

The Arrows of Truth

Matt Steed

My name is Matt Steed and I am from McCool, Mississippi. I have been married to my wife Daphne since July of 2000. After years of dating through high school, we both knew that God joined us together. I have been a law enforcement officer for 18 years and currently hold a sergeant's position at the Attala County Sheriff's Department. Daphne is a graduate of Mississippi State University with a teaching degree. She currently teaches at Greenlee Elementary in Attala County. We have been blessed with two amazing children, Gage who is nine, and Shay who is five.

We enjoy outdoor activities and feel that God can use this as an area to witness for Him to others. Our favorite activities include camping and traditional archery, longbows, and recurves. While at the traditional archery events, God placed it on our hearts that we could use our bows and arrows to share the gospel. We formed a ministry called Southern Flight Ministries. During traditional archery competitions, I have had the opportunity to bring Sunday morning devotions and witness to fellow archers. It has been a wonderful opportunity for my family and me.

Daphne and I were both born and raised in Attala County, about 13 miles apart. Daphne was raised in McCool and attended McCool Baptist Church. Daphne accepted Christ at age seven, realizing that she needed a Savior. I, on the other hand, was raised in a very small strict country church, Providence Baptist, with an average attendance of 10-15 people. Most were 50 years older than I was. I accepted Christ as a teenager, realizing that I needed a Savior.

Daphne and I both realize the importance of sharing and spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. While at the archery tournaments, we discussed how most people never attend church or if they do attend, it was only a few times a year, mostly on holidays. This was a huge burden on my heart. So we started holding a church service on Sunday morning for anyone who would like to attend. I used my longbow or recurve to bring the message. It seemed to gather everyone's attention. I used topics like keeping our lives in tune, just like we keep our bows in tune, and I always closed with sharing the gospel.



These events vary in numbers. I have seen as many as 400 shooters at these events. The average attendance at our devotions, would be around 20-25. But God was blessing everyone who attended, including Daphne and me. We had people tell us how we touched their lives and they would be in absolute tears when we were finished praying. I have always been very adamant to tell people that if they felt touched, it wasn't me who touched them, it was Jesus. I had one guy point blank tell me that he just accepted Christ as his Savior. It was while I was doing these devotions that God placed it on my heart to surrender to the ministry.

Daphne and I talked and prayed numerous times about me preaching. I started talking with Brother Dick Hill, my pastor at McCool Baptist. Brother Hill was overwhelmingly supportive and encouraged me to keep praying and keep studying God's Word. The more I read God's Word, the stronger the desire got for me to preach. I told Brother Hill that I wanted to surrender to the ministry. If you could only have seen the smile on his face.

After my ordination, I placed my name on the list of available supply pastors at the Attala County Baptist Office. God blessed me from week to week with preaching opportunities. During this time, Brother Hill and I stayed in constant communication about the Bible and sermon preparation.

I was asked to come to Shiloh Baptist Church to fill in for a week. Those few weeks turned into two months. Brother Hill had told me that God would give me the feeling when I arrived at the special church where God wanted me to be. Shiloh Baptist was it. Daphne and I, along with the kids, have fallen in love with the church. They have been amazingly supportive to my family and me. I have zero doubt that God led me to Shiloh Baptist Church.

We still shoot our bows at tournaments and we are currently making plans for our next traditional archery devotion. To say that God is amazing, is an understatement. Thank you to Glimpse of Grace Ministries and Brother Dick Hill who was at first my pastor but is now a very close friend.