By Pastor Rich Savage

United Methodist Church, Grant

This is my last article and I will continue the theme of the journey I have been using. I have talked about my love and exploration of southern Utah, but my love of travel has taken me to other places, too.

My travels have taken me to many states, and also to Uruguay and Nigeria. Every experience has been unique and eye opening.

We are so very fortunate to be as blessed as we are here in the United States and in Perkins County.

The purpose of my foreign travels has not been to see the "sights" a normal tourist would see, although some of these were seen in the process. My trips have been to work with people who are in poverty and struggling to make life work.

What has blessed me most about them is to see people who have so little be so happy, so well-adjusted mentally and emotionally, and so in love with Jesus.

My commitment to Jesus Christ has been a life-changing and life-long process. An important part of any of our journeys to and with God is a personal deepening of our relationship with God. But that is not the end of the process. A parallel part of our life of faith is how we put our faith into practice.

What does it mean to believe in Jesus Christ? How is our faith lived out?

"Jesus told His disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it'." (Matthew 16:25) Jesus also said, "I am among you as one who serves." (Luke 22:27)

When we believe in Jesus, we are called to serve others. Our life becomes focused outwardly. No longer do we live just for ourselves. We see the world differently and want to help others.

When we are 'living the journey' we find opportunities to serve in many varied capacities.

What chance to serve has God placed before you? How have you responded? Are you willing to be inconvenienced for Jesus' sake? For His work?

Well, our four weeks of journeying together has come to a close. I hope that you have been able to process where you are on your own personal journey. Our journeys are very personal, but never private. God asks us to talk about our journey, to share with others what our faith means to us. By sharing we grow and others have a chance to come to know and love Jesus and to grow in their faith.

My prayer for each of you is that you may grow in faith and practice, in the ability to quietly witness to your faith in God through word and deed, and in sharing God's love with those you meet along the way.

Thank you for sharing this journey with me.

May God bless you richly!

Your fellow traveler on the journey,

Rev. Rich Savage