



May, June, July 2014

Dear Prayer Partners,

“But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God with raiseth the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death and doth deliver; in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us: Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.”

II Corinthians 1:9-11

Our hearts are full and overflowing with praise for all that God has done during the past 3 months! As we grow in the Lord, we often are blessed with new truths about God, or see His love revealed in unusual ways. But never in our lives have we seen God, His Word and His people revealing His love to us as we have seen recently. “To God Be the Glory, Great Things He Hath Done!!”

Travels

On the 8th of May, we began our trip to visit relatives, and do some deputation along the way. Our three families in Rimrock agreed to take over our duties for the weeks we were gone, and they did an exceptional job! We had planned to also attend Family Week in June with WWNTBM. However, those plans changed during May. We headed for Colorado to visit our son and his family, as they had asked us to be there for 2 weeks while our son, Jeff and Becky took a missions trip to South America. We were able to visit a couple of churches in the area during our stay there. Then we flew to Eugene, Oregon, where Mike preached the graduation service for our twin granddaughters, Rachel and Sarah. What a special treat that was! Also, the Westside Baptist Church had asked us to share our ministry burden with them. We enjoyed making new friends, sharing our goals for Church Planting in the West, as we were able to visit family at the same time. We also visited a church in the Portland area.

It became obvious that the Lord was not wanting us to attend the mission meeting in June, so we returned to Colorado. The Lord opened up the opportunity for us to visit one of our supporting churches in Springfield, CO, and report to them, as well as minister in all services. Sue also gave a special concert and Mike gave some of the related

Hymn stories. The people there were very gracious, and we were blessed!

We then headed by car to Cincinnati, OH, to attend our youngest son's graduation from nursing school. It was truly a blessing to see how God had blessed in Ed and Heather's lives during the past 3-4 years! We were truly thankful that the Lord allowed us to attend. On the 31st of June, we began our journey homeward, anticipating traveling 3 full days to return HOME! We were certainly ready to be home, even though we were so thankful for the meetings, new contacts we had made, and family time of blessing during the previous 6 weeks. But God had other plans. . .

Trials

Having driven for two and half days from Cincinnati, OH, towards Arizona, with Mike doing most of the driving, we stopped on the last leg of our journey to have our lunch at a Cracker Barrel in Gallup, NM. In the middle of our dinner, without warning, Mike fell over on the table. He was unconscious! I went to his side, and holding him upright in the chair I called for help. Someone asked if they should call 911. I said “yes”. Two men came to help me get Mike on the floor. Then someone asked loudly if there was anyone who knew CPR? A waitress named Stacie was just about to get off work. She immediately came along with

another waitress, Tina, and gave him CPR. Tina did chest compressions. Soon the paramedics showed up, and had to use the "paddles" on him. As they loaded him into an ambulance, Stacey offered to take me to the hospital. After a few minutes in the hospital, I was told he was having a massive heart attack. They would need to transport him back to Albuquerque to The Heart Hospital of N.M., as they had no cardiologist there in Gallup. I remember praying much on the plane as I flew with Mike (still unconscious) to Albuquerque. I told the Lord, if He was taking Mike "home", I knew He would take care of me, but asked Him in His mercy and grace to spare my Sweetheart if we could still serve Him in the months and years to come. I had an indescribable peace that God was 100% in control of this entire situation. I did not know what the outcome would be, only that God was working in our lives and His will would be done!

The days and weeks following were long, sometimes fearful, and uncertain. But God continued to show Himself strong in so many ways. Two of our sons came to Albuquerque to be with me the very next day and stayed several days. Mike's sister in Arizona, and her dear husband drove that night to Albuquerque, stopping in Gallup to pick up our car. Two pastors I had never met came that night to be with me who had contacts through our children and friends. Another pastor from the area came the following day! A retired pastor and wife, the Singletarys, offered a place for me to stay in their home as long as I needed it! I had never met any of these people, but because of our bond in Christ, they provided God's love and help during the following weeks! Praise the Lord! The President of our mission, WWNTBM and his sweet wife, Danny and Darlene Whetstone drove the following two days from Tennessee to be with me there in Albuquerque! What a blessing they were to us at this critical time of need!

After 8 days, doctors and nurses began to give hope that Mike would recover, all agreeing 100% that this was totally a miracle. Of course, some said he was "lucky"! But we KNOW it was all of God, and were able to share God's goodness with many. During the first 8 days, I was able to give the gospel to several ladies who were also waiting in the waiting room, obviously upset over loved ones. We praise the Lord for allowing us the opportunity to turn people's hearts and minds to the wonderful Grace of God during these days.

About 10 days later, when they were weaning Mike off the sedatives, our son, Mike, came to be with us for almost a week. What a blessing!!! During this time, they began therapy. And Mike was such a help during those days! A week later, Mike's two sisters, Wendy and Chris came to help us! What a blessing each one was! God continued to strengthen my husband, and after spending 26 days in ICU and 3 more at the hospital, the Lord made a way for me to bring him home to Rimrock! It was once again obvious that God was orchestrating our journey home, giving us several people who offered to drive and be with us throughout the trip! God's servants once again ministered to us in marvelous ways!

Triumphs!

Time and space does not allow us to share all the blessings and miracles surrounding the hospital stay and the following days at home. But it is truly amazing, humanly speaking, to see all that God has done! The Lord orchestrated a way for our two daughters, Joy and Melody, to come for a visit (a week each) after we arrived home! He provided their plane trips, even Melody's, who traveled from Chili, South America. It was obvious that the Lord allowed them to visit at this time, so they were a huge help in unpacking from our trip, cleaning, making meals, etc., so that I could concentrate on Mike's health, rehab, and "paper work"!

Mike has been going to rehab 20 miles away, 3 times per week. He began just last week, and is doing well! Last Wednesday night, he gave the Bible lesson at our mid-week Bible Study for the first time since our return. He is hoping to begin preaching the first Sunday in September!

Thanksgiving

Besides the miracle of Mike's recovery, it has been truly overwhelming and humbling to both of us to see how many, many of God's people have been a blessing to us through e-mails, cards, letters, gifts, and Facebook messages! Our mission, WWNTBM, was such a help to us in informing folks all over the world of the needs we have incurred through the enormous medical treatments, as well as added day-to-day expenses. We are in the process now of sending thank you's to the many people who responded to the Lord in sending gifts to help meet these needs. We could NEVER repay all those who sent encouragement to us in one way or another! But God can!!! We simply praise the Lord for allowing us to see how God's people have shown

true, godly care to us as part of the body of Christ! What a testimony these folks have been!

Trusting

Where do we go from here? During the days of recovery in the hospital, Mike and I talked much about just what the Lord might have for us in the future. Our heart desires have not changed! We are still very burdened for the church-planting ministry in the Mountain West. And we are trusting that the Lord will continue to show us what He wants us to do. For now, we know He wants us to concentrate on our health, so we may continue to serve Him in whatever way He leads. We are content to stay here as long as He gives us strength! Please pray for our future here in Rimrock, as well as the upcoming missions conferences in the Fall in the Carolinas. The Dr. has told us that it may be possible for us to make that trip in October. We are praying the Lord will direct our paths.

- ★ Praise the Lord our car made the long journey, turning over 200,000 miles without serious problems.
- ★ Praise - God continues to supply our daily needs and gives assurance He will provide for mounting financial needs!
- ★ Praise - Our people in Rimrock took care of our church and our home during the month of July! Paul Sondegaard has done a wonderful job of preaching, and handling church situation. We are so thankful for each one!
- ★ Praise - Many of our supporting churches have given above their committed support to help with additional needs. Praise the Lord!
- ★ Pray for continued health improvements and strength for Sue and Mike.

- ★ Pray for new contacts for Faith Baptist Church in Rimrock.
- ★ Pray for Rachel and 3 girls. Stephen is no longer with them. Rachel continues to show growth!
- ★ Pray for future outreach ministries this Fall: Home Bible Studies, week night kids' club, Ladies' Bible Study.
- ★ Pray for special service on Sunday morning, August 31st, with Brother Danny Whetstone, President of WWNTBM.

Thank you each one who sacrifices time and/or money for the cause of missions. We appreciate those prayers of God's people more than you can ever imagine. It has been so obvious that God has been working as a result of those prayers!

In His service,

Mike & Sue Smith

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“Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are laborers together with God...” I Corinthians 3:8,9