



May - June 2018

Dear Prayer Partners,

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” I Cor. 15:58

Over the past 50+ years of ministry, God has used this verse and others to encourage our hearts and remind us of HIS faithfulness! These past couple of months, once again, He has reminded us that even when there is severe drought and barrenness in the desert, which has literally been the case here in Arizona, we are to remain “steadfast, unmoveable, **always** abounding in the work of the Lord.” Results of our labor are not always evident, and sometimes progress is very slow. Sometimes the devil attacks us through discouragement and defeat. But the Lord reminded us recently one morning during devotions when Mike was reading a poem (as he often does each day) of an important truth - that even if there were only ONE soul who found Christ as a result of our labors, when we met him in Heaven, it would all be worthwhile! We want to thank you, our personal prayer warriors, for helping to fight our battles by bringing us before the Throne of Grace! We could not continue to serve during difficult times had it not been for your faithful prayers and support. Thank you!!

Times of Gladness

A retired couple began attending our morning services almost a year ago, but only occasionally. In the fall, we noticed they joined us more often. During the winter months, they took their RV and lived in a southern part of the state, but when they returned the end of April, they began to be very faithful. They have expressed that they truly believe they have found a home in our small church. Praise the Lord for this addition!

Melinda moved to our area about a year ago, and attended occasionally in our church services. Her husband finally moved here after selling their house in Washington State. They both give clear evidence of salvation, but have not attended Independent Baptist churches in the past. After visiting several other churches in surrounding area, they have told us that they get true teaching from the Word in our church, so they have been coming regularly this past month. Praise the Lord for another couple!

Mike recently finished a series of lessons from Chronicles that he's been teaching for about 2 years. The Adult Center where we meet on Sundays in Rimock

just upgraded their building and had a large TV installed. This has been a very useful tool for us as Mike has been able to begin a series of messages in the book of Acts, and has been working with PowerPoint, slides, etc. to enhance the message using the TV screen with his computer. It has really sparked interest among our people as well. We definitely saw spiritual growth in the lives of several folk throughout the previous weeks of teaching. Praise the Lord!

Travels to Gatherings

We left the Phoenix airport June 5th to arrive in Baltimore, MD where our two daughters, Joy (who lives in Frederick, MD) and Melody (visiting from Chile) picked us up. What a treat for us to spend 3 days with Melody as she had been in the States for 2 weeks already, and extended her visit so we could see her! Joy's daughter, Rose, traveled back to Chile with her for 2 months to get a “taste” of missions in a Spanish-speaking country.

While in Maryland, Joy and her husband took Melody and us to the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C. What an amazing experience that was,

especially to visit the floor where they displayed all the languages of the world! How moving it was to learn how many there were that still did not have any part of the Word of God in their language!

We also were blessed to visit with our granddaughter, Ruth and her two little babies, our great-granddaughters! Jessi is 3 and Stella was just a few months old. Truly special!!!

It was also a special blessing to be able to visit our supporting church in Oxford, PA! We praise the Lord for working out the details for us to visit there. They were truly an encouragement to our hearts and gave us a generous love offering that really helped us with our trip!

The following week, the Lord allowed us to visit Sue's two brothers, Johnny and Butch, in Delaware. It had been almost 12 years since we'd been together. God knew we needed this encouragement too. Both brothers know and love the Lord. We were able to visit with many of their children and grandchildren, who also are serving the Lord! What a blessing to see how God has worked over the years in each of their families! Johnny's wife, Sharon, recently had a leg amputated as result of severe infection. Again, God blessed, as we were able to spend a little time with her in the rehab facility.

Tokens of Good

We left Maryland on June 16, borrowing our son-in-law's (Kent) car to drive to NC, where we were to speak in our sending church on Father's Day, the 17th. However, as we were driving, we heard what sounded like a "blow-out." It turned out to be a hose that blew off, sending water, anti-freeze and steam all over. Sitting alongside a very busy freeway on a hot day in June in Virginia with little knowledge of what to do was definitely a time for prayer!!

God in His goodness, sent a lady, who turned out to be a missionary's daughter, along the road to help. She helped Mike get the hose replaced with the clamp, then "happened" to have several bottles of water that she poured into the radiator so we could "limp" to the next exit to get help. After staying in a motel overnight, we felt confident the help we had gotten the night before would get us on to NC. So we set out on Sunday morning to try to make it for the evening service. But God had other plans, and again we found ourselves stranded along the busy freeway. This time a lady stopped who said, "God told me to stop!" She said she had AAA that could be used 6 times per year for various vehicles, and she never used it. She insisted that we let her use it for towing our vehicle (actually

Kent's vehicle). Another "token of good" from God! There were others during this time, which were sent from the Lord to help also, and we praise the Lord that in each situation, we were able to share the Gospel and give out gospel tracts along with our name and information. We pray that God will use this in their lives to bring them to Himself!

Talking With God

God has truly given us a wonderful gift by allowing us to talk to Him and with Him at any time or place about any situation! We definitely used this gift during those three days of difficulty. After staying Sunday night in another motel, missing our much-anticipated service in our sending church in NC, we learned on Monday morning that Kent's car had blown a head gasket. It had to be transported back to Maryland, and we were stranded. We spent MUCH time in prayer in that motel, trying to decide just what to do. Our Mission Family Week was to start that Monday, and we were still many hours away. Sometimes, it becomes clear that what we planned is not always what God wants, even though it was a good thing. Because of financial situations, and all that had happened, we decided to rent a car to get back to Maryland and then fly back home, missing the mission conference and also another Sunday meeting following the conference. It truly broke our hearts and spirits to miss out. But "what a privilege it is to carry everything to God in prayer!!!"

Talking TO God

- Pray for Mike's continued recovery from cataract surgery. Also, pray for the second surgery, July 23, on the other eye.
- Pray for good health.
- Pray for increased support and guidance.
- Pray for our upcoming Bible Conference with Dr. Charles Surrentt at the end of the month.

In His service,

Mike & Sue Smith

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