

“... his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor,  
The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”  
ISAIAH 9:6

October - December 2015

Dear Prayer Partners,

**“And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a BRANCH shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.” Isaiah 11:1,2**

What a blessed time of year it is to reflect on the fulfillment of God's promise to Isaiah as we celebrate that first Christmas Day, when God sent His Son, His Chosen One, into the world to be our Savior! To know Christ as Savior is to know that “spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might and knowledge.” As we have served Him here in Arizona this past year, we have certainly seen these attributes of the Lord demonstrated! What a privilege it is to serve this blessed Lord and Savior!

#### **Wisdom**

Since the Lord in His Wisdom directed us to cancel our trip in October, we were delighted to have Stephen and Charity Jenney and their little one visit us along with their pastor and Charity's Dad, Pastor Mills, from Buffalo, NY. They spent a week with us, seeing the area of Rimrock, as well as other areas in Arizona. This was a survey trip for them as they believe God is directing them to Arizona in church planting. They are planning deputation in 2016, and possibly will be coming to help in the work here sometime in the future. Pray that God will continue to direct them and give them His WISDOM in determining their future ministry.

#### **Understanding**

We are beginning to UNDERSTAND that God's plan for our ministry here in Rimrock is working with people. It has been exciting to see recent young converts desiring spiritual growth in their lives through the study of God's Word. Becky is one such example. She came to our church about a month and a half ago, because Rachel (we've talked about her in our letters already) told her she could find the peace she was looking for through our teaching and ministry. Becky, a single mom, with two children has been coming every week since she first visited. She has given her heart to Christ, and we gave her a Bible. But she is saving to buy a study Bible of her own so she can grow more! She has attended Ladies' Bible Study every week, and is memorizing Scripture. Her children came to our Fall Festival, and join our children's class each Sunday. They are asking many questions, and are learning. Please pray that the Lord will continue to give them spiritual understanding of His Word! Also, pray for Jason, father of one of the children. He has not come to church yet as he said he had “bad experiences with churches in years past.” God is able to give him UNDERSTANDING too!

#### **Counsel**

We have been involved with several ladies and couples in COUNSELING and teaching Spiritual truths! It is truly a joy to see these folks who God has brought across our paths accepting the truths of God's Word and applying them to their daily lives! Our Ladies' Bible Study has been growing too. Praise the Lord for this ministry He has given us!

#### **Might**

God has shown us some of His MIGHT as we have seen some of the awesome things He has brought to pass:

Wonderful Family Reunion in Colorado in June

Mike's brother now cancer-free after having serious brain surgery, followed by infection, and further cancer treatments. His siblings all surprised Mike at Thanksgiving, by gathering for a reunion! Also a niece and her husband drove from Houston, Texas for the occasion!

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Serving with  
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Our children arranged for us to visit our youngest son and family, Ed and Heather, in Cincinnati for Christmas! They have a new baby, Titus, born in September, whom we have not seen. Also, our granddaughter, Ruth, and our only great-granddaughter, Jessi, whom we have not seen, are planning to join us there so we can see both babies! What a special blessing and answer to these grandparents' prayers!!!

### Knowledge

As God continues to give us KNOWLEDGE of Himself and His Word, what a blessing it is to see His plans unfold in our lives. There are sometimes hard times, yet others are sweet and rewarding. I am reminded of a couple of those times recently,

Sue's brother, Edward Abbott, met the Lord just two weeks ago, face to face! He was promoted to *Glory* after serving His Savior in Mexico for 45+ years! What a blessed testimony he shared in His life with his family and many, many Bible school graduates who are now serving the Lord all over Mexico!

Mike continues in good health and we praise the Lord daily for allowing us to continue to serve Him!

Our children, all seeking to please and serve the Lord, are continuing to focus on the KNOWLEDGE of God!

1. Melody and Jim (Bjur) returned to Chile after furlough in the States this past summer. Their oldest, Becky, began teaching in China in August. Jeremy is at BJU again this year. Joshua and Debbie at home in Chile
2. Joy and Kent (Ramler) continue to serve in Frederick, MD shepherding the church there. Ruth, Justin, and Jessi live nearby, Jack is studying at BJU, and Rose and David still at home.
3. Mike and Stephanie are helping in a church in Utah, while trying to finish the pastor's house (been building it for over 10 years), and put on church roof. Sarah is at BJU, while all others are at home.
4. Jeff and Becky help in a church in Colorado Springs, as they face changes in their family very soon. Jared graduates this year and will be choosing college. Joel is one year behind Jared. The girls continue to grow at home.
5. Ed and Heather are now a family of 6 and live in Cincinnati. They serve the Lord in the church there, and Ed continues his ministry in nursing.

We praise the Lord for the KNOWLEDGE of Him, and His continued love and blessings upon our lives, ministry, and family!

### Praise

At this special time of year, we pause to wish each of you a **very blessed Christmas**, as you reflect on God's wonderful love, and the Spirit of Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Might and Knowledge!

In His service,

*Mike & Sue Smith*

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**Announcing:** Several ordered CD's of Sue's Hymn Arrangements last month. If you would like to order one or more as gifts for Christmas, please let us know. They sell for \$10 plus \$3 for shipping and handling. E-mail or call us if you have questions.

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