



December 2014

*“For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called **WONDERFUL, COUNSELLOR, The MIGHTY GOD, The EVERLASTING FATHER, The PRINCE of PEACE.**” -- Isaiah 9:6*

After reflecting upon the events of this past year, we can certainly understand this verse better and how it describes our blessed Savior Whom God sent for our salvation. Christmas is definitely a special time of the year to focus on Who Christ is, and what He means to us!

We have seen God as **Wonderful**, Whose love is matchless and amazing; we have definitely experienced Him as our **Counsellor** and guide through difficult days; He has shown us He is **THE Mighty God** – powerful beyond our understanding; He has been an **Everlasting Father**, which shows his wisdom, grace, and love to us, His children; and definitely, He is **The Prince of Peace**, demonstrating this in our lives during times of celebration as well as times of heartache, uncertainty and distress. Our God is Supreme – yet, He loves us more than we can understand! What a marvelous Savior! And we are thankful to know Him and to serve Him!



Ministry Blessings

Some of the blessings of this past year in our ministry here in Rimrock, Arizona:

- First Evangelistic Services with Evangelist Paul Crow
- Rachel’s life was spared after very serious auto accident (young mother of 3 in our church)
- Ron and Diana Love moved to Rimrock to assist the work of Faith Baptist Church
- Participated in several missions conferences
- Increased prayer and financial support
- New digital piano donated to FBC
- Mike’s life was spared after massive heart attack in July
- Faithful church folk took over services during our absence in July
- Rachel’s spiritual growth and consistent attendance at church
- New opportunities in community, including monthly church service at local nursing home
- New contacts and visitors for FBC in November and December

Highlights in October/November



It was truly a blessing to be able to participate in the Missions Conference at Marquette Manor Baptist Church in Downers Grove, Illinois. Mike was given clearance from his cardiologist to be able to fly to Chicago for this conference. Physically, he did very well with the trip, as well as throughout the conference. All praise to the Lord! We were able to speak several times during the week, preaching and presenting our burden for church planting in Rimrock, AZ, as well as ministering to the children in the Christian school and challenging them with missions! Several decisions were made during the conference and we praise the Lord for His grace!

One special day, the church took all of the participating missionaries from the conference to downtown Chicago. Besides touring Pacific Garden Mission and Moody Bible College, we were taken to the gravesite of Evangelist Billy Sunday. This was especially meaningful to Sue, since her father had been saved in 1934 at a Billy Sunday meeting! What a special blessing this was! The church also took us to lunch on the top floor of the Hancock building. What a treat and we thank the Lord for allowing us to be able to take part in this conference!

We have seen some new visitors coming to our services recently. Some are those we asked you to pray for in previous letters. Thank you! God answers prayer! We just met two new couples in our area who moved here from Hawaii. Both were saved out of New Age religions, and are seeking to grow in the Lord. Please pray for Holly and Tony and 3 children, and also Tioga and Dana that the Lord will allow us to help them.

What a blessing it was for us when our son, Jeff, and his wife came for a visit the week before Thanksgiving. Jeff preached for us and the whole family sang! We had visitors that Sunday, a much larger attendance, and a wonderful time of fellowship following the service with an all-church dinner.

Personal Blessings

We rejoice in what God has done for Mike’s health! The recent Echogram showed that although there had been permanent damage to his heart in one particular area, the function of the heart is good, and the Cardiologist told us that Mike could resume normal activities (including driving!!), as long as he follows the restrictions in diet, and continued exercise as he had been doing in rehab. The prescribed rehab has concluded, but we have chosen to continue in the “phase 3” recommended program for the month of December. Again, we thank you for your prayers and praise the Lord for His miraculous healing!



We also are praising the Lord for His provision for all the catastrophic medical bills! All have been paid up to date! We are still “negotiating” on a couple of smaller bills, but the overwhelming amounts have been paid. Praise the Lord!! What a miracle-working God we serve!

Family Blessings



We have always been thankful for the family God has given us. And it is exciting to see Him work in each of their families! How we praise the Lord for allowing us to see most of them this past year and to watch God working in amazing ways in their lives! We would like to share some of our family news in this Christmas letter.

Jim and Melody Bjur



Serving the Lord in Arica, Chile for the past 21 years has brought many challenges and blessings. We are thankful that the Lord has found them faithful in their service! Rebekah, the oldest, will be graduating in May from Bob Jones University, while Jeremy graduated from high school and has just begun his Freshman year there majoring in culinary arts. Joshua and Debbie are at home, and help as needed in the ministry there. We rejoice for the way God has blessed the church and uses them there in Arica.



Kent and Joy Ramler

As pastor and wife of People’s Baptist Church in Frederick, MD, God has blessed them much this past year. They have seen souls saved and the church and Christian school continues to be a lighthouse in the community.

Ruth was married just one year ago to Justin Benkendorf. Jack (Jonathan) graduated from High School and began his Freshman year at Bob Jones University. Rose and David are now the only ones at home, but they are active in their church and school.

One VERY special announcement was made this year, when Ruth and Justin told us we were going to be great-grandparents in April! But that fact wasn’t as hard to believe as the fact that our daughter, Joy, is going to be a grandmother! We praise the Lord for new life!

Mike and Stephanie Smith

As they continue in their second year in Eugene, Oregon, helping to build a new church building, the twins, Rachel and Sarah graduated from high school. Sarah, now a Freshman at Bob Jones University is pursuing a pre-med degree, while Rachel takes on-line courses at home from Maranatha Baptist Bible College. Bethany recently went on a missions trip to Brazil with her cousin and Aunt

Miriam. Drew and Katelyn both take piano lessons along with Bethany and help in the building project as well as lead in youth activities in their church!

Jeff and Becky Smith



Jeff and Becky were privileged to go to Peru and Chile this summer for two weeks on a missions trip! They continue to assist in the church planting effort in Colorado Springs. Jared is a Junior in High School, and continues to do amazingly well in art. Joel is a Sophomore and has been playing football and enjoys culinary classes. Both were team leaders in summer camp. Jocelyn is gifted in piano and enjoys sports; Joanna is in middle school and on the basketball team, and Jessica, 4th grade, has just begun voice lessons. She loves to sing!

Ed and Heather Smith

The highlight of this year for their family was Ed’s graduation from Nursing School in Cincinnati! Heather was as delighted as Ed for the schooling to come to an end! And Katie, Sophia and Tucker are all very happy to be able to spend more time with their Daddy! Praise the Lord for His grace through difficult years! They are all involved in their church and enjoy the Christian School as well.

Wishing you a **Blessed Christmas** as you reflect on what our Wonderful Lord has meant to you and your family this past year! Praise the Lord for His great love and amazing grace!

Mike and Sue Smith

4557 E. Cliffside Trail
Rimrock, AZ 86335



WORLD WIDE NEW TESTAMENT BAPTIST MISSIONS
KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA

parsonsmitty@juno.com • parsonspianist@juno.com
www.GoWestForGod.org • [704-466-5594](tel:704-466-5594)