

From the Pastor

October 17, 2017

Last Wednesday morning Stephanie and I arrived in Mexico Beach Florida. We planned to spend a couple of days at The Driftwood Inn. We drove to Montgomery Alabama Tuesday night and expected to be back home Saturday night. We are still here, at least in Florida.



As we were making our way out of town, just as we were passing Tyndall Air Force Base, our car began displaying more hazard lights than a tree at Christmas time. When the air conditioner broke down we knew we were in trouble. When we lost power and were unable to exceed 30 miles an hour, we really knew we were in trouble. Stranded in Callaway, Florida!

We pulled into to a convenience store and began the long process of finding a tow truck and mechanic who can repair our type of car.

In a sermon not too long ago, I quoted Fred Rogers from Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood who said that his mother taught him that when you are in a bad or scary situation look for the helpers because there are always helpers. What wonderful advice!

One of the first things I noticed when we coasted into the convenience store was a very large sign that said, "NO LOITERING, NO EXCEPTIONS." I did not see that as a good sign, pardon the pun. However the woman who worked at the store was one of the "helpers." She invited us to come inside the store where it was cooler and even offered to let us take her vehicle to AutoZone to buy a part. Unfortunately they did not have the part we need.

For reasons I won't go into, it actually took us two tow trucks to get us to a mechanic with the equipment needed to work on our car. No fun, but it turns out the mechanic is another one of the "helpers." He worked on our car Saturday night after store hours; but the part we need is still in Atlanta. When we told him we would be taking an Uber to a hotel, he picked us up and brought us back to his shop and provided us with a loaner car.

Schedules are going to be disrupted, cars are going to break down, But Fred Rogers' mother was right "look for helpers, there will always be helpers."

I am so grateful to be part of a church full of helpers— Reeves Rogers Volunteers, Wednesday night cooks and servers, Sunday School teachers and disaster team members. If you are going to be stranded, Florida is not a bad place to be, but I can't wait to get home....

Blessings,

Craig