

HOLLYWOOD STUNTMAN, *Sammy Maloof* Winning at the Race of Life[®]

By Harley Lynn Reeves

It's three in the morning at the Maloof Racing Engines Shop.

The distant chirping of crickets is carried by an easy breeze. The sky is picturesque with a scatter of twinkling stars accompanied by the moonlight's soft glow. The stillness is not bothered by the rustling of a restless squirrel. Then... "GLORY TO GOD!" What was that and where did it come from?... Oh, that's Sammy. He's in the shop lunchroom performing another deliverance.

It's not unusual for Sammy Maloof to be wide-awake at all hours of the night ministering to a soul in need. The devil pays no regard to a time clock, and neither does human need. As for Maloof, well, his Hollywood stuntman nature draws him into the middle of the action.

Sammy Maloof is a man who truly lives by the "Love thy neighbor as thyself" commandment. After meeting an elderly gentleman, (Frank, a WWII Marine veteran who was struggling with the diminishing effects age sometimes plagues on the mind), Maloof took him in and cared for him for 12 years. Everywhere Sammy went, Frank went. Since then, the Maloof household is almost always hosting someone in need. Sammy takes individuals in and ministers to them while helping them to get on their feet.

Sammy is described as a common man with an uncommon love for people. This is evident not only in his personal life, but also in his work and his ministry. Sammy has been known to stand in one spot for 3 hours signing autographs, refusing to budge until he has taken care of the last person in line.

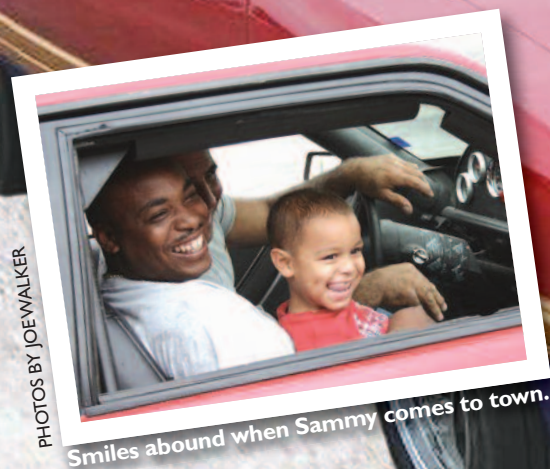
As a part of his ministry, Sammy travels to churches putting on stunt shows, then giving rides in his stunt car and speaking the uncompromised Word of God. These

performances can cost
Sammy well
over

\$5,000

each, depending
on the traveling distance.

Once, he received a call from a pastor who had scheduled Sammy to come out to his church. He apologized and explained that he had been unable to raise the funds to



PHOTOS BY JOEWALKER

Smiles abound when Sammy comes to town.

Sammy took the '87 Mustang and gutted it from front to rear. He converted it to an automatic C4 transmission. He built a 302 cubic inch racing engine and caged the whole car. He built the rear end and installed 4.11 gears with spool type carriers. The \$20k plus paint job was done by David Morgan (Custom Touch Graphics, Austin, TX), and has scriptures encrusted into the paint all over the car.

cover Sammy's expenses, not even enough to cover his gas costs. Sammy asked the minister if he had advertised the planned event to the community, and the pastor admitted that he had. Sammy told the pastor that he was still going to fly out and do the show, and that he would cover the cost from his own pocket to spare the minister from looking bad to his community.

Sammy does not view missions such as these as monetary losses, but as seeds sewn. Per Sammy, "A man's harvest in life depends entirely on what he sows. If you do not have a harvest, or if you do not like your harvest, it means you have sewn the wrong seed." However, in order to receive your harvest, Sammy declares that you must expect it. "If you are not expecting a return, you will not receive a return," says Sammy.

Sammy met Pastor Art Cardenas of Abundant Faith Church in Round Rock while he was on the set of a movie in Texas. Pastor Art invited Sammy to come preach at his church. During the two and one half months Sammy was there, he never once heard Pastor Art preach. Pastor Art, obeying the voice of God, turned the pulpit over to Sammy for that entire time. Afterwards, the Lord asked Sammy to build and donate a stunt car to the church, and go out and perform stunt shows and give rides in it. Sammy obeyed, and rebuilt a 1987 Ford Mustang 5.0 and gave it to the church. The car was a V8 type model with a short wheelbase. (Sammy purposefully chose the short wheelbase model because it is easy to control and takes out risk factors, which was important because the car is used to give rides to kids.) The short wheelbase also gives better acceleration.

Sammy set out searching for this specific car. When he "found" it, the guy who owned the car knew of Sammy, his stunt work, and of his racing engine shop. When Sammy asked about buying the car, the owner said he had another idea. Turns out he was looking to take his

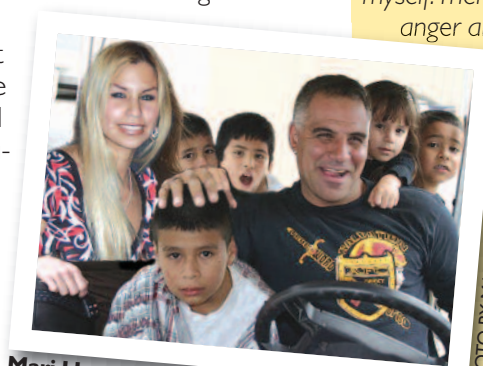
4 cylinder Pinto to Sammy to have it converted to an 8 cylinder. In exchange, he would give Sammy the Mustang. Sammy thought it would just be easier to buy the car, but when he opened his mouth to decline the offer he heard himself say, "No problem, I've got you covered." God spoke to Sammy saying, "You give to all who ask you." Sammy literally could not say "no."

Sammy took the Mustang and gutted it from front to rear. He converted it to an automatic C4 transmission. He built a 302 cubic inch racing engine and caged the whole

car. He built the rear end and installed 4.11 gears with spool type carriers. He left the suspension pretty much factory, outside of a good set of shocks. (This helps with the landing when coming down off a 2 foot ramp on 2 wheels.) The \$20k plus paint job was done by David Morgan (Custom Touch Graphics, Austin, TX), and has scriptures encrusted into the paint all over the car. After the Mustang was complete, it had over \$50k worth of work done to it. Sammy returns to Abundant Faith, and the local community in Round Rock of Austin, Texas several times a year putting on stunt shows, ministering, and speaking.

Between Sammy's career as a stuntman, racing engine shop owner, and author, along with his volunteer work, ministry and his family, one might wonder what would cause him to take on even more. Is he crazy? How are there that many hours in a day? — (Perhaps that's the reason for those 3 am deliverances.) Actually, Sammy Maloof is simply dedicated. He is dedicated to his God, and loves people. That dedication and love is

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Mari Herrera with her children and Sammy.

PHOTO BY MARI CARDENAS

Mari Herrera's Story In her own words...

I am a 25 year old single mother of six beautiful children. One in Heaven. The past few years were very challenging. Last year on April 5th, something very tragic happened — something unimaginable. My one month old precious little boy passed away. I didn't know what to do with myself. There was so much pain, anger and anxiety. I was so depressed, I couldn't eat or sleep. I couldn't look at myself in the mirror.

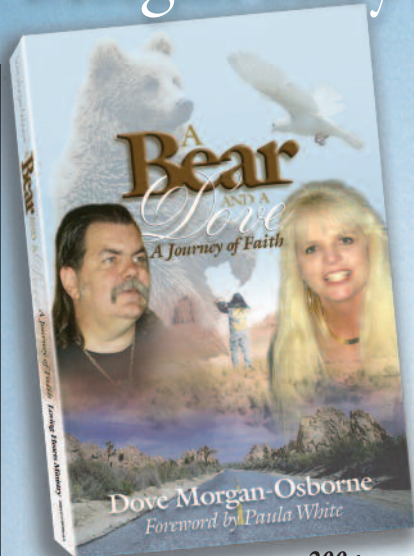
I hated the person looking back at me. I was fed up with everything. I just couldn't take it anymore. I broke down in tears, fell on my knees and prayed for God to take this from me and send me someone to show me the way. To show me what God wants me to do in life.

Sure enough, a few weeks went by and a friend invited me to a stunt show. I wasn't going, but she convinced me. That's where I met Sammy Maloof. We got together and after he prayed for me and my children and we got through talking, it was amazing! It was so divine. No words could ever describe how it feels. Let's put it this way, I can't stop thanking God for this. He has delivered me from all the horrible things that happened in my life.

I can finally let go of my baby going to Heaven, and God has healed me from asthma. Every deep breath I take I thank my God. My children love Sammy. They are so wonderful. Sammy has been a great impact in our lives and I thank God for him. Our lives have changed dramatically, spiritually, financially and emotionally since meeting Sammy. It was a pleasure sharing my testimony with you and I know it will make a difference in many lives.

Love always,
Maricruz Herrera

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Sammy Maloof | continued from page 29

why he receives numerous invitations each year to speak and put on stunt shows through his company, Winning at the Race of Life.® Sammy travels all over the country speaking and giving unforgettable stunt rides for the young (and young at heart) encouraging children and adults that they are loved, teaching them how to operate in their gifts and talents and letting them know that God has a calling, vision and purpose for their life. Sammy and his wife Jennifer also publish a 36-page color magazine available through mail order or their website.

Sammy and his team appreciate Roland and the staff from CMI, and they also realize that the secret to our

futures are hidden in our daily routines. We don't live to give, we give to live.



Meet the family: Hannah, Meghan, Jennifer, Sammy & Kaitlyn Maloof



Meet the extended family: Steve, little Joshua, Janeen, Little Gabriel & Mike

To learn how you and your church can have Sammy at your next event, or to send donations to Winning at the Race of Life, contact Sammy Maloof at (626) 292-2258 or go to www.sammymaloof.com.

Also, Sammy extends an open invitation to call for prayer anytime.

Remember, it's not about winning the race, but Winning at the Race of Life!

"As long as the earth endures, seed-time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." — Genesis 8:22 (NIV) CMI



One Happy Rider at the Abundant Life Fellowship, Roseville, CA Stunt show



PHOTOS BY MARSHALL MEADOWS