

# The Roe's Hatch

June 16, 2017



Dear Partner,

Last weekend, I (Scott) returned from a few weeks on the East Coast where I co-led a short, intensive summer mission. It was a great time with lots of development plus ample opportunities for gospel conversations.

Living close to the Seaside Heights boardwalk on the Jersey Shore made it easy to have meaningful spiritual conversations with people, young and old. We also spent a couple days engaging students at Princeton, Rutgers, NYU, Columbia, and Brooklyn College. Everywhere we went we found people interested in spiritual things, but, unfortunately, without much knowledge, background, and understanding. We started spiritual conversations with 407 people and talked through the gospel with 118 of them. Twenty eight of those prayed to receive Christ before the conversation was over!

The majority of the students arrived to the summer mission lacking confidence and experience sharing the gospel. All left feeling emboldened and equipped to more naturally talk to others about Christ. Please pray they continue to find thoughtful ways to share Christ with those around them in the months and years to come. Already, one of the girls returned home and led her sister to the Lord!

The remainder of this letter includes samplings of ways God worked with summer.

Your partnership plays a vital role in the many stories of changed lives.

*Scott & Bonnie Roe*



**Lauren:** Being at the Jersey Shore for 2 weeks has been one of the best experiences of my life. Even though it's terrifying, stepping out in faith to share God's word with strangers is the most rewarding thing I have ever done. Most people on the boardwalk come from a wide variety of spiritual backgrounds and many have never heard of the gospel. I had the chance to talk to two girls very similar in



age to myself and share the gospel with them. At first they were standoffish, but they allowed us to sit and talk to them. While we were going through the main points of the gospel, their eyes lit up and they suddenly became interested in God's word. They allowed us to pray with them before we left and it was so amazing to see how God completely softened their hearts. At one point, we asked the question, "What happens after death?" and she responded in shock "I was just thinking about this earlier today." We were able to share the gospel with her and clear up some gray areas in her mind about death, how Jesus died for our sins, and the promises of God. Conversations like this happened frequently and it was amazing to see the "divine appointments" that God arranged for us to reach out to these people and be vessels for Him.

**Jen:** Naniesa and I talked with a woman named Iyeshia at Rutgers University. Growing up in a Muslim family, she had heard about God, and vaguely knew about Jesus Christ. However, her idea of faith was doing everything in her own power and simply “being a good person”. She thought she had to study and know all of the facts before she could have a relationship with God.



After answering all of our questions, she agreed to go through the gospel with us. **It was amazing to see her eyes light up as we talked about how much God loves her, and that she does not need to perform to have a relationship with God.** We read through the prayer to accept Jesus into her heart, she was genuinely interested, but told us she could not until she had talked about it with her dad. I am continually praying that Iyeshia and her dad desire to have a relationship with God, and do not feel like they have to perform to earn His love.

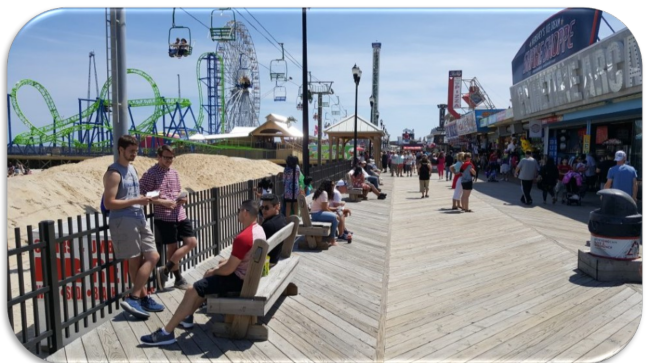


**Kaitlyn:** Our night we spoke with a man who was just sitting alone on a bench named Bill. Bill battled addiction all his life and this led to broken relationships with his family and being completely alone. Bill has now been sober for 2 years. He shared that God is a big part of his sobriety. He used to be full of anxiety, but ever since coming to faith, he no longer experiences anxiety and has never felt better in his life. The relationships with his family are restored, and he now strives to keep these as a priority in his life. I was able to relate to Bill because Bill and my dad share a similar life story. From the anxiety all the way to broken relationships with family. I couldn't believe what I was hearing. To me, it was God who put Bill on the sidewalk that night to show me His heart to break addiction and restore people. The fact that this man had the same exact story as my dad brought me to tears, because it is proof that God is so powerful and truly cares for each and every one of us. Bill prayed to receive Christ into his life. This conversation was so real and I could feel God's presence throughout the entire conversation for Bill's sake, but also for mine. The only reason we got to talk to Bill was because he had gotten off of work early and just sat down on a bench. It was too great to be a coincidence and left such an impact and sense of security in my heart that God loves and desires to know everyone in this world.

**Kevin:** Memorial day weekend KB and I went out sharing on the boardwalk. We came across a younger couple sitting on a bench, the girl was a believer, the boy was not. During our conversation with them we learned he had not grown-up with any type of spiritual background, but had heard a little from his girlfriend. Walking through the Knowing God Personally booklet with them he began to understand what the gospel was and why Jesus had to die on the cross for us. As he realized this you could see his heart change and want to know God himself. We prayed with him as he came to Christ.



**Aurora:** Kaitlyn and I walked up to a group of four college students and as we began a conversation, three more of their friends walked up. It was very intimidating to be surrounded by seven other people our age while attempting to share the gospel. They all said they were unsure of what happens after death and rated their desires to know God personally 5, 7, or 8 out of 10. However, as we began to explain the gospel, their faces began to change and they became more interested in what we had to say. All of them were very engaged and when we reached the end of the gospel booklet all seven of them desired to pray to receive Christ with us. **They grabbed our hands, and the nine of us stood in big circle in the middle of the boardwalk and prayed out loud.** To have had that many people our age genuinely want to receive Christ at the same time showed me the importance of the work we have been doing!



See more about the Jersey Shore Express Summer Mission at [www.gcx.org/jssm/](http://www.gcx.org/jssm/)

