

# MOUTHPIECE

MAY | 2024



## Sacrifice

...a word that carries with it an immeasurable weight of heartache and difficulty. As Memorial Day approaches, we're reflecting on the sacrifice of the men and women that have given their lives for our freedoms. Too often, we take their selfless gifts for granted and go about our daily agendas, forgetting freedom's high cost.

Similarly, let us not neglect to consider the sacrificial love of Jesus, who gave His life for us "while we were yet sinners." (Romans 5:8)



In our travels, we've met many people who have lost loved ones in the line of duty. Their stories, combined with a phrase I heard several years ago, inspired me to write these lyrics:

*Freedom is never free  
That's why Jesus left Heaven for me  
He fought my battle and spilled His blood  
to buy my liberty  
Now I know that freedom is never free!*

What freedoms are you thankful for today?  
("Freedom Is Never Free" is available on our website and YouTube channel.)

## Stories of Grace

"Can I sit with you?" asked 8-year-old "Hope" as she slid in between Miranda and Cora at a Refresh Conference in West Virginia. In spite of difficult family circumstances, Hope faithfully rode the van to each service, eager to learn more about God. Hope recently accepted Christ as Savior! Please pray that she will continue to attend church and grow in her faith in Christ.

## June Events

2-6 | VBS  
Gifford, PA

9-13 | VBS  
Elkhart, IN

16-20 | VBS  
Greencastle, PA

23-27 | VBS  
Woodbridge, VA

30-July 4 | VBS  
Creedmoor, NC

**MM** MERRILL  
MINISTRIES





## Life on the Road

Malchijah, and his wife, Cora, joined the team full-time a year ago this month! We are so grateful for their servant's hearts and the many areas of expertise they bring to the team. Malchijah wears numerous hats, including A/V engineer, graphic designer, stage and set creator, and more! Cora does an excellent job of taking care of our resource table, keeping inventory tallied, etc.! She is a great help to both Tricia and Miranda in their work as well!

## Side Notes

- Our summer tour begins next week! This year we will be in 10 different churches and traveling about 2,400 miles (x3 rigs)! We're grateful for your prayers for safety as we travel.
- A huge "Thank you!" to all that have had a part in replacing our VBS trailer that was stolen. The new trailer is such a blessing! This week we were able to paint the interior and finish out the floor. Along with transporting our VBS equipment, it will house two of our summer team members during each week.
- We appreciate you! Thank you for your continued prayers!



THE MERRILL EVANGELISTIC TEAM

GOD IS THE  
*Strength*  
OF MY HEART PSALM 73:26



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