

A Dessert Place

My wife said we should go to Palm Springs, California, to visit her brother for the winter. As I was on disability and we hadn't been there since 1978 and this was 1989. I said yes, but only for a few weeks, as I didn't like the desert that much. I had no problem with my motor abilities nor my equilibrium as long as I was sitting, so driving posed no problem. So with the money the insurance paid us back, we bought a new 1990 truck and 26 foot fifth wheel trailer.

We had some close friends that went to Arizona for the past two winters and they had ask us to come down and visit them in Apache Junction. This is actually on the very Eastern outskirts of Phoenix, Arizona. This was only 300 miles from Palm Springs, So I said sure why not. I figured a couple weeks there and a couple of weeks at her brothers place, it would shorten the winter back home and by then we would be ready to go home.

We left Wetaskiwin the day after Christmas and got to Apache Jct. on the 28 th. Our friends said to phone them when we got to Phoenix and they would give us direction on how to get to their place. I phoned and they gave good directions on how to get to Apache Jct. and we were to call them again from there as we didn't have far to go. We finally got through all the cities of Glendale, Phoenix, Tempe and Mesa. Arriving at A. J. we found a pay phone and I asked Marvelyn to go phone, as I was getting tired. It was at this time that after 28 years of marriage, I finally realized that directions and my wife just don't connect. She came back and said the highway makes a Y up ahead and we are to take the right lane to Globe and then go to Goldfield Road and turn right then go to dead end and the Golden Vista R.V. Park was on the right. She also said she had a little fun with Doreen, because Doreen asked "where are you now" and she said Tucson (which is a couple of hours South of Phoenix). Doreen believed her until she said she was only joking and they had a good laugh. After we took the right lane at the Y, there was a sign that said Globe 60 miles. I remember saying "are you sure we are to go to Globe". I got a very indignant answer, "yes I'm sure, you never believe me". I was trying to read the street signs, but it was right at traffic rush and I couldn't read all the signs. About 30 miles out, we run into mountainous terrain and heavy rain plus the road was very curvy and it had gotten dark. We finally arrived at Globe and going fairly slow so we could read every street sign. We drove through Globe and could not find a Goldfield Rd. I made a U turn and went back to a pay phone, my 2 nd clue that something is wrong is when the operator said, "the number you are trying to call is long distance". I finally got through to Doreen and she said "WHERE ARE YOU", I said "Globe" and she didn't believe me and started laughing. Well I didn't see any sense of Ha-Ha in it and told her so. After she realized I wasn't joking, she felt bad because from where Marvelyn phoned her, we were only two miles from Golden Vista. She said when we get back to Apache Jct., Goldfield Rd. would be the first street we come to. Needless to say, we finally made it to Golden Vista around 10 pm.

We enjoyed our stay at Golden Vista and made many more new friends and there was so much to do and see, that our two weeks turned into six. Neither one of us wanted to leave, but her relatives were expecting us in Palm Springs.

We packed up and went to Palm Springs and found a nice R.V. Park, just a few blocks from Vern's cabinet shop and about a mile from their house. They treated us like

Royalty and kept us busy. They attended a Missouri Lutheran Church, but it was different than any Lutheran church we had ever been in. The Pastor believed in the Born Again experience and wasn't ashamed to preach it. He also taught that your faith without works is dead, as well as your works without faith. The church was a fair size, and they had to have three services on Sunday in order to accommodate all the people. Plus they were packed out at Wednesday and Friday night meetings. They also had different in home Bible Study's, and one such home was the wife's brother's home.

We attended church and bible study and it was at one of these study's that God gave me an answer to my prayers as to "why" I was here in the desert. After all, I didn't like the desert. I was going through some scripture before the people showed up, when a scripture from Mark 6:31 And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a **desert** place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat. Then a scripture from Leviticus just jumped out to my understanding as if to say, seven days for you will be seven years and I have set aside seven years of rest for you's.

1 Samuel 10:8 And thou shalt go down before me seven days shalt thou tarry, till I come to thee, and shew thee what thou shalt do..

From there I went to Isaiah 7:19 and a portion of it jumped out to my understanding as well. The thought was so strong, "**what are desolate valleys if not desert!**"

Isa 7:19* And they shall come, and **shall rest** all of them in the desolate valleys

I was in ecstasy in spirit and shared with Marvelyn and those that were there, even tho I didn't like the desert, I was content that this was Gods will for us.

We stayed in Palm Springs for six weeks and thoroughly enjoyed the stay and fellowship we had there.

The wife and I felt that we should go back to Apache Junction, so we went back and decided to look at some other R.V. Parks in the area. But every time we found one that wasn't too bad, we would both get a real sinking feeling. So we went back to Golden Vista and when we pulled into the Park, it was like we were home.

We picked out a lot that we both liked when we were there the first six weeks. At that time there was an R.V. that had it rented, but they had left for the summer.

I went to the office and ask if that lot was rented. They said the people that were parked there earlier only rented by the month and if we wanted to rent by the year, it was ours.

Well seeing the price was \$300.00 a month or \$850.00 by the year, we took it by the year.

We enjoyed the fellowship in California and when we left, we ask the Pastor if he could recommend a church we could attend in Arizona. He said there was a Lutheran Church in the area and he had gone to Seminar with the Pastor. When Sunday came,

we were looking forward to attending the 9 am service. It was a lot dryer than Palm Springs, and we didn't sense any feeling of kinship. So we left and went for breakfast and it was still only 10:00 am. We got back in the car and both of us felt so dejected, so we prayed and ask God if there was some place we could go to have fellowship and here Christian preaching. We just started driving through residential areas and side streets. When we came to a stop sign and across the corner was a building that upon closer inspection was a church. Not fancy, but a fairly long building. Shaded under some trees was a sign that said Community Christian Church, services at 9:00 and 11:00 am. By this time it was 10:45, so we both said lets go in. We walked in and man what peace engulfed us. The people were so friendly, the singing was very uplifting and the preaching was the word of God. We had no doubt that this was once again Gods

leading. We attended there for seven years.

In 1991 we purchased a Park Model Home to put on the lot and used our R.V. when we went back to Canada. In 1993 they turned the Park into a home owners park, so we purchased our lot. We made a lot of friends there and got involved in volunteering in the every day administration.

In the summer of 1996 God spoke to my spirit and said this will be your last winter in Arizona. We were so at home and peaceful there, that I had totally forgot about the seven year rest that God had showed us at the beginning. I shared this with my wife and said we would be moving back to Canada in the spring. Now we dragged our feet in the spring about leaving, so God closed the door for us and we moved back in May of 1997. We were obedient to Gods direction, so he had it all worked out for the sale of our place in Arizona, plus he had a house reserved for us to purchase in Canada. The wife was a bit depressed about leaving the things she was doing in Arizona, but God opened doors here that way surpassed anything she was doing. We are both blessed beyond anything we could imagine.

Just remember that obedience to God is greater then any sacrifice and God is not interested in our ability, but rather our availability !

Started Internet Ministry Food for Thought

This is another one of my memoirs, to read more, go to <http://burningbushcrusades.com/> and click on memoirs.

Bro. Ken