



June - July 2017

Dear Prayer Partners,

“I will bless the Lord at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together. ” Psalm 34:1,3

We are totally overwhelmed with the goodness of God these past couple of months, and we want to share what He has done with you, our faithful prayer warriors and supporters!

Reunion

On June 22, the Lord allowed us to travel to Colorado where our son, Jeff and Becky live, near Colorado Springs to begin our family reunion. Our daughter, Melody and Jim, and family had arrived from Chile the day before. Then their grown children began arriving from NC, SC and China! Jeff's oldest son came from Minnesota where he is working for the summer. Then, our youngest son and family, Ed and Heather, came by train from Cincinnati. Mike's and Stephanie's family came on different flights as some are working at the Wilds in NC, but ALL of them came. Joy and Kent's family came in the following week, along with their daughter, Ruth, and her husband, Justin, and of course, our great granddaughter, Jess!



Along with immediate family, Mike's sister, Wendy and Claude drove up from Arizona, and his other sister, Chris and

her son and girlfriend came down from Greeley, CO. What a glorious time we had together, celebrating 50 years of what God has done in our marriage and lives. It was such a huge blessing and answer to prayer just to realize that all 5 children and spouses came along with 22 grandchildren (and one spouse) and one great-granddaughter! And God took care of each one as they traveled to and from Colorado! Activities were planned by our children that included horseback riding, a day at an amusement park for the kids, while the men went golfing and women rested up, a wonderful Mexican dinner before going to a concert with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra outdoors at the Red Rocks Amphitheater, and of course, many hours of playing games with Pop-Pop!



We also enjoyed evening campfires with s'mores and singing praises to our God! What a special memorable week we enjoyed just reminiscing God's goodness, grace, and catching up with each family about how God is using them and working in their lives. Praise the Lord for allowing us this reunion time!

Reception

The highlight of the week came on Friday night when our children planned a banquet for us, followed by a wonderful "program." We enjoyed many family memories, filled with laughter and fun. Following the dinner and "fun-time" with game and skits, the family sang several special numbers, gave readings from friends who had responded to their requests, and then just about each one gave a testimony about how God has used us to show HIS grace to them! While it was in honor of us and our 50-year wedding anniversary, it really was all about God and His Amazing Grace! Praise the Lord!



Remembrance

Our children presented us with 3 albums they had professionally made with photos from the past 50 years, beginning with our wedding pictures up through the past couple of years of grandchildren and great-granddaughter! The books were entitled, "What God Hath Done! 50 Years of God's Grace". What a treasure these books are to us, realizing that our children also give God the Glory for what HE has done! Praise the Lord!

"Reads"

For several years, we have each been working on writing some material that we believed God wanted us to do. Mike has gathered together various quotes he had written in the back pages of various Bibles from many

(more than 50) years. He decided to categorize them, explain a bit about the sources, and print them, believing they would be a blessing to others as they have been to him. He finished the "first phase" of his plans before the reunion, so we printed, copied and bound them to be able to give them out to our children and families.

Several years ago, we heard a preacher while at Ambassador Baptist College who gave a message concerning the "tokens of good" that God gives His children. This prompted Sue to begin writing many of the "tokens of good" that God has done for our family and us over the years, many miracles included! It is our burden that our grandchildren and great-grandchildren learn to know Christ, and that they would know of the wonderful works that He has done for our family, even as Psalm 78:4-8 declares. We are hoping to make these available to others as time goes by.

Rejoicing - Luke 15

While in Colorado, God gave us some time to visit with Mike's sister and family in Greeley. Her son and girlfriend have two babies, and expressed a desire to counsel with us as they have both lived an undesirable life, including use of drugs. We sat down with them, presented the Gospel, and when asked if they would like to accept Christ, Cory said he had done that a couple of years ago. But his girlfriend said she would definitely like to receive Him. What a thrill it was to show her the way of salvation! Please pray for Tessa and Cory as we attempt to follow-up from a distance. We have sent new believer's material, The Exchange, along with a Bible, as they said they would work through it. So far, they haven't started it.

One Sunday, we visited the church plant where the Cooks serve. Pastor Cook attended ABC when we were there. What a blessing to see the way the Lord is working there in Colorado Springs!

Rimrock

When we returned home, it was a blessing to find that the most of our people had been faithful each Sunday, as we had lined up another pastor friend to speak each week. We were also excited to see how God has worked in the lives of a middle-aged couple with whom we have spent many hours of counsel. Mike was able to perform the wedding for this dear couple in a beautiful rock formation setting overlooking a lake near Prescott. They truly want to serve the Lord together!

We were also delighted to find Alexis, the 11-year old daughter of Rachel (who was in our church but moved last summer), is now living with her grandmother here in Rimrock. The Holmes and we helped her to go to West Branch summer camp in Williams for a week, and she continues to grow in our Sunday School. She was saved a year ago before moving to California with her family. While learning about concepts for new believers, she asked what baptism is and now wants to be baptized. Praise the Lord!

Requests and Rewards

1. Praise the Lord that He allowed us to bring two of our granddaughters back with us from Colorado for a week. What a special treat it was to have Katelyn and Joanna spend that time in our home. We do not get to see our grandchildren often, so this was a huge blessing to us!
2. Pray for wisdom in dealing with Tessa & Cory from a distance. We want them to grow!
3. Pray for additional monthly support.
4. Pray for ongoing challenges in the lives of our people as we counsel with several situations almost on a daily basis.
5. Pray for those who have visited our church to return and become regular.

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