

Praying Across America

A Report To Our Board Members, Friends and Loved Ones

Roderick & Kaaren Graciano



All photos by Roderick and Kaaren Graciano.

The Journey

This May and June, 2017, Kaaren and I travelled from Tacoma, WA, by car to Washington DC, making a round trip of 6,991 road miles. Besides wanting to see our country, and to enjoy a break from the routine together, our purposes for this road trip were to:

1. Visit Rachel and Mikhael Gemayel, our daughter and son-in-law in Vienna, VA,
2. See the Ark Encounter south of Cincinnati,
3. Make a quick research visit to historic Jamestown, and
4. Pray for specific cities and towns across America.

We enjoyed the additional blessings of seeing Mt. Rushmore, Monticello, part of the Blue Ridge Parkway, Great Falls National Park, Arches National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, a running herd of pronghorn antelope, cavorting prairie dogs, and many other wonderful natural features and creatures along the way.

Because the Lord directed us to make this *a prayer journey*, Kaaren and I anticipated some “push back” from the enemy along the way. We faithfully sought the Lord’s protection, and prayed for the binding of evil spirits all along our route. I don’t think we or our actions are so important as to affect the weather, but we did have to contend with diverse storms on our way to the east coast, and received a tornado warning on our route homeward. More likely to have involved the evil one, we were almost killed twice on the highway: once when the driver of an oncoming pickup momentarily lost control of his vehicle and careened into our lane, and again when a semi truck-and-trailer inexplicably forced us partway off the road at high speed. We came through both incidents unscathed and with hearts full of gratefulness to God.



The Visit

We treasure the time we had with Rachel and Mikhael, especially since we may not see them again in person before they transfer to their next post in the Middle East. Rachel has done well in her first year of formal Arabic training, and Mikhael has progressed very much in learning English and American culture. We covet prayers for them as they are now preparing for their move in

August, and Mikhael is preparing for his naturalization exam. While with Rachel and Mikhael, we were able to video-conference with our extended family in Beirut. Life is relatively safe for the Gemayels in Lebanon, but I am concerned for the future of their country that is troubled by extremist groups within, and unstable nations on its borders.

The Research Locations



We sincerely wish that all of our friends and family could visit the full-scale ark at the Ark Encounter outside Williamstown, KY (just south of Cincinnati, OH). If you've been to the Holy Land, you know that standing in a biblical locale enables you to visualize and grasp the related scripture text like never before. You will have the same experience standing outside and inside the ark built to the biblical dimensions. With 3.3 million board feet of wood, it is the largest timber-frame structure *in the world*.





The amount of space within the ark particularly impressed us. I'm sorry I couldn't fully capture this aspect of it with my camera; one must stand inside the ark in order to comprehend the extent of the long hallways on the multiple floors. At 510 feet in exterior length, *the interior* of the ark is nearly $1\frac{2}{3}$ the length of a football field. As the literature and explanatory signs affirm, there was indeed room in Noah's ark for pairs of the archetypal land animals that inhabit the earth today, along with food and other supplies for their care.

Inside the Ark Encounter facility, the biblical worldview and the Gospel are presented in various creative ways, using top quality video, graphics, models, and artifact replicas. There is a live-animal zoo on the grounds, along with other "theme-park" attractions — all top quality — , but the ark itself provides boundless opportunities for insight into the biblical story of Noah and the flood.





Because I teach Christian history, we visited the site of Jamestown, the first permanent English — and purportedly Christian — settlement in North America. While the general location of this settlement has always been known, its precise location was believed to have been lost to erosion and the natural widening of the James river. Only in the 1990's did archaeological investigation discover that the location of the greater part of the original settlement was not underwater after all. Ongoing archaeological work is confirming and clarifying the history of this important site.

A historian at the Jamestown site affirmed to me what I had previously read: While the Virginia Company in England touted their colony as a missionary endeavor, even engaging English clergy to “sell” the risky venture to mission-minded parishioners, the Jamestown settlement was really *for profit* from the outset. Only one godly chaplain, Robert Hunt, was involved in the founding of Jamestown, and he died within a year of arriving.

The fortune-seeking settlers quickly constructed a triangular palisade, but they lacked the wisdom or will to build on higher and healthier ground. They built instead at the swampy dockside of the river. They soon paid the penalty with an increasing number of deaths by disease.



Some of the graves recently opened at Jamestown — for the first time in 400 years — have revealed multiple bodies buried together under battle conditions. Human remains found in other diggings have confirmed that acts of cannibalism occurred during Jamestown’s “starving time.” With disease, starvation and skirmishes with the Indians, taking a toll, Jamestown struggled for its existence until John Rolfe learned to successfully cultivate the cash crop that would secure the region’s economic future: tobacco.



Loci of human burials marked by archaeologists at historic Jamestown.



Site of Jamestown's earliest "mud and stud" chapel, partially reconstructed, with the loci of four ancient burials marked in the chancel. In this building, John Rolfe married Pocahontas. The reconstructed frame of the barracks building is in the background.



Probably the greatest lesson to be learned from the history of Jamestown, is the one so eloquently recounted by Peter Marshall and David Manuel in their 1977 book, *The Light And The Glory*. Namely: The worldly pursuits of Jamestown did not secure divine blessing *as did* the sacrificial pursuit of God by the soon-to-follow pilgrims of the Plymouth Colony. If there is a Christian foundation to be found in the history of the United States, it is found at Plymouth *not Jamestown*. Jamestown laid the foundation for generations of nicotine addiction and lung cancer.

In contrast to the peaceful relations with Chief Massasoit and the Wampanoags at Plymouth, the Jamestown colony, in spite of the timely marriage between John Rolfe and Pocahontas, set a precedent for heavy-handed treatment of the American natives by the white colonists. Kaaren and I had prayed for racial reconciliation in America since our departure from Tacoma, and the visit to Jamestown further encourages us in praying for the healing and spiritual awakening of our First Nations people.



The Prayers

The following passages, among others, informed our prayers for the towns and cities that we passed through:

1 Peter 4:17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? (NIV 1984)

Jonah 4:11 But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?" (NIV 1984)

Matthew 12:29 Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house. (ESV)

2 Corinthians 4:4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (NIV 1984)

Matthew 10:29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. (NIV 1984)

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (ESV)

We prayed generally for the revival of the believers in each city, and for the spiritual awakening of the unbelievers. As we drove through cities rumored to have, or showing signs of having, a strong demonic presence, we prayed for the binding of the “strong man” in those cities, and the loosing of the population from the spiritual blindness inflicted upon them by the “god of this age.” We prayed for the outpouring of God’s mercy upon our cities and our nation, reminding Him that though we deserve His judgment because of the flaunting our sexual perversion and our endless shedding of innocent blood, yet He granted repentance to Nineveh, that city whose wickedness had “come up before” Him (Jonah 1.2).

We realized along this journey that, in praying for the revival of America through the years, we had often prayed for our major cities (Washington D. C., New York, Los Angeles, etc.) but had hardly thought of the thousands of little towns whose need, if not influence, is just as great. So, as we drove through or past tiny little towns, we reminded the Father of his concern for every little sparrow, and asked Him not to forget the people, believers and unbelievers, in these largely unknown places.

As we drove, we rejoiced to notice what looked to be churches that were upholding the testimony of Jesus, and we prayed for their boldness and for their growth in the fruit of the Spirit. We thanked God for signs along the



highway promoting a pro-life stance, and for the many billboards in the Utah heartland declaring “Jesus: The only way to God, John 14.6.” On the other hand, when we drove past cult halls, we prayed for the people’s deliverance from spiritual deception, and from the false religion

of works-justification. We prayed for the closing of Planned Parenthood facilities when we saw their signs, and all across the state of Missouri we were compelled to pray against pornography and sexual perversion.

In farming areas dependent upon migrant workers, we prayed for spiritual awakening in the Latino community. When passing through Native American lands, we prayed for the continuing awakening of the First Nations peoples, and for racial reconciliation. In Charlottesville, VA, near Monticello, we prayed again for racial reconciliation, with our black population in mind. We prayed specifically for the descendants of Thomas Jefferson, and the key role that they could have in promoting racial reconciliation. In Lewisburg, WV, at a monument to fallen confederate soldiers, we prayed for the peace of God in the community, and for the healing of political wounds still lingering since the Civil War. In many towns and cities we prayed for the population’s deliverance from addiction to nicotine, meth, oxy, porn, etc.

Kaaren faithfully wrote down many more details of our prayers as we drove, but the summary of it all is that we have come home with a much deeper sense of both the spiritual potential of our great nation, *and* the depth of America’s spiritual need. Considering our nations current political problems, and the volatile state of so many other nations in our world, I have a greater sense of urgency than ever to see the American church become what it is called to be, and fulfill its biblical mandates. As the folks in Kansas can see *things* a long way off, it’s time for America to repent of its spiritual shortsightedness and see the *crises* of divine chastening that loom on our horizon.

The Cities

I estimate that we prayed for 90% of the towns and cities that we saw, as we passed by or through, and recorded the names of 80% of those (262 total). All along our journey, we asked God to add our prayers for each town and city to the prayers already being offered by the believers in those places. **Now we ask that you would quickly scan this long list of cities and towns, and add your prayers for any of these places that you already have an interest or connection with.** Every city in America desperately needs prayer; if you can pray for even one or two of the places on this list, God will hear!

The names under horizontal lines are for cities that we drove through and prayed for on our return pass through that particular state.

Washington

Tacoma & Parkland
Frederickson
Puyallup
Auburn
Covington
Maple Valley
North Bend
Easton
Cle Elum
Ellensburg
George
Moses Lake
Spokane

Tri-Cities: Kennewick, Richland, Pasco

Sunnyside
Zillah
Toppenish
Yakima

Idaho

Post Falls
Coeur d' Alene
Cataldo
Kingston
Pinehurst
Smelterville
Kellogg
Osborn
Silverton
Wallace



Mullen

Twin Falls

Jerome

Bliss

Mountain Home

Boise

Nampa

Montana

Superior

Frenchtown

Kalispell

Missoula

Clinton

Drummond

Deer Lodge

Warm Springs

Ramsay

Rocker

Butte

Whitehall

Three Fork

Trident

Manhattan

Amsterdam

Belgrade

Bozeman

Livingston

Crazy Mountain

Big Timber

Gray Cliff

Reed Point

Columbus

Park City

Laurel

Billings

Hardin

The Crow Nation



Snow in the Montana Rockies.

Wyoming

Ranchester

Sheridan

Buffalo

Gillette

Moorcroft

Sundance

South Dakota

Spearfish
Deadwood
Lead
Whitewood
Sturgis
Rapid City
Keystone
Wall
Belvidere
Murdo
Vivian
Presho, "Pride Of The Prairie"
Kennebec
Chamberlain
Kimble
White Lake
Plankinton
Mount Vernon
Mitchell
Alexandria
Sioux Falls
Brandon

Minnesota

Beaver Creek
Luverne
Wilmont
Worthington
Jackson
Welcome
Fairmont
The I-90 Corridor
Blue Earth
Alden
Albert Lea

Iowa

Manly
Mason City
Floyd
Charles City
Nashua
Waverly
Cedar Falls
Waterloo
Center Point



Hiawatha
Cedar Rapids
North Liberty
Iowa City
Davenport & Quad Cities

Illinois

Galesburg
Brimfield
Peoria
Morton
Goodfield
Normal
Bloomington
Downs
Le Roy
Farmer City
Mansfield
Mohamet
Urbana
Champaign
St. Joseph
Potomac
Oakwood
Danville
Tilton
O'Fallon

Indiana

Crawfordville
Brownsburg
Indianapolis
Shelbyville
Newpoint
Oldenburg
Batesville
Saint Leon
Poseyville

Ohio

Greendale

Kentucky

Florence
Crittendon
Dry Ridge
Williamstown



Kaaren inside the Ark at its great doors.

Flemingville
Mt. Sterling
Shelbyville
Simpsonville
Louisville

West Virginia

Huntington
Barboursville
Nitro
Dunbar
Charleston
Oak Hill
Mossy
Lewisburg

Charleston
All Nations Revival Center in Dunbar

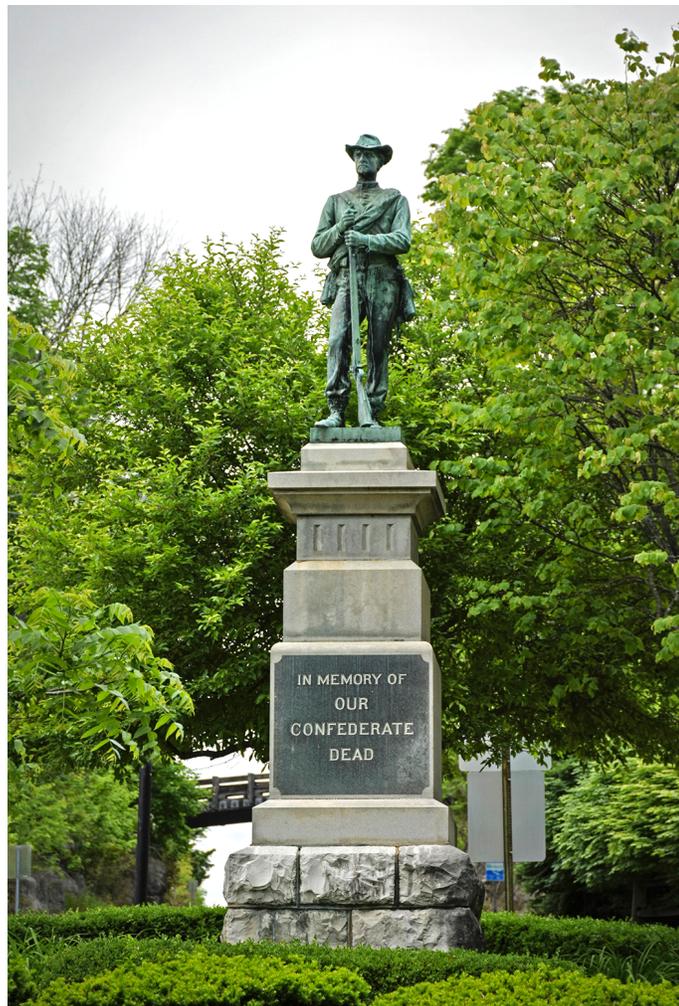
Virginia

Covington
Harrisburg
Marshall
Vienna

Fredericksburg
Spotsylvania
Richmond
Jamestown site
Charles City
Charlottesville
Monticello
Blue Ridge Parkway
Buena Vista
Clifton Forge
Covington

Missouri

St. Louis
Berkeley
Edmonston
St. Ann
Bridgetown
St. Charles
Wentzville
Foristell
Wright City
Warrenton
Jonesburg
High Hill



New Florence
Danville
Kingdom City
Booneville
Emma
Blue Springs
Kansas City
Independence

Kansas

Kansas City
Topeka
Fort Riley Army Air Base
Abilene
Salina
Hays
Wakeeney
Quintin
Colby
Good Lands

Colorado

Arriba
Limon
Matheson
Simla
Ramah
Calhan
Peyton
Colorado Springs
Ridgeway neighborhood in Lone Tree
Denver
Idaho Springs
Georgetown
Silver Plume
Silver Thorn
Vail
Avon
Glenwood Meadows
Silt
Rulison
Parachute
Palisades
Grand Junction
Fruita



Utah

Moab

Arches National Park

Green River

Marysvale

Junction

Circleville

Panguitch

Bryce Canyon National Park and National Park Service

Bryce City

Beaver

Scipio

Nephi

Mona

Santaquin

Payson

Provo

Orem

American Fork

Lehi

Salt Lake City

Ogden

Brigham City

Snowville



Oregon

Ontario

Baker City

Pendleton

Echo

Umatilla

When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none,
and their tongue is parched with thirst, I the LORD will
answer them; I the God of Israel will not forsake them.
I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the
midst of the valleys. I will make the wilderness a pool of
water, and the dry land springs of water.

Isaiah 41:17-18 (ESV)

