

# Healing for the Nations

Tom Shanklin Ministries

Fall 2011

## Lifestyle Evangelism

**By Tom Shanklin**

Back in the '70s, I met a man working at a sawmill where I was employed in southeast Minnesota. He was not a pastor or a preacher, just an ordinary worker like me, but he loved the Lord. He would talk to me about his church, a small fellowship of "Spirit-filled" Christians. "How do you know they are Spirit-filled?" I would tease him. He was always asking me to come to his church. Meanwhile, he was living the Christian life before me and sharing stories about what God had done in his life.

One night, he invited me, my wife, and our baby daughter Heidi for dinner at his home. His wife prepared a good meal. They both were warm and friendly, and they shared about some of the things that God had done in their lives. Like many of us at that time, they had come out of the long-haired hippie drug culture, but their lives had been transformed by the power of God. Once again that night, they invited us to visit their church. An evangelist was in town, and we should come, they said. Now, since they had been so nice to us, we felt obligated.

At the meeting, all the Christians (mostly young 20-somethings like ourselves) were singing lively Scripture choruses, jumping and shouting and praising God. We saw that God was real in their lives. During that meeting, my friend who had invited me went forward for prayer. He had suffered from Rheumatic Fever as a child and as a result had a deformity in one of the valves in his heart. After receiving prayer, he began to shout at the top of his lungs, "Hallelujah!" Then he testified that God had touched his heart, and he knew that he was healed.

The next day after the meeting, he went to the doctor and it was confirmed that he had been healed of the problem. Coincidentally, it seemed, I was the first person to see him after he left the doctor's office and to hear the report of his miraculous healing. The doctor

said that the heart murmur which he had before was nearly gone and his blood pressure was normal, a huge change. Several weeks later, he was at the doctor's office once again and was told that the heart murmur was completely gone. That experience had a tremendous impact on our lives.

During the meeting with the evangelist, something had told me, "This is what you've been looking for." I had been searching for spiritual peace through drugs, transcendental meditation, and eastern mysticism, but suddenly I sensed that I had found something real. We didn't give our lives to Jesus that night, but a seed had been planted in our hearts. From that day, we never missed church. Within several months, both Susan and I surrendered our lives to Jesus and were water baptized.

We didn't look the best or even smell the best, but the people in that little church showed us kindness. The women in that church would come to visit my wife. They would teach her the Bible. "Let's open to the book of Ephesians," they would say. And she would thumb through the Bible searching for Ephesians. We didn't know much about the Bible, but we recognized the love of God in the people. That is what lifestyle evangelism is all about!

If we want to be successful reaching people for Christ, this is what we need to do. Sometimes Christians are so wrapped up in their own lives that they don't pay attention to the people around them or even those that visit the church. But, if we are really following Jesus, we should care for the people who come into our midst.

Worldwide, it is estimated that only one third of all born again Christians ever do anything about the Great Commission. The greatest potential for evangelism is not in the preachers, but in the people. This work of evangelism is done in the trenches, out where people live and work everyday. It's lifestyle evangelism, people reaching out to the people around them.

Think about it for a moment. If every Christian in the world would just win one person to the Lord per year and teach them to be disciples, then every year the Church would double, and before long we would reach the whole world for Jesus.

***The above is an excerpt from Tom's new book, "You Can Touch the World." Look inside for details about how you can order your copy and learn more about how to reach the world for Jesus Christ.***



## Upcoming Meetings

**Saturday, Oct. 1,** 10 a.m., Men's Meeting. **Sunday, Oct. 2,** 3:30 p.m., Worship Service, River of God Church, Crystal Falls, Michigan. 906-875-1027.

**Sunday, October 9,** 10 a.m., For His Glory Church, Log Cabin, City Park, Spring Grove, MN. 507-725-2984.

**Sunday, Oct. 16,** 10 a.m., New Life Assembly of God, Chaska, MN. 952-556-5634,

**Saturday, Oct. 22,** 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Susan Shanklin speaking a Ladies Time of Refreshing Luncheon. The Country Church, Ruth-ton, MN. 507-658-3917.

**Sunday, October 23,** 10 a.m., The Country Church, Ruth-ton, MN.

**Sunday, November 6,** 10 a.m., For His Glory Church, Log Cabin, City Park, Spring Grove, MN.

**Sunday, Nov. 13,** 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., New Life Fellowship, Tolna, North Dakota. 701-262-4470.

## Scheduling

If you would like to schedule Tom or Susan Shanklin in your church or community, you can reach them at [tom@shanklinministries.org](mailto:tom@shanklinministries.org) or by mail.

## Radio Outreach

**KRJM, Mahnomen, MN,** 101.5 FM, Sundays, 8:45 a.m.

**KABU, Ft. Totten, ND,** 90.7 FM, Sundays, 12:15 p.m.

**KOYA, Mission, SD,** Rosebud Indian Reservation, SD 88.1 FM, Sundays, 8:15 a.m.

## Our Mission

The mission of Tom Shanklin Ministries is to unite with the Body of Christ to reach the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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Reaching the World with You

# Mahnomen Family Fun Music Festival Bears Fruit

Thanks for your prayers for our outreach to Mahnomen, Minnesota on Sept. 23-25. Many lives were touched, God's people were encouraged, and souls came into the Kingdom of God.

Five area churches cooperated with the event, contributing labor, love, and finances. Approximately 150 people attended during the afternoon, and we were able to pray with 15-20 for salvation, and several others for healing.

But numbers do not give an adequate picture of the event. Walls came down and connections were made between people—church members and

non-church members, Native people and non-native people, youth and adults. A spirit of Christian love and unity prevailed as God's people from different backgrounds worked together for the greatest cause on earth—reaching people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

For Pastor Kurt and Debbie Svendsgaard of Healing Waters Church of Mahnomen, it was a booster shot for their work in that town. But for the rest of us, there was a great blessing, too. We were able to see God in action, touching lives, and we were able to sow good healthy Gospel seed into the ground and to see a harvest.

This outreach could serve as a model for churches and ministries that have a heart to reach the lost and to build the Kingdom of God in their areas. It was fun, entertaining, and refreshing, but at the same time some serious kingdom business took place. It's a good lesson for all of us that the work of God can be accomplished in a fun, jovial, and positive family atmosphere.

First, the children from Mahnomen and the surrounding area came together and sang and worshipped as their parents and other adults looked on. Then I preached a message from John 3:16 to the kids and shared my testimony. I encouraged them to follow the Lord all the days of their life and to not turn away because of temptation or peer pressure. Then the children





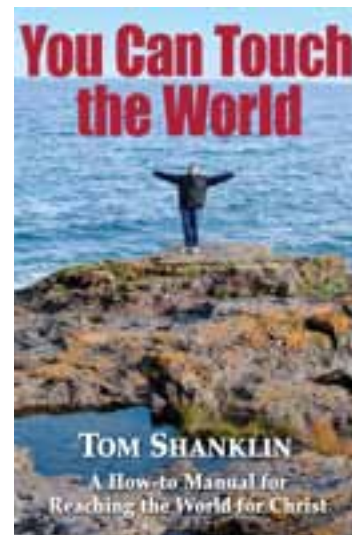
were given gifts and prizes and began to enjoy an afternoon of fun, games, fire truck rides, and hayrides.

Meanwhile, the music festival began, featuring Gospel singers and musicians from the area. The adults in attendance enjoyed the music and sat around visiting and enjoying a beautiful fall day in northern Minnesota. Then there was a very nice catered barbecue meal which everyone enjoyed. But before the meal, I had another chance to minister the Gospel to young and old. A fairly good sized crowd had gathered by then, as parents were arriving to share in the meal and to pick up their children.

I preached from John 3 again, telling the people, "You Must Be Born Again." I talked about the substitution that took place on the cross when Jesus "bore our sins in his own body on the tree." Three people raised their hands indicating they wanted to receive Christ and several came forward for prayer for physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. I sensed that the Gospel message also brought a refreshing to the Christians in attendance. We all need to be reminded from time to time about the great work that God has done in sending His Son to die for our sins at Calvary, giving us forgiveness and a new life.



*Handwritten signature or mark.*



## Order Your Copy!

Be sure to order our new book, *You Can Touch the World*. Learn how you can make a major eternal difference in people's lives. Order extra copies for your church or for gifts. Order by mail or at [www.tomshanklin.org](http://www.tomshanklin.org). The suggested donation is \$10.00 each.

## Join the Team!

**Thank you** for your prayers and financial support for this ministry. It enables us to be a help and a blessing to many people—through prayer, preaching, evangelism training, encouragement, radio ministry, and all the outreaches of this ministry.

Our mission is to unite with the Body of Christ to reach the world for Jesus Christ. We do this through evangelism and through encouraging and training Christians to reach their world.

### Your offerings provide:

- Gas and travel expenses
- Airline tickets
- Radio time
- Crusade and seminar expenses
- Production of books and CDs
- Printing of follow up materials and newsletters
- Shipping costs to send books and CDs to pastors in third world nations.
- Internet expenses
- Support for missions and evangelism

**We're a team!** We couldn't do this without you and we wouldn't want to. May God bless you as you get involved in God's number one job.

# God's Wisdom Will Keep You Young

Life is short....seasons are short. Each year I get older and it doesn't seem possible!

I am a big fan of the local thrift store and they have introduced a perk of 5 percent off if you are 60 years or older.

One afternoon as I was going through the racks of lady's tops I overheard this plan and wondered if they would ask me..... But the elder lady working the counter didn't ask me how old I was, so I was THRILLED! I floated home on cloud nine and told Tom. Yesterday, I purchased some sweatshirts for Tom and a couple of long sleeve tops for myself. With confidence I stroll up to the counter and begin chatting with the elder volunteer. I figure if I chat she will be distracted enough to not ask my age.

Much to my chagrin she asks, "Are you 60?"

I was stunned. I was devastated.

I slowly nodded my head and said, "Yes."

My misery was worth a total of 55 cents off the purchase. I don't know why it bothered me so.

When I got home I, lip sticking out, told Tom my misadventure.

"Ah," he says, "it's because of the color of your hair."

Ha! Leave it to a man to point out the little flaws...if you want to call it that.

My dear mother-in-law, Opal, hated being old. When we moved her to an assisted living facility close to our home in Mankato, we walked in and she cracked, "Look at all these old people!"

I wanted to say, "What do you think you are?"

Opal never did learn to accept the aging process, so I'm sure that's why she lived to be almost 94.

I'm not bothered by my age or my silver hair. I do hate the term "gray hair" though.

I truly don't know why I got on this subject of age... *Shrug*. It doesn't bother me unless you point it out in a negative manner!

Being negative never seems to produce much fruit.

I see the president get negative and then the congress. Then the networks go negative and the opinion writers. It all spirals downward and sometimes we pick up this negative spirit and just get more sour.

Father God has surely put forth the best and more perfect plan. If you just think back to the beginning and the beautiful garden, we had it "made in the shade" so to speak. It was all good—man and woman, trees and animals, sky and earth, and a "Voice" that walked about in the cool of the day. Ahhhhhhhhhhh. Heaven on earth.

But Mr. Negative slithered on in and Adam listened and obeyed.

That's right. Adam obeyed the devil. Adam wasn't forced to, but he choose to listen and respond to an evil report, and the seed was planted in Adam to question the goodness of God and His perfect plan for his life. Never mind that Eve was involved it this too...which makes it a blame game, Ha!

I'm so glad God gave me a chooser/brain. I'm so glad that since I was born again my spirit man/woman helps my brain to know what is the best choice to make in the big and small things of life.

It is always my choice how to react or act. You can try to make me react or act out, but in the end I am the one with the sole responsibility for my actions. No way can you say, "The devil made me do it." No, you decided. Hey, hey, I'm preaching to myself.

We had a guest speaker at our church last week, Dr. Beth Langstaff-Foell, and she spoke about wisdom and how to get it. Her challenge was to read a chapter of Proverbs a day for 30 days. Knowing and listening and acting on wisdom is a real key to a better life here on earth.

I think this whole getting wisdom bit will keep you from getting old—old in spirit and old in mind.

Something that she said that struck me was that wisdom sometimes comes to us in plain packages and therefore we tend to throw it away. Kind of like what the world does with Jesus. Wisdom will meet us in the middle of the road as we seek it and embrace it.

Life is short and seasons are short. Each year I get older. It's up to me to read the road signs and to stay on His high-way. See you there!



Susan and granddaughter Eve

## Women's Time of Refreshing With Susan Shanklin

Saturday, Oct. 22nd

1st Session: 10:30 a.m.-noon  
Free Luncheon: noon-1 p.m.  
2nd Session: 1-2:30 p.m.

Susan Shanklin brings a powerful and unique approach to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Her straightforward method brings conviction and empowerment into people's lives by applying the Scriptures to real life situations. She is bold and compassionate in her presentation and has a special ability to make people laugh and to look at things in a fresh new way, both through her preaching and through her unique writing style. Susan is also an accomplished stained glass artist and enjoys the homesteading lifestyle on the couple's farm site in southern Minnesota.

No Child Care. A free will offering will be received.

RSVP Fran DeRuyter, 507-658-3917 or 507-658-3831

## The Country Church

Ruthton, Minnesota

