

Good Shepherd Baptist Missions

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gsbministries.org

A Ministry of
East River Baptist Church



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Jerry Mullendore - Johnson City, TN
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Accident on I-40

"Brother Easter, this is your answering service, you have an emergency call from Missionary Dominic Kelly. He has had an accident on Interstate 40 west of Nashville." 9:05 AM. January 25, 2012

I could hear a strong articulate voice of authority in the background somewhat muffled by the sound of vehicles whizzing by. "Is that a State Trooper talking to you?" I asked. With an obvious accent Dominic replied that it was. "Are you injured?" was the follow-up question answered negatively. "Are you traveling alone or is someone with you?" He was alone. "Would you please ask the State Trooper your exact location?" I could hear the distinct answer, "Mile Marker 178 west bound." "Please ask him what city you are near." The answer from the State Trooper came back immediately and emphatically "Dickson." The vehicle was completely destroyed, a total loss. After completing the required GSBM emergency information form, we prayed together, and he was told that after my attempt to locate help from a local church, he would receive another call from me within the next ten minutes.

The computer data base showed there were three churches in Dickson so one was selected and dialed only to receive an answering machine. As the phone was returned to the cradle, it began ringing. Missionary Mark Gostlin was on the line. He heard an urgency in my voice and asked if he needed to call back later. "I'm trying to assist a missionary who has wrecked on I-40." Mark responded, "I'm on I-40. Where is the accident?" "On the 178 westbound." "I'm on the 162 eastbound. Tell him I'll be there in 15 minutes." The map showed Brother Mark would have to go to the next exit, at mile marker 182, and circle back. My response to the battered missionary was, "Brother Dominic, there is another missionary who is close to you and he will be there in 15 to 20 minutes."

(Mark had awakened early that morning thinking about the ten hour trip back to West Salem, Ohio. I could rest awhile longer, he thought, then a neighbor came roaring down the road in his not so quiet pick up truck and convinced him to get on up and get moving. He needed more time to prepare for the flight back to France) A wrecker passed Mark with the unidentifiable 1994 Malibu on its flatbed. A phone call to Dominic let us know that he was riding in the wrecker. Mark drove all the way back to a business address at the Dickson exit (mm 172). "You wouldn't believe the condition of this car" said Mark "It is wrecked front, sides and rear."

Brother Kelley had driven all night trying to reach Memphis, Tennessee where Pastor Jay Smith was starting a Camp Meeting. He was indeed a long way from Marietta, Ohio and really a long way from Port Moresby, Papua New Guiana, the place of his birth 35 years ago and where he plans to return in July as a missionary after having completed his Masters from Marietta Bible College. Brother Jay, on a three way conversation with myself and Mark Gostlin said that he could give Brother Kelley a love offering but then after the Camp Meeting he would be stuck in Memphis. We all agreed that it would be best for him to ride back to Marietta, Ohio with Brother Mark. Brother Kelly agreed. God had arranged his ride early that morning.

"The right front tire exploded" Dominic expressed in strongly accented but understandable English. After the right front tire blew, the Malibu hit the guardrail and then uncontrollably darted across the two lanes of traffic striking only a culvert in the median. There was liability but no collision insurance for the older vehicle and consequently no towing. The wrecker company agreed to keep the vehicle in exchange for the towing fee. Mark helped Dominic get his gear out of the pile of scrap metal and asked when he last had anything to eat. Seven o'clock the evening before was the answer. Dominic's new friend bought his breakfast and then began his divinely arranged trip toward Marietta, Ohio. When Mark was asked by me how far it would be out of his way to drive the missionary to his dormitory, he said it was not a problem and maybe two hours. My map program showed a different answer with the deviation at 280 miles and that distance was more likely to total a detour of over five hours.

What is this Christianity thing that causes a "brother" to race to help another "brother" in distress who, by the way, was born thousands of miles away, to buy his meals for a day while adding 280 miles to an already 611 mile trip? Rather than have Mark drop him off at the dormitory, he asked to be left at the chapel for a time of prayer.

After eighteen years of answering these emergency calls for Good Shepherd Baptist Missions, one would think that one might get used to them. That has never happened. They are always tender. Always precious. Always a privilege. Thank you for being a part of GSBM.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bro. Easter".

D. H. Easter, Director
Good Shepherd Baptist Missions

*Church Planting

*Evangelism

*Youth and Children's
Ministry

Sending Church

Pastor Camillus Kumbi
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Papua New Guinea

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Pray for

Dominic Kelly

Papua New Guinea



He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. John 12:25 (KJV)

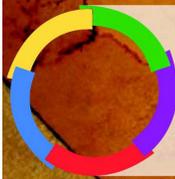


Mark & Amy Gostlin



To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. Acts 26:18

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SPEAKING NATIONS**

