



# The Byrer Family

Missionaries to Alberta, Canada



June 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Being on the road for nearly 18 months without a break, I decided that June would be a good month to regroup and give the family some well needed and deserved R&R. I adjusted our schedule to put us back up in the Northeast to see our family and unload some items from the RV to be put in storage. Our first stop on our way back to Maryland was in Spartanburg, S.C. so I could officiate a friend's wedding. The wedding went great, the gospel was preached and some well needed plowing and sowing was accomplished. While in Spartanburg, the Lord put us in a last minute meeting at the bride and groom's church and a camp meeting nearby.

From there we pulled out and headed north to stay with my mom and dad just outside of Harrisburg, PA. The trip up from Spartanburg was a little too far to make in on day so we planned to stop over in Harrisonburg, VA and just park at one of their Wal-Mart's for the night. Nothing new here and we even chose to stay at the Wal-Mart that was located on the other side of town since it seemed to be a much quieter area. We pulled in at about 9pm, parked on the backside of the parking lot and set up the RV. We actually did manage to turn the lights out at a somewhat reasonable hour and all was quiet that night. And then it happened! At about 8:15am we were startled from our sleep by the sound of a helicopter hovering above our RV. Then just as suddenly we heard a police siren howling what sounded like it was literally just outside and next to our RV. Then the shouts started, "Police, come out with your hands up!,,, Get on the ground!" Cindy and I jumped out bed and peered out of our bedroom window to be relieved to see that all of the commotion was not being directed at us. As we looked out the window we saw something that you would see on the "Cops" TV show but we were getting the live, uncut and uncensored version. You see, what had happened was the local police department's Drug Task Force had been following a group of dealers in the area and that morning they had set up a sting and executed it less than 15 feet from our front door! Praise the Lord that it went off without a hitch and no one was hurt. I also got some GREAT pictures of the whole thing from our bedroom window and they are posted on our website. The fun didn't end when the bad guys were in handcuffs though. You see, I saw an opportunity and I seized it. Once everything was settled down and all guns had been holstered it was time to get busy. With my K-9 at my side (Sarah our border collie) and a pocket loaded with tracts, I headed out to some re-con work. The officers were surprised to find out that we were in the RV the whole time but nonetheless easy going. I thanked them for what they were doing and with that passed out my load of tracts while letting them know what Jesus Christ had done for them. I know all too well the life that most of these men lead and the mere fact that they are law enforcement officers tends to give them an overwhelming sense of self-righteousness. These men are all too often harder to reach with the gospel than the men that they lock up and these tracts may be the only witness they ever get. Pray that they aren't simply discarded but that their seeds are sown deep into their hearts.

I did get a bit of sad news this month. A church that had taken us on for support earlier in the year had voted to close its doors. We consider the pastor and his wife dear friends that were providentially placed in our paths for more than one reason. I am also confident that the decision to close the doors to the church was not sudden nor was it done without a great deal of prayer before hand. Although it is not a good thing for a missionary to lose support before he gets to the field, it is a reminder to us that we must keep our trust and faith in the fact that the Lord called us therefore it will be He that supplies all of our need. Thank you to all of you who have allowed the Lord to use you through us.

In His Service,  
Brother John Byrer

*That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. ~ 1John 1:3-4*

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