



August/September 2014

Dear Prayer Partners,

***“Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever.”
Psalm 73:25,26***

These verses took on new meaning for us when Mike was in the hospital, fighting for his life. God used them in each of our hearts separately to remind us of our total dependence on Him! While we have physical hearts and flesh that may fail, God can restore both our physical and spiritual weaknesses for His honor and glory! “To God Be the Glory, Great Things He Hath Done!!”

Rejoicing

God has been so faithful to us as His children to guide us through each day! There have been some days that have been more difficult than others in the recovery process. But God has revealed His love, power and grace to us through each step of the way. It has been so evident that many people have continued to pray for Mike's recovery as well as for financial needs to be met! Thank you for your faithful prayers over these several months. God has answered! Because of many who sent gifts to help with medical needs, God has blessed. Although the medical bills are enormous and are still coming in, the Lord has allowed us to pay everything to date that we've been billed. This is all to HIS glory!! Praise Him!

Recovery

Mike has shown tremendous progress through the continued rehab three times per week. All of the exercises, weights, etc., have been increasing each week, and God has “strengthened his heart”! All of the nurses, as well as his cardiologist, are very amazed at his progress. What an opportunity to give praise to our GOD!

Although the overall progress has been wonderful, there were a few setbacks at the beginning of September which resulted in Mike having to wear an “event monitor” for 30 days. This monitor was read continuously to see if there were

further issues with his heart as opposed to blood pressure symptoms. If there was another “event” such as he experienced in September, the monitor would detect that and send information to his cardiologist. After wearing the monitor for 30 days, and not experiencing any further “events”, he was able to send the monitor back. His Cardiologist reported that after checking all the data for the month, there showed NO abnormalities or inconsistencies with his heart! So they concluded the one “event” he had was due to regulating his blood pressure. And that has evened out nicely, too. Again, praise the Lord for His protection and healing!

Readjustments

Along with the amazing blessings of Mike's recovery, these past 3 months have not passed without struggles and attacks from “the enemy”. Overcoming fears, trauma, doubts, and depression has been a challenge. This new journey has been a learning experience for both of us, as you can imagine. New diet, consistent blood pressure checks, new meds, traveling 3 days a week to rehab, etc., all have altered our lifestyle considerably. But once again we have experienced God's faithfulness, patience and love in wonderful ways! His Word has continued to be more precious as we have seen His promises being fulfilled on a daily basis! What a joy

it is to walk with the Lord, and continually learn to "Trust and Obey!"

Return

It has been a special joy for Mike to return to normal activities, especially where the ministry is concerned! He began preaching September 7, and has continued to grow stronger and evidence more energy in recent weeks in His messages! Praise the Lord! He's also been teaching mid-week Bible Studies. Praise the Lord for allowing us to continue to serve the King of Kings!

Response

We have seen some visible encouragement in the people God has brought to our church in Rimrock! Since our return to Arizona, Rachel, for whom we've asked you to pray, has been much more faithful in both her weekly Bible Study session as well as on Sundays. As a result, she has been growing, and her 3 girls have also been learning much in their children's class. They are ALL learning to memorize Scripture, and it is a thrill to hear them want to recite their verses to us on Sundays! We have also seen more steadiness in attendance with two other families as well. We are excited to be having a special children's Fall Festival this Saturday. We are praying God will use this special day to draw them closer to Him!

Recently, the Lord has led us to several neighbors and people in our area, who have indicated they would possibly be interested in coming to church, since they are no longer attending anywhere. Please pray that these folk would follow through. We are more aware than ever that this is God's work, not ours. We are trusting the Lord to guide and bring those He wants at Faith Baptist Church in Rimrock, AZ.

Regrets

After much prayer and counsel, we decided not to attend the Missions Conferences in the Carolinas at the end of October. It would require

us to be gone for about 3 weeks, and considering the strenuous pace of the conferences, we felt it best to forfeit this trip at this time. This was a hard decision, but the Lord has given peace.

However, we are planning on flying to Chicago for a church Missions Conference Nov. 1-5. This will be our first time away from Arizona since Mike's heart attack and we would truly appreciate your prayers for both of us.

Requests

- ★ Praise for God's provision with medical needs and for many gifts to help.
- ★ Pray for continued health improvements and strength for rehab and driving.
- ★ Pray for David and Irene, Larry and Carol, and other neighbors to attend church.
- ★ Pray for Rachel and 3 girls. Also for Colleen and 2 boys.
- ★ Pray for guidance in beginning Home Bible Studies. One of our men has a great burden for this ministry.
- ★ Pray for deputation trip to Chicago Nov 1-8.

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