

Sept. - Nov. 2017

Dear Prayer Partners,

“I will sing unto the Lord, because he hath dealt bountifully with me” Psalm 13:6

This time of the year, we are often reminded of the wonderful things God has done for us. Truly He has bountifully blessed us. While we have trials, heartaches, and disappointments, we are assured of His promises and care! We continue to learn that while we may fail Him, He remains faithful and He *“daily loadeth us with benefits”* as He tells us in **Psalm 68:19**.

Encouragement

In our small desert town of Rimrock, it is not a usual thing to have visitors in our weekly church services. But the Lord has given us several weeks where we have had visitors. One week, we even had a family of 7 visit. We were hopeful this was an answer to prayer as we have been praying for a full family with children to join with our church. But apparently this was not what God had in mind because the family had a couple of doctrinal differences and have not returned. However, God is faithful, and perhaps was protecting our small group from future problems.

We also have had a retired couple, which have lived in Rimrock quite some time, and drove a distance to church in another community. The Lord directed them to our church, and they have become “regulars.” So, we are VERY thankful for them! They love the Lord and want to help in any way.

You may remember Rachel and her 4 girls. She had been saved from a horrible background, and grew much through Ladies' Bible studies as well as our church services. Then she moved to California a little over a year ago. Her oldest daughter, Alexis, came back to Rimrock to live with her grandmother and go to school. She has been attending church off and on since she returned. But recently Rachel got into trouble in California due to slipping back into her old ways and taking drugs. She was about to lose her other children also, when she called us and began counseling by phone. She has been “clean” now for about 2 months and has gone back to church, and really gotten right with God. Praise the Lord for His longsuffering!

While we remain a small church, God continues to use us in counseling with several couples. One is a neighbor, also faithful at church, who has dementia and

his wife is having tremendous difficulties knowing how to help him and cope with the situation. This takes up quite a bit of our time as we endeavor to counsel, help, and pray with this couple.

Another couple has come through many deep waters in the last 2 years since we met them, but God has taken the broken pieces of their lives and is using them to glorify Himself. They have been ministering to neighbors, co-workers, family members and in our nursing home ministry. What a joy to see God transform lives!

Engagements

We are thankful to have opportunities apart from our own local church in which to serve the Lord. The pastor of the Native American church nearby went on an extended deputation trip recently, and Mike was privileged to preach for him in an evening service, and Sue helped with music. We have again been asked to help with the music program at the church in Cottonwood, AZ, which is about 20 miles from us. So we've been practicing with their choir each Sunday night.

Energized

What a special treat it was to be asked to participate in the Missions Conference a few weeks ago at the church we pastored 18 years ago in Harbor Springs, MI. They have faithfully supported our ministry since we first joined with Worldwide, and it has been several years since we have been able to share what God has done in Arizona. We arrived in a blizzard with extremely cold temps, but the warmth of the folk there at Main St. Baptist Church made up for it. Praise the Lord for providing all our expenses for the trip also. It was truly a blessed time, and God blessed in the ministry there. It was an added blessing that this church also supports our son, Mike and family, so they also were able to be there for the conference!

"Encounter"

We were blessed this past summer with several monetary gifts given for our 50th Anniversary (Sept 1). We set them aside to do something special, and God allowed us to experience the "Ark Encounter"! Our son, Ed, and his family live in Cincinnati, so we were able to visit them a few days, and they went with us to see the newly constructed Noah's Ark in Kentucky. What a thrill to see God working through this endeavor, as they present the Gospel so clearly throughout the tour! It truly was a blessed "encounter" for us - a dream come true from the first time we heard such a project was being built! Praise the Lord for His graciousness!

Excitement

Recently a new book, "Watching God Work" among the Macushi Indians, was released and is now available through Amazon.com as well as Barnes and Noble.com. Why is this **exciting**? The book is a narration of how God used Sue's sister, Miriam Abbott, and her co-worker, Jane Burns, on the mission field in Brazil for the past 50 years to accomplish great things for His Glory. Our daughter-in-law, Stephanie Smith, compiled the book, after many interviews with Miriam and Jane, and reading hundreds of letters written by Miriam to her mother while she was on the field. Miriam was used to translate the New Testament into the Macushi language, and God used Jane's gifts in nursing to reach many Indians for Christ and establish believers in the Word. This book is like no other, rehearsing humorous mission field experiences, as well as relating marvelous miracles performed by our God! Our prayer is that God will truly use it in the lives of His people to call others to the mission field and the work of the Lord! I am praying many will respond to this offer and order the book!

Earnest Expressions

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not."
Jeremiah 33:3

We truly covet your prayers for these burdens that are on our hearts:

+ Mike's brother, Greg, in Tucson. He is dying from brain cancer. We will be headed there to spend the last few days of this week with him. Our purpose is to encourage him in the Lord! He assures us he has put his faith in Christ and will be in heaven. Please pray that God will use us in his remaining days, and also that we might have opportunity to lead his girlfriend to saving faith in Christ!

+ Pray for wisdom in dealing with Dave and Irene. Dave has dementia.

+ Pray for Molly, adult daughter of one of our church couples. She has been on Heroine, Meth, etc. and has recently decided to change. However, she is trying to do this without God. Please pray for a break-through spiritually with Molly. Also pray for her Mom, M'chelle, who loves the Lord and needs wisdom with Molly.

+ We are thankful for the good health and strength God has given us. Pray for continued health that we might be able to serve Him more!

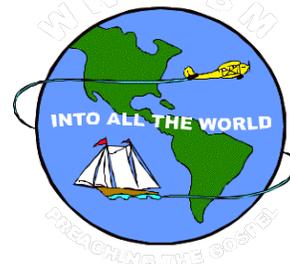
+ Pray for additional monthly support.

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