

## **The Joy Of Travel – Stan Hankins**

"The Joy of Travel"; ranks right up there with other popular titles, "The Joy of Cooking" and "The Joy of... Sewing"; uh, huh. Sometimes folks let it slip, intimating my life must be exciting, jet-setting all over the globe; uh, huh. Trust me, there is a huge chasm between traveling to live it up, and traveling for a living.

I could keep you awake nights with stories of failed connections, weather delays, missing luggage, time zones, bad beds, big bugs, dusty roads, and cold water showers. Sometimes life on the road more travail than travel.

O.K. Hankins, shake it off! Rub a little dirt on it and get back in the game. Stop your whining! Read a bit of Paul's challenges in II Corinthians. When you find yourself enduring stoning, whippings, shipwreck, hunger, prison, and the occasional cantankerous congregation; let's talk. Such is the life of an itinerant. We are called; make that commissioned, to take the gospel to all peoples. In the Old Testament, the prophets operated upon God's beckon call. In the New, among other passages, we read in III John of those who went out for the sake of the Name. Historically and Biblically, itinerant evangelists have been used mightily of God. There is something divinely poignant about prophetic proclamation.

Ambassadors For Christ is primed to do its part toward reviving the Church and reaching the nations for Christ. If geographic mobility goes with the territory, so be it. The greatest challenge is not our willingness to go, but rather the Church's willingness to host us. As one elder some years back remarked, Evangelists are one of God's gifts to the church that is not being used as much nowadays. A second greatest challenge is the church's willingness to send us. Ah, but that topic is for another day.

We stand ready to "preach the Word, in season and out". We are poised to respond to the Spirit's call and take the gospel across the street or across the sea. Be it preaching in churches or schools, whether offering training for pastors and leaders, even sharing Christ in home studies; we are ready to go. Simply put, whatever it takes, wherever it takes.

The Joy of Travel, perhaps. The Joy of Jesus, definitely! I wouldn't have it any other way. Got to go, time to pack.