



A Nazarene Lay Ministry

ROAM *Chronicles*

Spring 2022

Moments With Merl

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Welcome to the first communication from the new president of ROAM. It seems like just a few months ago that Diana and myself joined and were heading to Arizona. We had plans to go to Casa Grande, AZ. but God in his grace directed us in a different path, we ended up going to Maryvale, AZ.

This started a pattern in our service thru ROAM, it seemed that God was directing us in pathways we had not thought about. The more we leaned on him for direction the more he was leading into unknown territory. I say all of this to help you to understand why I said yes to Ed Kile when he asked if I would consider running for President of ROAM. Diana and I prayed, and I asked God if this was his plan. I felt that I should say yes. The election came and you know the answer. Thank you for your confidence and your faith in God to direct this great organization in the coming months and year.

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ROAM *Chronicles* Editors -- Debbie Bennett; Darryl Bennett

However as with all decisions, there is a time of testing. Never in my life has my faith been put to the test in such a manner. Diana and I have been in the midst of the storm since my sister-in-law's funeral. First Diana had an unexplained collapse that has baffled her doctors and she still has times when she gets dizzy. Then we were informed of our son and daughter-in-law in Texas both in the hospital with Covid. By the time we got there, our daughter-in-law was out of the hospital, but our son was now in ICU and getting worse. On the way down to Texas our other son in Michigan got Covid and his whole family as well. We didn't know which way to turn.

So, it is times like these that we as Christians start to really dig deep into our souls and decide if what we believe is REAL. I decided that first of all there is strength in numbers, so I contacted several people to start praying for my sons and daughters-in-law. Second, I searched the scriptures... *(continued on page 2)*

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...on healing and asked God for his direction in this matter. Just after all this started my son Carl got much worse and was put on the ventilator with little hope of survival. Meanwhile our other son (Jim) in Michigan and his family recovered from Covid without hospital care.

Just when we were sure there could not be anything worse to come our oldest son Todd, a truck driver, calls us and says my wife just passed this morning. Our hearts broke. We were undone. There is no more hope. What do we do? This all happened in the length of 5 months. So, we left for Michigan from Texas on Oct 21 and had the funeral on the 28th of Oct. and back to Texas by the 15th of Nov. Thru all of this God is faithful, there is so much more to tell but that is not why I have written this account.

God is leading us on a path of encouragement. The more I learn of prayer, healing, prophesy, and the many gifts of the Holy Spirit, the more I believe our service to the Church thru ROAM is an opportunity to show the love of Christ thru comfort, love, joy, peace, and encouragement. As we come to the places where Christ has directed us, our physical work dims in the light of the Love of God and the comfort and grace we bring as Christ's hands and feet. We are the modern movement of the Church. I believe we are called by Christ to work in the fields that are ready for the harvest.

Talihina Church of the Nazarene

By Steve and Debbie Russell, March 2022

This was our first project with ROAM; in fact, we joined to do this project, as Tom Felder's project description made this seem to be a good fit for us.

Steve worked on the sound system: installed a wireless lavalier mic for the pastor, installed mic processing (mixer is usually unattended), fixed mixer feed to remote listening device, fixed computer feed to mixer and added isolation transformer to reduce hum, wired piano through mixer, added monitor speaker for piano player, and verified operation of spare audio equipment.



Debbie spent some quality time with the carpet/upholstery cleaning machine, cleaning 226 chairs, not that we were counting! She also cleaned a few rooms and areas of carpet. The cleaned chairs were left stacked and covered in an unused room.

We prepped and painted 2 rooms and cleaned & organized a few areas. Some electrical items were addressed: replaced 2 scary light sockets and 6 outlets (dead or loose enough to work intermittently), and corrected a few odds & ends, the kind of thing you notice when walking around carrying an outlet tester, voltmeter, and screwdriver. A 3-way light switch was installed where one should have been installed years ago, and that with help of church member Cliff, who apparently has not figured out that the traveling volunteer gets the dirtier end of the job!

In our spare time, we setup our telescopes and showed God's glorious Moon to about 20 people. And we ate! The photo is from Foggy Bottom Kitchen which has locations in about a half-dozen Oklahoma state parks, and the food and conversation were great.

People we met in Talihina were very nice, and the people of Talihina Nazarene Church were very gracious to us. On projects, it is always a blessing to meet God's people scattered around, serving and loving others, and we always feel a bit of pain at the end of the project when we must depart.



Three Easy Ways to Support ROAM

As you know, ROAM is a donation-based ministry. Here are three ways, other than annual dues, to financially support ROAM.

- Donations. You can give any amount you want on our secure Giving Page.
- Café Press. If you are interested in buying items (shirts, hats, mugs) with the ROAM logo on them, you should check out our shop on Café Press. www.cafepress.com/roamers. ROAM makes a little bit off each sale.
- Amazon Smile. Amazon Foundation makes a small donation to ROAM for most every purchase you make. NOTE: Amazon does not share individual customer information with ROAM. Simply go to smile.amazon.com on your computer and log in with your Amazon account or follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile through your Amazon Shopping app.



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