

# Rodney & Gabrielle's Spring 2018 Newsletters

## Evangelism Mission

University of  
Southern Florida

Greeting dear brothers and sisters,

Things have been a lot different over the past 4 months than my normal activities. So many things changed: one trip cut short, another trip canceled, frequent sickness, foot surgery, sleep apnea control problems, and a repair to my stomach valve. Then 3 panel judges' ruling results are in, and now our civil rights case is possibly going to the US Supreme Court with Jay Sekulow from the ACLJ. Hope you are informed, blessed and encouraged with our newsletters and trip announcements.



### Keister's Chronicles January through April

January kicked off with end of year treasury work and other office work. I praise God for our faithful volunteer bookkeeper Jeffrey Neidermyer. He has been such a blessing and his graceful computer skills have been so helpful. I think we got our donor statements out in record time this year!

In January I also held a couple of deputation services and some important projects here in our building. I had to prepare the building for my return from surgery. This meant building a handicap ramp, securing hand rails in the bath tub, and making a bedroom on the first floor since all existing bedrooms are upstairs. Upstairs would be off limits for several weeks following my surgery. The bedroom project involved removing an unused old restroom with a large hallway around. We also turned an old closed-off stairwell into a closet. We started the project before I left for FL and thought if I cut my trip short I could get it finished in time for my scheduled foot surgery on Feb. 19th.

### Mission Trip 42 Jan 20 - Feb 8th

There were several goals on this trip. Main goal was ministry: share the Gospel in downtown Orlando, at FL universities, and at universities where possible on the way back to PA. Another goal was to hold some mission services to raise funds for the mission, along with sharing an update on our mission work at the Florida God's Missionary Camp. The trip started with a few mission services in VA and SC. Then on to Sun City, FL, Campmeeting. I was able to share about our mission in a pre-service and attend the last weekend of camp services. Following Campmeeting I did some evangelism with Bro. Dave Thayer in downtown Tampa and on the campus of the University Southern Florida (USF.) Brother Dave is good at sharing tracts and his testimony with others.

While at USF I had a very interesting encounter with a man named Ralph (see banner pic above as well as below). Ralph commonly would argue with the various campus preachers for spreading what Ralph declares as "hate." His first words to me were "I'm going to preface this and be honest with you, this is probably going to be a trap." Well now, this may have been the first honest heckler I have encountered! What took place over the next hour or so was amazing to me. He was at times trying to argue, even calling the campus police, yet God intervened and he actually stopped disturbing me and listened a little, and even thanked me for not being like so many hateful preachers. I hope to get this video released on our YouTube channel soon. I feel the Lord really helped me to work with him, and got him to



Ralph

listen a little. Usually hecklers don't take the time to listen, they just want to fight. Pray for Ralph! Please subscribe to our YouTube channel to be notified of new videos. When it is ready you will also find it at:

[evangelismmission.com/videos/USF2018](http://evangelismmission.com/videos/USF2018)



Do we need a large crowd to preach to, to be effective? I'll answer that with a testimony. I was told one time by a precious brother how he was struggling, perhaps even on his way to backsliding, when he heard a street preacher preaching while he simply passed by. That street preacher never knew he had heard him preach, yet it was that street preaching that got a hold of the struggling man's heart and that was the sharp edged knife that pierced his heart and lead him back to Christ. So while we may not have a crowd or at times no one standing and just listening, be assured that God's Word Will Not Return Void! Isaiah 55:11 says, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." So my friend, if God is leading you to lift your voice and proclaim God's Word, understand that He will use it to reach someone whether you know it or not!

My next stop after Tampa for ministry was Orlando. There we helped Pastor Jonathan Gray with some calling and shared a brief testimony at church of what God has been doing lately in our mission work. While in there, Jonathan and I also did a late night outreach in downtown Orlando. We ran into a raving heck-



Late Night Preaching  
Downtown Orlando

ler who had been taunting another man doing abortion ministry. I did some open air preaching, and this heckler kept mock preaching over my head, so we moved on. I later had to explain to the police how he was harassing us and the pro-life minister. After the heckler was out of the way, I had better opportunity to open air preach. Before leaving Orlando to head towards PA on Monday Feb. 5th, I did some campus evangelism and preaching at the University of Central Florida (UCF). If I get to preparing any videos of our FL events you will find them at:

[Channel.EvangelismMission.com](http://Channel.EvangelismMission.com).



On the way home I had hopes of stopping at several campuses, but the weather had different plans. I was able to make one stop at Armstrong University in Savana, GA. This was an amazing campus. It was one of the most receptive campuses I've been too. Almost everyone took tracts. I was able to pray with some about various things in their lives. Please pray many would come to Christ.

By the time I reached home on Feb 8th I came down with some kind of internal infection. Little did I know that this infection would last longer than any I have had in my life: it has come and gone from February to present (1st week of May). I have been through 5 courses of antibiotics and it has traveled into many UT based areas. They also found 4 kidney stones and are still searching for more answers. I hope to know more with the next wave of test by the Urologist I've been seeing. Please pray for my recovery.

From Feb. 9-16th, volunteers helped me just about on a daily basis with renovations in preparation for a handicap accessible bedroom, bathroom, and ramp outside. Even with the help I had, there just was not enough time and man power to complete and be ready for a Feb. 19th surgery. So the foot surgery had to be rescheduled for next available date of April 9th. This caused my recovery time to go right over my next mission trip. So my April/May mission trip had to be cancelled.

Around being sick and medical appointments, much of my time through the remaining part of February, all of March and right up to April 7th was spent finishing the downstairs when I was well enough to work. It was very difficult working on my bad foot, some times limiting what I could do myself. Even though things got backed up in one area and my trip was cancelled, some good came out of it all. We even got the remaining drop ceiling work done in the kitchen and bathroom downstairs that was started over 3 years ago. So I am blessed!

I am so grateful for the 2 mission services I had in March and for the opportunity to speak in a Penn View chapel to encourage students to do campus and street evangelism. We were able to do campus evangelism at PSU a couple of times, and also once near Bloomsburg University. In April, I also setup and represented our mission at the PVBI Missions Convention.

Praise God that on April 9th the foot surgery went well. Now just waiting and trusting the Lord for full recovery and that this works to fix my long term joint problem in my left foot. There were a couple of bones shortened and pins put in place. Following the surgery, I had to be on my back with my foot elevated to nose level for nearly 2 weeks. Thankfully I only needed the wheelchair for a couple days, then went on to a knee walker. Thank you to all who have prayed, brought food, and stayed with me overnight and during the days doing things I couldn't. One thing I learned, is just how important the family of God is to those struggling with physical limitations. Thank you, again!

The Lord willing we will be back on the streets in PA in May and leaving for my next trip on June 2nd.

### University of Alabama Civil Rights Case update:

Little background.... On March 10, 2016, I was threatened with arrest if I did not leave the sidewalks of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. The Center for Religious Expression (CRE) kindly took our case and filed a federal civil rights case. Sadly, both the lower federal court in Tuscaloosa, AL and a 3 panel Judge of 11th Federal District Court ruled against free speech on a public sidewalk bordering the university. In February the ACLJ started working with the CRE. Here is an article the ACLJ published about our civil rights case:



In the 1958 horror movie, "The Blob," a growing reddish blob from outer space devours everyone it touches. Echoing that film, a panel of judges of a federal appeals court ruled that the campus of the University of Alabama, home of the Crimson Tide, devours the speech rights of those on the sidewalks the campus touches. Here at the ACLJ, we have filed an [amicus \(friend-of-the-court\) brief](#) to fight this anti-constitutional blob.

First, let's cover some legal background. The First Amendment protects the right to free speech. But that right is not equally protected in all places. Obviously, you have a greater right to engage in leafletting or public protest in a park than inside a DMV office. Reflecting this difference, the Supreme Court uses "forum" analysis to differentiate between places that are more or less compatible with free speech.

At the top of the free speech ladder is so-called "traditional public forum" property, which consists of public streets, sidewalks, and parks. In such places, the First Amendment provides maximum protection, and restrictions on speech must comply with a demanding constitutional standard. For example, while excessive noise or obstruction of passage can be prohibited in such places, the government cannot ban picketing or street preaching altogether.

By contrast, in other, less protected speech fora (e.g., inside a classroom, or on the grounds of a jail), the government has considerably more flexibility to impose limits on speech. Of course, streets and sidewalks inside special enclaves – a military base, for example, or maybe a gated community – do not automatically get the same protected treatment as sidewalks and streets open to general public use. But the normal presumption is that if it's a public street, sidewalk, or park, it's a traditional public forum.

Which brings us to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, home of the University of Alabama. Rodney Keister, a street preacher, was delivering his message on sidewalks along streets running through the campus when university officials told him he had to stop preaching. After some back and forth, Keister, represented by our friend, attorney Nate Kellum at the Center for Religious Expression, ended up suing in federal court, asserting a First Amendment right to preach on public sidewalks. The federal district court rejected his constitutional claim, so Keister appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. A three-judge panel of that court ruled, surprisingly, that the public streets and sidewalks in question were *not* "traditional public forum" property – because they ran through "the heart" of the campus. Hence, the university, like the cinematic blob monster, in effect absorbed the adjacent streets and sidewalks.

Like the heroes in "The Blob," Keister is not giving up the fight. He has filed a motion for rehearing *en banc* – a request that not just three judges, but *all* of the judges on the Eleventh Circuit rehear the case. Such a request is extraordinary, but in our view

this is an extraordinary case. We at the ACLJ decided to weigh in to help Keister and his attorney.

On Feb. 20 we filed a [friend-of-the-court brief](#) supporting Keister's request for *en banc* rehearing. In our brief, we reminded the appeals court of the special place public streets and sidewalks have in First Amendment law:

One of the clearest aspects of the public forum doctrine under the First Amendment is the rule that public streets and sidewalks, as such, are quintessential public forum property

Moreover, we wrote, "the Supreme Court has repeatedly rejected the notion that the nature of the property adjacent to the streets and sidewalks can somehow negate the public forum status of those public ways."

For example, the Supreme Court held that the fact a street ran through a strictly residential neighborhood did not mean the streets were not traditional public forum property. Likewise the sidewalk around the Supreme Court itself remained a traditional public forum for speech:

As the [Supreme] Court [explained](#), "Traditional public forum property occupies a special position in terms of First Amendment protection and will not lose its historically recognized character for the reason that it abuts government property that has been dedicated to a use other than as a forum for public expression. Nor may the government transform the character of the property by the expedient of including it within the statutory definition of what might be considered a nonpublic forum parcel of property."

Thus, we pointed out the panel's ruling is "badly out of step" with Supreme Court precedent. But that's not all. The panel said that what was crucial was that the streets and sidewalks in question ran through "the heart" of the campus. But what kind of test is this?

As we argue, consideration of "such factors yield a horribly unworkable and subjective test that will invite litigation and result in considerable uncertainty in the law." For example, would the same rule the panel applies to a college campus apply to a corporate headquarters? An arts complex? A large farm tract? Why not? And how can a speaker know how far the "heart" of a campus (or other complex) extends?

We conclude:

It is hard to imagine a more slippery, less predictable test. Yet attorneys and lower court judges are supposed to follow such a standard?

We're hoping the full Eleventh Circuit court of appeals sees the problem here and corrects course. If not, the "blob" will likely have an appetite to devour more free speech, in other public places. Watch out!

### Our case on way to US Supreme Court????

Unfortunately, the court of appeal process mentioned in the ACLJ article above was struck down! So near the end of April, I signed a retainer agreement with the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) to represent me along with the CRE in an appeal to the US Supreme Court. This is Jay Sekulow's law firm. The ACLJ are filing the appeal soon We are grateful for both the CRE's and ACLJ's help!

While that sounds great, the reality is, **we need people to pray earnestly that the Supreme Court will hear our case.** The Su-



preme Court only hears about 2-6% of appeal cases. Page 3 of 4  
The process by which the Supreme Court decides to take a case is not known by the public. Our Attorney from the CRE thinks there are very significant legal issues, and conflicts with other cases, which certainly improves our chances.

Pray the devil is defeated, the Supreme Court takes our case, and we win to preserve freedom of speech in the USA. If we win, I get a whole \$1.00, so please understand this is not about money! Also pray for the lower judges and university employees as they have fought against God's Word going forth. That surely carries a high price in God's Court one day. Pray they are convicted of their sins and repent putting their faith Jesus Christ and truly experience full salvation! I have not been at liberty to publicly share the full details of our case, but I'll say at least this, the university of Alabama shuts down free speech on public sidewalks that boarder their properties on a constant basis. Even the Supreme Court ruled in the past that their sidewalks outside the Supreme Court building are open to free speech, but this state university thinks it has the right to stop a citizen from free speech on sidewalks bordering a public city street and their campus. PRAY!

### Mission Trip 43

Pray for Gabrielle and I. Lord willing, these are the plans for much of June and July. This will be a trip to Utah again and ministering in various areas long the way. Starting with a stop in Marietta, OH to share how we can help their small church and plan out a future outreach event. Next stop will be the ICHA annual conference in Greenfield, IN. Then Urbana, IL followed by picking up Gabrielle in Kansas where she is going to be a counselor at a youth camp. From Kansas we'll head to Manti, UT for Mormon evangelism training and street evangelism. Then on to Salt Lake City for street ministry and to hold meetings in conference rooms at the library. This time our sessions will be on discipleship. Pray many would mind God and come to the meetings. From Utah we will meet up with the Great Commission youth camp in Detroit for our 2nd year. After Detroit Gabrielle will return to visit her mother before she leaves in early July for Honduras. I will go on to Nelsonville, OH to help a small mission church with training and outreach. From OH I'll head to western PA to speak in a few sessions of Stoneboro Youth Camp about evangelism and my testimony. From Stoneboro it's back to Indiana for a Operation Save America national event. Then onward home to our annual God's Missionary Church conference and camp, then minister in PA and prep for Trip 44.

We have some open Weds. and Sundays while traveling on Trip 43 and I am also building the remainder of my 2018 and 2019 schedule. So, if you are interested in hosting a mission service, would like some training, outreach help, starting a campus ministry in your area, or a revival meeting, please let me know.

**Please see our important prayer list is on a separate paper.**

Thank you..... Rodney Keister

How to support Rodney in the mission work:  
On website: [EvangelismMission.com](http://EvangelismMission.com)  
Mail: [Evangelism Mission, P.O. Box 225, Mifflinburg, PA 17844](mailto:EvangelismMission@evangelismmission.com)  
Please make checks payable to [Evangelism Mission](http://EvangelismMission.com) and then in the memo write: "[Rodney Support](http://EvangelismMission.com)" If you do an online donation, use the comment space to designate the donation as "[Rodney Support](http://EvangelismMission.com)"



# Evangelism Mission



## Heartland Herald

Happy Spring! I trust you have all had a delightful winter and are now enjoying the spring we never thought would get here!

I'm learning that life never ceases to be busy. This semester is going well, and it's crazy to believe it is nearly over! In just a few short weeks, my third year of college will be over! Around this time last year, I began considering and praying about taking social work classes online through Liberty University. This is my second semester taking classes online through Liberty University. Attending two colleges at the same time has been hard, but God often brings something to my attention while working on my Liberty class and reminds me why He led me to take some social work classes in conjunction with obtaining my degree in missions from Union Bible College.

This semester I have gone to Marion County Jail in Indianapolis regularly with Bro. and Sis. Haynes, and Sis. Blocher. Each month they hold a service for the inmates in the prison. I've gone to help them along with Jeremy Hopkins. The two of us typically sing. We've also gone to Wheeler Mission in Indianapolis with the Haynes and Sis. Blocher. The banner picture is of men from the mission praying with Bro. Haynes to be saved. It has been really neat to see how the inmates respond and watch conviction set in on their faces as Bro. Eddy Haynes preaches.



On a cold Friday night, three of the students from UBC (including myself) went downtown Indianapolis to Old Fountain Square. Originally, we had planned on doing a street meeting, but when we got down there, very few people were out. We decided instead to walk around – passing out tracts and praying with people. Tiffany and I met a group of girls not much older than us who we talked to for a few minutes. The one girl began to open up slightly about some family problems, and we had the privilege of praying with them. I've found that not every conversation with every person will open a door to share a direct salvation message with them. However, showing you care and praying with people on the spot, you are showing Jesus in you. My prayer is that I grow closer to God and am illuminated by His indwelling.

Just a few weeks ago, I led a group from the Intercultural Studies Department at UBC (AKA: missions department) to IUPUI on a Friday afternoon (picture top right). IUPUI is a university in downtown Indianapolis, close to UBC. While there, we passed out quite a few tracts as well as prayed with the students. Contrary to what some believe, college students are rather receptive and open to talking when you have a loving spirit. I decided to ask some questions that would spark conversation. Curious what their religious view was, I first started by saying that I am a Christian, and then asked if they were. If they were not Christians, I proceeded to ask what they would identify as their biggest stumbling block in accepting Christianity. This opened the door to discuss the heart of their issue. After all, if a person does not

believe Christianity to be true, how can they accept the Gospel?

The prominent answer I received was that science does not match the Bible – they contradict. Another topic discussed with one of the students at IUPUI, was the battle between a good God and a world full of evil. One thing I noticed, was the underlying root that the student's obstacles hinged upon: even if Christianity is real, it does not make it supreme above the other religions. The idea that all truth is equal is one of the most accepted and incorrect ideologies among my generation. As 1 Peter 3:15 says, we need to be ready to give a defense of our beliefs. The day we live in requires more than just pointing to scripture to satisfy a skeptic; it is hard to convince a person of Christianity using the Bible, which they do not hold to be reliable. (Shout out to Dr. Tim Boyd for teaching a wonderful class on defending our faith!)



Deputation is a vital aspect of a missionary's life. It is one of the easiest ways to inform people about the work God is doing by addressing a congregation personally. It is also through deputation services that a passion for missions can be instilled upon people. It was through deputation services and hearing stories from the mission field that my interest in missions has stemmed. Of course, there is also the financial aspect of a deputation service. It is typically through deputation services that God speaks to people about supporting a missionary or missions organization, thus making them essential to the furtherance of the Kingdom of God. Due to being in choir and previously being in PR, plus doing mission services with Union Bible College's Intercultural Department, it has been hard to find available Sundays and Wednesdays to schedule deputation services. However, throughout the remainder of this semester and next year, I am hoping to be scheduling deputation services for Evangelism Mission. If you are interested in scheduling me for a mission deputation service about the works God has allowed me to participate in, it would be a joy to represent the Lord's work and share all He is doing. I'm working on scheduling service for the rest of 2018 and even into 2019, so please feel free to contact me!

**Please see our important prayer list is on a separate paper.**

Thank you,  
Gabrielle Keister

How to support Gabrielle in the mission work:

On website: [EvangelismMission.com](http://EvangelismMission.com)

Mail: **Evangelism Mission, P.O. Box 225, Mifflinburg, PA 17844**

Please make checks payable to **Evangelism Mission** and then in the memo write: "[Gabrielle Support](#)," "[GK College Fund](#)," or "[GK Honduras](#)" If you do an online donation, use the comment space to designate the donation.