



April-May 2017

Dear Prayer Partners,

“And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.” John 10:4

I was recently reminded of this verse while reading some of my mother's Bible notes. While we know God “put us forth” here in the high desert of Arizona, we often forget the truth that “He goes before us.” We definitely have seen Him “going before us,” leading, guiding, encouraging, and providing in our lives and ministry these last few months! Praise the Lord for His care!

Progress

Jim visited our church in April. He was living in a fifth wheel on a friend's property while he was having a house built in a different town about an hour away. He loved the Lord, and was happy to find us. The second Sunday he came, he brought Stewart, the friend whose property where he was parked. Stewart, also a believer, was happy to find a church like ours. Stewart really enjoyed the format of our Bible teaching, and invited his mother, Donna, who is in her 80's and unsaved. Donna lives in a further town (Sedona), so comes over on Saturday nights so she can come to church on Sundays with her son. We are praying for Donna's salvation. Stewart has come to our midweek Bible study, and has been very faithful in church. Jim has since moved into his home, so no longer attends. But it is exciting to see how God led him, and used him to bring us in contact with Stewart and his mother!

Melinda is a Christian lady who has recently moved to the area for her job. Although she has a different church background, she has attended our services and midweek home Bible study quite often in the last two months! Her husband is trying to sell their home in a different state, so we are praying he'll be joining her soon, and that he, too, will want to come to our little church. They really need the teaching of God's Word to grow.

Early this year, Carol and her daughter and son (both grown), moved into the house next door

to us! We began talking with them, and Carol would say they were “talking about trying our church,” but we never saw them on Sundays. Carol came to our service just last Sunday! What a delight! And she also came to our midweek Bible study! What an encouragement!

God is guiding and bringing those He wants for us to teach and minister the wonderful grace of God. Praise the Lord that “He goeth before.”

Privileges

It was truly a special privilege to take 5 other ladies from Rimrock to our annual Spring Retreat in Flagstaff, sponsored by West Branch ministry. What a joy to have a couple of ladies attend for the first time who are seeming to grow in the Word, and desirous to know the Lord more.

One of the ladies who went with us was Mrs. Sniadowski, whose family was visiting for the week from one of our supporting churches in PA. Their family had visited us 3 years ago during our week of meetings and helped immensely with that outreach! They fell in love with the area, and we built a sweet bond during that time, so they had been planning another week to visit. What an encouragement they were to us as they brought notes and gifts from their home church, took us to a Rockies/Diamondbacks game in Phoenix, as well as other treats! What a sweet, Godly family! God knew we needed that time of encouragement and fellowship! Praise the Lord for this privilege!

Sue was given the privilege to speak in two different churches for their Mother's Day banquets. The theme for each of them was about music, "Making Melody in your Heart". What a blessing is was to be asked to share how God puts a song in our hearts, and keeps us singing.

The last full week in May, the Lord gave yet another privilege! Danny and Thomas, students at Ambassador Baptist College, came for a visit to survey the area for future ministry. We met them at our table during Mission's Conference at ABC last November. They expressed interest then to come and see the West! While here, they spoke in 3 different churches in the Verde Valley, ministered in music (WHAT A HUGE BLESSING!), spoke in our nursing home service, handled children's class at Native American church during their midweek service, taught our midweek Bible study, and generally served whenever given opportunity! We were delighted to show them the sights of Arizona during weekdays, etc., too. What a blessing they both were to us personally, but also to our people!

Personal

In our previous prayer letter, we asked for prayer for Mike's brother, Greg. He continues to battle the brain cancer, but God is working and he is doing well for now. The Dr.'s give little hope, but he knows his times are in God's hands. Please keep him in your prayers.

Sue's sister-in-law, Sharon, has been in the hospital for the last 3 weeks or so with multiple problems, all very serious. Sue's brother, Johnny, needs much prayer. Both know and love the Lord. Thank you for your prayers.

We are excited as the time grows close for our 50th Anniversary/family reunion celebration which our children are planning at the end of June. Please pray for God to use this time to glorify Himself and especially to remember the works and goodness of God upon our family!

Praise and Prayer

1. Praise the Lord for answering a long-time prayer! When Thomas and Danny were here, we found out that Thomas had written several songs, using the same computer program Sue has been learning for writing her piano arrangements. The writing of the first arrangement has been "on hold" for several months, due to problems with writing complicated arpeggiated sections of her arrangement. God sent Thomas, and he helped solve the problems, finished the arrangement and showed Sue how to go on with other arrangements! Praise the Lord!
2. Mike had his "follow-up" echocardiogram last month, and all results were great. The clot they had detected back in October in the heart chamber was gone. His next cardio appointment is next year!!!! Praise the Lord!
3. Pray for additional monthly support.
4. Pray for upcoming trip to Colorado for Family Reunion/Anniversary. Pray for our church while we are gone.

We thank each of you who partner with us through your prayers and support as we continue to serve the Lord here in the Mountain West.

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