarding orderly service, and some basic functional wisdom.

**Siouxland + Convoy + Passion = Salt n’ Light**

**By: G. Allen Penner**

At one point, a believer gave his testimony; and it was a poignant and powerful one. Having just moved to Siouxland prior to the last COH event here, he was finding difficulty making ends meet. It was difficult supporting a family while transitioning to a new community, and starting over-with jobs that didn’t meet the financial needs. Having found a solid Christ based foundation here; when the COH event came along, he was eager to serve.

He arrived with the intention of cutting hair, but the absence of a license made that impossible. Humble as he was, he redirected his intention to just sweeping up the hair that fell; but God had a bigger plan. A representative of Mercy Medical Center approached him and asked if he may be willing to provide translation for those among the Hispanic/Latino population who weren’t as fluent in English.

I can attest that even though I am fluent in English, I can’t even understand half of what the medical paperwork says, LOL! I can imagine how hard it would be for someone not acquainted with the language. Praise the Lord almighty; not only was this man fluent in both languages; but his experience in the insurance industry helped him have a greater understanding of the insurance policies, legalities and such. God had set his path, but he was the one obedient to follow the leading-right to the spot God needed him!

His character and hard work; humility and sincerity; selflessness and skills were a blessing to the staff from Mercy. They were so impressed they not only offered him a job, but made a new position entirely just so they could hire him. He came in the door ready to sweep hair and serve others in spite

of his needs and that of his family; but he walked out the door with assurance of a job that paid enough to provide for his loved



RANDOM RECAP OF WHATEVER FINAL PICTURE ENDS UP ABOVE THE TEXT BOX

ones. A single Convoy of Hope event changed the course of his life for the better; because God’s hand held the reins in his life.

Anyhow, at 7 AM on Saturday morning, all the volunteers were to arrive and begin setting up, getting acquainted with their area of service, and preparing to minister through simple smiles and loving hearts. That said, nearly 50% showed up between ½ hour and 45 minutes early; excited to do work for the kingdom. By 7, almost every volunteer was on site, working together, and helping in any way possible. Due to this blessing; we were able to open up an entire hour early and serve folks ahead of schedule!

As our Guests of Honor came towards the door, (everyone who comes is a guest of honor at a Convoy event,) they were greeted and welcomed before they even crossed the threshold. They were then accompanied by a staff who would gladly escort them to whichever section they needed to get too. Rather than just point and direct; we were committed to walking side by side with every person who came, staying available in case they had another need.

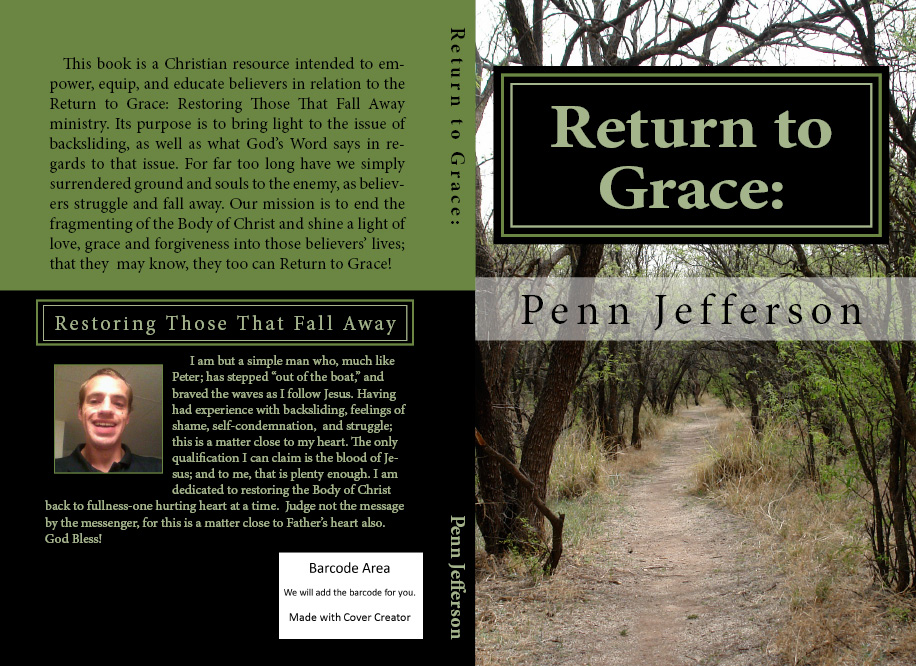
Convoy staff, the church Body, local agencies, Law Enforcement, medical professionals, employment professionals, section leaders, volunteers, and more all came together to provide for a wide range of needs. If you needed work; we had a job center with employment professionals ready to assist. If you needed medical attention or needed to get signed up on insurance; medical professionals were at hand. If you needed emergency attention, EMT, and the Sheriff’s department were at the ready.

If you had children, they got to enjoy a bunch of games, a “bouncy house,” plenty of snacks, and basic clothing/footwear needs on the spot. If you wanted to “go greener,” there was a seed/planting/farming area to learn how to maximize potential yield. There was a “healthy eating,” section, an area to get family photos, a section specifically for the ladies in support of a cure for breast cancer. There was even a noticeable stage with a leader overseeing; that way if child and parent got separated, they could locate each other there.

Then as folks exited, the Gideons were there with plenty of scripture materials for those without the Word in written form. After this, we at the connections section were overjoyed to pray with/for anyone with a need or concern in their lives before they grabbed groceries and left. We were able to get to know most of the folks who came through as we prayed God’s providence, favor, blessing and deliverance into their lives. Many rededicated their lives to Christ, came to salvation, or simply became encouraged in the faith. Chains were broken, mountains crumbled in front of our eyes, and hearts were mended from the hurts that had set in-untended for so long.

Folks let us remember that Jesus forfeited His crown for a time to come save us; not to be served, but to serve. Being obedient to the Word of God in our daily lives is excellent, doing what we can do to grow daily is admirable, and witnessing to others is part of our duty. However, simply loving others, serving others, and having compassion for them is the highest praise we can offer God.

Jesus says in Matthew 5: 13-16 that we are the “Salt and light of the world,” because He knew that when He ascended; the Holy Spirit would come and dwell within us. Since we have this great power, presence and light of God within us; let us not allow the flesh to dictate how bright we shine. Convoy is a living and functioning illustration of what it means to be salt and light. Let us be of the same heart and mind, and reflect the grace given us in Christ. AMEN!



***Special Thanks***

**For those who are unaware; the Pastors and believers at Sioux City’s own Morningside Assembly of God (MAG for short,) invested a great deal of time, money, resources, and manpower to sponsor the Siouxland event. Countless other area agencies and churches also walked side by side sharing this burden. This was a movement and partnership in unity; and all hands deserve a bit of thanks, I’d expect.**

**They would never seek praise or glory for this, as all of these such things belong to God alone. However, on behalf of those who were served; on behalf of those blessed enough to serve; and those receiving the peripheral benefits:**

**Thank You MAG! Thank you sponsors! Your great faith, obedience, love, compassion, sacrificial giving, and serving others in humble sincerity are a shining example of living generously. Truly it takes a whole Body to make a significant impact; and on Saturday we were not but members; but One Body in Christ.**

**Thanks to all the members of law enforcement, medical, fire and EMT/Medical staff for your great daily service; not just for this event.**

**Most of all, thank YOU, Heavenly Father; thank YOU Jesus! May we all be bold in our pursuit of Christ! AMEN!**

*PRAISE GOD ALMIGHTY! THANK YOU LORD JESUS!*

**THIS SECTION IS FOR BASIC ACKNOWLEDGMENTS, GENERAL INFO & MISCELLANEOUS ITEM**





*“For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.” Romans 10:9&10 (NLT)*

***Well folks, it seems prudent just to put this out there in the event someone has fallen away from God, or has yet to receive life through faith in Jesus. In the end, the verse listed above is the condensed prescription for eternal life in Christ. Whether I’m the sinner in need of a spiritual rebirth, or one who has backslidden; this salvation principle is of benefit.***

***A walk with God is not simply a one time prayer, but a daily and moment-by-moment surrender to the One who took our place. I don’t know that one can truly “lose,” salvation, but I do know it helps to occasionally rededicate my life to Him; as I become aware of things that have gotten in the way.***

***When I feel like I may have strayed too far off the path, I pray simply to redirect and re-commit my life to Christ. I would ask: are you confident you wil be accepted into heaven if you perished today? Are you certain things have not deterred you from an obedient walk?***

***If you have any doubt at all, please pray with me***: **Heavenly Father, I know I have fallen short of your standard, and I confess to any sins or sinful thoughts that yet remain in me. I believe that you raised Jesus from the grave. I accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior. the old life is gone now, and the life I now live, is lived by faith in Christ alone. In Jesus Name I pray, AMEN! (proclaim what the plaque below says in Jesus Name!)**





**Want to minister but don’t have a degree? Having difficulty figuring out exactly “how,” you can serve the kingdom in ministry? Well you’re in luck! There are three ways to participate in the Return to Grace restoration ministry with only a few minutes of your time, absolutely NO COST EVER, and can be done while one is lounging on the couch in the favored PJ’s if you prefer! Just visit the ministry site, which is in a link posted at the beginning of this newsletter, watch the two “single “videos; and email me if you are interested. Let us be shiny for Jesus!**

Ok folks, this is the print version of the companion resource for the Return to Grace ministry. It can be found on the Create Space website. If one cannot afford this resource; but has a sincere desire for restoration ministry I may be able to work something out. Feel free to check us out at our site, sample this resource on the free sample for Kindle version and hit me up. God Bless! Sincerely, G. Allen Penner