

Good News Reflections

July 20, 2024

"When the devil gets to messin,
God's gonna be blessin!"



Dear Praying Friends,

The below text was sent to a few friends, asking for prayer for the trip to our next meeting, in IL. However, the events leading up to this trip became so ridiculous, that we knew we needed to share them with you. (pictures have been added)

At the very end, we will share several responses to this text. We hope you will be encouraged in your faith, as well as challenged to join our **Prayer Warriors** who pray so faithfully for us and this ministry.

This text started out as a prayer request for our journey, through the night, to our next meeting in Rantoul, IL (near Chicago). But it has ended up being an accounting of today's happenings, because of how late we finished the text. At least now you can see why we asked you to pray. 😊

A lot has happened today. And we KNOW that God is going to do a work in Rantoul, IL this week! Especially when we see how hard Satan is fighting.

The stomach virus, that we caught at Camp last week, has held-on to all 3 of us. But we are on the upside finally. We still do not feel well, but we are much better than we were. Praise the Lord! 🙌



We had planned to leave early this morning (Friday), but there was a problem with Rachel's car. As we were getting ready to pull out, Rachel's car would not start. We've been home sick for a week, so we just thought the battery had somehow lost its charge.

We had to put the main slide-out on the 5th Wheel to be able to get the other key fob, but the 2 batteries on the 5th Wheel were completely dead, so we could not put the slide out.

We hooked-up Rachel's car to a charger, disconnected the truck from the 5th Wheel, and then drove to Walmart to replace the 2 batteries on the 5th Wheel.

On the way, we took Rachel to the home she is staying at, so she could put her groceries away. She had planned to get a friend to take her to get her car later.

After getting back home with the new batteries, and getting the key fob, we found that Rachel's car STILL would not start. The charger was reading that the battery was bad. So, this is now 3 batteries that have to be replaced.

Instead of a "Bad Hair Day", we were having a "Bad **Battery** Day."

Before leaving for town again to get the 3rd battery, Tim's 60-piece socket set fell open and dumped onto the gravel. AS that was happening, Tim saw a wasp crawling up the driver's seat. For some reason, he quickly grabbed it and threw it



out of the car, but not before being stung on the top of his hand. So, not only is he completely drenched because of the heat, but his socket set is lying on the gravel, and his hand is now burning, red, and swollen.



Our first thought was that we needed to get the Benadryl, and I would need to drive much of the 11-hour trip. Well, that's a big problem, because I can barely keep my eyes open, due to the fatigue I am constantly dealing with. Thankfully, Tim waited to take the Benadryl.

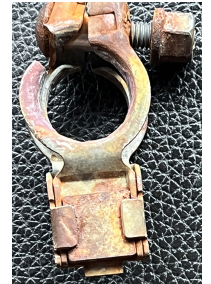
The most frustrating part about this though, is that on a Dodge Journey, you can't just pop the hood open to check the battery or to remove it. You can't even SEE the battery from the top of the engine. You have to take the left, front tire off in order to get to it; along with removing the mud flap, that is in front of the front tire, which totally conceals the battery.



Tim finally got the battery disconnected, and we headed to Advanced Auto.

After getting back home, Tim had to pull the cables down past where the mud flap was, so he could make sure the clamps were tight.

As he looked at the clamps, he saw that one of them was broken and could NOT be tightened. So back to Advanced Auto we went. Only, Advanced Auto did not have that particular clamp; but thankfully, O'Reilly's did.



On our way back home, we decided to swing by and get Rachel, so she could have her car.



Tim successfully replaced the battery, along with the clamp, mud flap, AND tire. Praise the Lord, Rachel's car started right up! 😊

After picking-up our **first** meal of the day (to go), we began our 11-hour trip to Rantoul, IL, at 8:00 PM.

We were able to drive through the night, and made it to Rantoul at 6:40 AM (EST). I ordered a Mocha Frappe (at 2:00 AM) from McDonald's, (since Dunkin' Donuts was not open), and it gave me enough alertness to drive for 2 hours while Tim slept. Praise the Lord for allowing us to spell each other!

We thank the Lord for His safety and protection on this trip! There were no accidents or incidents. 🙌 I personally prayed Psalm 34:7 for this entire journey! 🙏

As we pulled in to hook-up our 5th Wheel, there was a big, **beautiful**, orange sunrise just over the horizon. It was as if the Lord was saying, "**Welcome to Rantoul!**" 😊 (If I had thought quickly enough, I could have gotten a picture. I even went online to see if there were any sunrises CLOSE to what we saw, but no picture I saw online even came close to the blood orange sunrise we saw.)

When things go wrong that slow us down, we know that God has a plan. Either He is keeping us from a terrible accident down the road, or there is someone He wants us to witness to at this particular time of day.

We choose to see God's hand through every detail, the positive and the negative ones.

And now, some encouraging responses from precious friends.

"Whew! What a day. Satan must know he has a good whoopin coming to him at this meeting because he really put a lot of effort in to keeping you all away."
~ **Alan Roberts** (Athens, TN)

"I hate the devil!!! I know now why God led us to the ventriloquist suitcase! It was so we would pray for you more yesterday! I sure did! I will be praying for extra strength today as I know what a day like that can make you feel like the following day. You keep fighting and I pray you feel our prayers behind you ❤️"
~ **Cheryl Roberts** (Athens, TN)

"Child of God there may be many days you may feel helpless, but there is never a day that you are hopeless."

Hebrews-6:19 Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

Col 1:5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel."

~ **Pastor Steven Bell** (McDonough, GA)

"We are praying for you all. 🙏 God is so good and faithful. I'm so thankful for His mercies on us. We love you all and we are lifting you up in prayer. 🙏"
~ **Lynne Bell** (McDonough, GA)

"I love how positive you are and how you always go back to God's Word."
~ **Tracy Trask** (Chattanooga, TN)

"Love you guys!! Glad you made it there safely!" ~ **Rachel Vermaas** (Sweetwater, TN)

"Thank you for sharing your story. The Lord is always faithful and good. Praying for a blessed week, souls to be saved, rest, strength and wisdom. Isaiah 26:3-4 and 40:31".
~ **Pam Reagan** (Wise, VA)

"I am so glad that you are finally in Rantoul & arrived after so many obstacles that you had to face before you even got started. Satan is definitely not wanting you to do this meeting!! Praise the Lord you didn't just quit & cancel, even with all the problems. God knows all about it & He will defeat Satan. I believe Gods going to do a mighty work this week. Thank you for telling me all the details!! I will be praying even more diligently for you & Bro Tim this week!! Sending love & prayers."
~ **Anita Taylor** (Athens, TN)

(Mrs. Anita sets her alarm and prays for us 4 times per day, every day. We are **humbled** by her commitment to pray for us and this ministry!!!)

"Praise the Lord that He always takes care of us. I will keep praying for you guys. I'm glad to know you made it safely. God bless you."
~ **Julia Espitia** (Owensboro, IN)

"Wow what a journey! Glad you all are safe and that you're almost over your sickness! God's blessings as you minister there! Praying for you all! Love you! ❤️"

~ **Marian Williams** (Elizabethton, TN)

"WOW! WOW! WOW! Not sure I could have done all that! God bless you guys and keep you safe on your journey. You guys deserve lots of gems on your crown. You guys are amazing. Great inspiration to me. I'm in awe! ❤️"

~ **Nuri Schoch** (Mount Vernon, OH)

"Wow, God is good all the time! Praise the Lord you made it there safely."

~ **Kim and Kellie Hansell** (Clarksville, TN)

"Praise God you got everything worked out and arrived safely. Love and continued prayers."

~ **Rita Fridley** (Cleveland, TN)

"Praising God for His goodness over y'all! Thanking Him for His protection! I've always heard it said when the devil gets to messin, God's gonna be blessin! Love y'all and continuing to pray for souls and for God to move in this meeting! Love y'all! ❤️"

~ **Tara Fridley** (Cleveland, TN)

"Oh my goodness!! Praying you all were able to get some rest. Thankful the Lord provided safe travels. Now . . . we will be looking forward to watching all that the Lord is going to do this week because it seems like the devil did not want you there. Love you all 🥰"

~ **Crystal Herrell** (Athens, TN)

"Oh Susan! Through it all, you guys stayed faithful and trusted God to make a way and He finally did! God is our refuge in times of trouble! I am so thankful that God made a way for you all despite all the obstacles you all went through! I'm glad you guys got to your destination safely and I will continue to pray for you all to be safe and may the Lord send individuals that need you guys to witness to them. Love you ❤️🙏❤️"

~ **Caramile Elliott** (Athens, TN)

"Thank you Father God! Y'all made it! 😊 Try to rest."

~ **Gwendolyn Corbett** (Rantoul, IL)

"Wow! That was quite the challenging day, and like Job said, shall we receive the good from the hand of God and not the bad? It's reassuring to know that we can trust God in these times. 💕 Praying for you this week that your strength returns and the Gospel is proclaimed."

~ **Amal and Carol Bejjani** (Lincoln, NE)

"What a challenging day to say the least. Looking forward to hearing the blessings that will come from this week's meetings."

~ **Sue Reuter** (Lynchburg, VA)

"Glad for the victories in spite of it all. Trusting God gives helpers there to help you, and strength for you both. Know how much a wasp sting hurts, recently got stung at home by one. Ouch! 🥰🙏🌹"

~ **Gloria Goering** (Waterloo, IA)

"Wow - that sounds like quite the eventful day/night. I'm sorry for all the hassle you had to deal with, but I'm grateful you made it safely and that the gastroenteritis is starting to subside."
~ **Ian Shaw** (Athens, TN)

"Continued prayers."

~ **Mary Beth White** (Seymour, TN)

"Oh my, they (wasps) make my head spin, Susan! I think there must have been an imp of Satan sent by him to torment and discourage you guys. But you didn't give in and give up! I bet God has great things at the other end! So glad you made it safely there! Praying for some good rest, strength, and to be greatly used in that place. May souls be saved and lives changed through your ministry. ❤️🙏👉"

~ **Rebecca Rinard** (Winchester, VA)

"I'm so glad you are there safely!!!"

~ **Lillian Williford** (Athens, TN)

We hope you have been edified through each of these encouragements! We sure have been! Have a wonderful Lord's Day!

Reaching Families for Him,

Tim & Susan 😊

Tim and Susan Vermaas