



Jan - Feb 2018

Dear Prayer Partners,

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore OPPORTUNITY, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.” Galatians 6:9,10

The Lord continually brings “opportunities” our way where we can serve Him and bring glory to His name. However, the question is, do we recognize these events in our lives as “opportunities”? Or do we merely say flippantly, “That’s life?” We have seen God bring “opportunities” across our path in various ways these past couple of months. We want YOU, our faithful friends and supporters, to rejoice with us for how God is working by sharing some of these “opportunities.”

Opportunities in the Community

Just before the Christmas holidays, we were contacted by the officers in the Community Senior Association to ask if we could participate in the Community Christmas gathering, bring some special music, and lead some songs at their annual Christmas pot luck dinner. Their “entertainment” for this dinner came down with flu, and since we use their building for our church services, they knew we had a piano, and perhaps could help them out. We were delighted to help, and recognized it as an opportunity to become acquainted with new contacts in the community. Several of our church folk joined us as we also attended the Community Valentine dinner, and again met new folks. We have already seen some interest in our church and our ministry from some of those who were there. Many of those we have been getting to know are cordial, interested in our ministry, but are very hesitant about making any commitments. Pray that we’ll have wisdom in dealing with many of these neighbors.

Opportunities in Ministry

We are thankful to have opportunities apart from our own local church in which to serve the Lord. Mike has had several requests to fill the pulpit of different churches in neighboring towns. He also was asked to speak at the Valentine banquet at the Native American Church in another community.

It has been encouraging to see our Ladies Bible Study grow, and to have the opportunity to teach these dear ladies that “God Is More Than Enough.” It was a joy to start up the Bible studies again after having had to cancel several weeks due to illnesses, etc.

We continue to have opportunities to counsel folk in our church and community. While some of these “sessions” take up a lot of time, we are thankful God can use us in whatever way He chooses. And we are seeing Him work in the lives of these people.

We are excited that a new couple has been coming several weeks in a row after moving to our community. They both give excellent testimonies of salvation; we are praying they will become a part of our church, and we will have opportunity to minister to them too.

Unexpected Opportunities

We want to thank you who prayed for Mike’s brother, Greg, during his long battle with brain cancer, as well as for his girlfriend. We received the news that Greg lost that cancer battle just a few days before Christmas. He had assured us he knew the Lord, and would see us again in Heaven. While we miss Greg, we are thankful for the many, many opportunities we had to tell of the love of Christ with unsaved friends of Greg’s and his girlfriend. She is still searching, but has accepted the Word of God as presented, which is a huge step in the right direction. Please pray for those friends and relatives who have heard the Gospel that their hearts would be open to the truth. We are especially praying for Greg’s two sons.

Another unexpected opportunity presented itself when Sue spent 4 days in the hospital with stomach problems. It was a joy to meet a few of the hospital personnel who professed to know Christ, but also, what an amazing opportunity to share how the Lord was in control even when everything seemed to be out of control! We never know whose lives are touched when we simply tell them of Christ, even in unexpected situations.

Personal Opportunities

The Lord has given Sue several new piano students in the past few weeks! And there are a couple others who are asking for help with hymnplaying! These are certainly **opportunities** God has brought our way. A couple of these new students may be unsaved. Please pray for **opportunities** to lead them to Christ and be a help to them in Christian growth. Pray for Mary, a lady who is a Roman Catholic, but talks openly with Sue about the Lord.

One very special event that happened in February was that the Lord gave us another great-granddaughter, Stella Celestia Benkendorf! Our daughter, Joy and her husband, Kent, now have two grandchildren! What an **opportunity** for us to influence a young life for Christ, even if we are many miles away! Prayer is effective no matter how far away we may be! Praise the Lord for this very special **opportunity**!

Prayer Opportunities

+ Please pray for our upcoming services surrounding Palm Sunday and Resurrection Sunday. Our son, Jeff, and his family will be with us on Palm Sunday, preaching and ministering in music. Pray that people from our community will come for this special day.

+ Pray for wisdom as we continue to assist and counsel with Dave and Irene. Dave has dementia. We've seen wonderful progress in Irene as she bears such a heavy load.

+ Pray for the upcoming Spring Ladies Retreat held in Flagstaff in April sponsored by West Branch Christian Camp.

+ Pray for the possibility of helping three young people to attend summer camp this year, Alexis, Zandra and Dillon.

+ Pray for continued good 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...” 1 Corinthians 3:8,9