

Baptistries Around the World

Dr. Dale Underwood, Director

“Eliminating delays in immersing taught believers”

OUR THIRD QUARTERLY REPORT

Baptistries Around the World is thirty-two years old (1991) and this is our *third* quarterly report. Our purpose is to make everyone aware of progress, developments, and needs of this impactful ministry. Occasional newsletter articles have reported some. We have also mentioned a little in letters of acknowledgment for gifts, but space is limited. We want you to know much more and share our enthusiasm.

Due to the expanding interest of this phase of the ministry, too many stories get buried. So, we decided to provide this *quarterly* bulletin of ***Baptistries Around the World***. It will not prevent us from sharing compelling accounts sooner.

The First Quarter of 2023 was focused on securing parts to assemble the next 25 portable baptistries. The “pieces” come from different sources. Since Covid-19, all industries have a shortage of materials/supplies, slow delivery, and significant price increases. We continue to reveal our history in parts. This third issue will be followed by two more before we close that door. Only God knows the future but the past was exciting.



Over 100+ Baptisms in 45 Days!

Michael Deshazo welcomes folks at Kings Crossing on Sunday mornings. Having just assisted in baptizing 52 at the Glossbrenner Unit, he felt compelled to share the thrill.

He went on to report a dozen more baptisms at a local halfway house.

Another 22 were baptized at the McKenzie Annex location of local county jail inmates plus 6-8 at the downtown jail. After several delays, we are scheduled to baptize another 45+ (mostly females) at the main jail.

In addition to these, we have been blessed to witness 12+ baptisms at Kings Crossing.

These and other baptisms have led Dale, Recardo, and Jesus Villanueva to put the Sunday class together (“Doing Church”) to encourage new followers of Jesus and train them to welcome and encourage the next wave of new converts.

It's not enough to baptize them. We must be ready to accept them warmly into the body of Christ, help them grow, get plugged in, and ready to pass on the joy received.

BRIEF HISTORY

Part Three:

Then we met Wayne Goben (minister in Norfolk, Nebraska), who spoke at a retreat for those in addiction recovery. His wife, Loretta, owned a sewing business. He saw our portable baptistry and offered her skill and equipment to make a stronger-gauge canvas liner. We replaced the lawn chair with PVC pipe from a local firm that specializes in making lawn and beach-style furniture. The polished pipe is durable and easy on the eyes. After a few tries, Loretta was able to make the liners fit. They, too, were more expensive but looked professional and were all the same color. After a few years, Loretta passed away. Someone else took over her business but baptistry liners were not profitable nor a high priority. They charged more and the delivery time was longer. Shipping from Nebraska was costly.

Going to our main Post Office one day, Buck spotted a company with beautiful blue awning over their front door. It was a firm specializing in *custom* awning plus, boat, and vehicle covers. Entering, he spotted the owner, John. Buck had met him as “Best Man” at his brother’s wedding a few years earlier. The baptistry liner project was put in their hands to see if it might be improved. Within six weeks, we had our first new liner ready in a deep-sea blue like that of the firm’s awning. This saved us shipping costs but, of course, pushed our cost a little higher.

Picking up the new liners, they noticed our weird multi-colored carrying cases and asked if we would like for them to make matching carrying cases with commercial grade zippers and strap. They lengthened them some, making a better fit for the contents. Again, this was a significant upgrade without making it too much more expensive. Then, next time we had them lengthen the strap of the carrying case to better fit over the shoulder of whoever carried it.

Finally, the baptistry no longer had a weird appearance, it was easily assembled, dismantled, and stored.

(Part Four: Next Quarter)

IT FEELS WONDERFUL TO SAY, “YOU DON’T OWE A DIME”

Baptistries Around the World has the finest and most generous friends in the world! We were talking to some brethren recently whose church building had been damaged in a terrible storm. They didn't have any money and were waiting to find out what their insurance company might do (if anything) to help them rebuild. In the meantime, they wanted to be ready to immerse anyone reaching that decision. They had heard about our costs of a baptistry increasing to \$500 plus shipping. The man who called wanted to know if we might ship one and wait until their insurance paid off? It was a wonderful feeling to tell him all we needed was a name and address for delivery. "You don't owe us a dime." It was like the brethren at Corinth cheerfully giving to relieve the poor saints in Jerusalem. Time after time, our ministry friends have stepped up to provide what others lacked. This is New Testament Christianity in action!



BIG BROTHERS

We are not referring to physical bodies alone but these three: Recardo Reyes, Dale Underwood, and Michael DeShazo spent several hours at the Glossbrenner Unit near San Diego to assist 52 men be baptized into Christ.



Can you imagine 3000 baptized in one day (Acts 2:41)? The men had to "take turns" baptizing—it was work! The men wear jumpsuits and as each one exited, they too water out. Halfway through the baptisms, they had to refill the portable baptistry. We had donated and delivered it to the prison about one month ago.

STATES TARGETED

There are **ten** states to which we have *not* yet placed a baptistry. Please help:

Connecticut	Iowa	Hawaii
Delaware	Vermont	Utah
North Dakota	Rhode Island	Idaho
	South Dakota	

TIME TO PRAY

Following the 52 baptisms, everyone joined in a circle—shoulder to shoulder—to pray. This was a moving event—a time of joy and gratitude for God's goodness.



Men had repented of so many grievous sins and were thankful that the Lord would die for sinners like us. In this moment of blood cleansing sin and inner renewal, everyone stood on level ground at the foot of the cross of Jesus.

Thanks to Chaplain George Franco, for requesting the baptistry from **Baptistries Around the World** and for putting it to great use quickly. Following these baptisms, others were asking when they would also have an opportunity like this. Michael Deshazo and Charles Barber teach weekly classes there. *Praise the Lord!*

“THANK YOU” TO SUPPORTERS

We are extremely grateful to every congregation and individual donor for your kind financial assistance. You see here how the baptistries you make available are, in fact, being used again and again. Many are like the 52 men at Glossbrenner. They have already been taught and believe but must wait for a baptistry to be available and for a chaplain to help make it happen!

This week we are shipping our 473rd baptistry! This one is going to our great ministry partners in Johnson City, Tennessee! We already know they will use it because they *wore out* the first one we supplied not that many years ago!



Baptistries Around the World is overseen by the shepherds, Kings Crossing Church of Christ, 5901 Yorktown Boulevard, Corpus Christi, Texas 78414 (Ron Cardwell, Kyde Eddleman, Robert Illgen, Stephen Johnston, Jack North, and Richard Scanio).

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