



April/May 2019

Dear Prayer Partners,

“For Thou art great and doest wondrous things: Thou art God alone.” Psalm 86:10

After pastoring and serving in Rimrock, Arizona for nearly six years, we are seeing the hand of God's blessing on our feeble efforts as never before. It has been so exciting for us AND for our faithful people to see **God working**. We are excited to share these recent miracles with you - our faithful prayer and financial supporters.

Exciting Progress

Alex, Hannah, and baby Walter visited our church for the first time in early March. They indicated that they had been searching for our kind of church and Biblical teaching. Alex also expressed his desire to find God. They continued to attend for the next couple of weeks, and we began to see a change in Alex. Hannah had already testified that she had been saved as a child, and raised in a Pastor's home. On Easter Sunday morning, Alex testified at our "Sonrise" Service that through the preaching of the Word, and the testimony of Ron Love (who preached for us when we were in Pennsylvania), he had realized he had never personally accepted Christ and made that decision about two weeks prior to Easter. He shared that for the first time in His life, he now knew the truth of Easter - Resurrection Sunday! What a thrill it was to learn how the Lord had worked in his life.

Just a couple of weeks later, another couple visited, only to discover Lyle and Tammy had recently been searching the internet for Gospel preaching and reading the Scriptures. Christ had drawn them to Himself, and Lyle accepted God's plan of salvation! They live across the street from the building where we meet, and they came to learn more of God's Word!

It has been a joy to see them learning and growing as Mike has been meeting with them with follow-up materials, answering questions, and discipling them. This has also energized our faithful people to see **God working!**

Effective Publication

Ron and Diana Love have been a huge blessing to us personally as well as to the church ministry here in Rimrock. Recently, Ron wrote a tract relating his personal testimony, and it has just been published. "Unsaved Christians" has already been used by the Lord to reveal the unsaved condition in Alex's life. We would like to promote this wonderful tract to you, our friends. You may learn more about this by contacting Ron at formerunsaved@gmail.com.

Occasionally, Ron has preached for Mike and taught in our weekly Bible Studies. Diana has ministered in music, helped Sue with various church duties and piano recital reception, as well as being an encouragement to us the past seven months. They left this morning for further ministry back East and will be sorely missed. They hope to be back next fall as the Lord leads.

Emerging Prospects

Dan came to our church in Rimrock even before we moved there. Since that time, he moved away, has had some changes in his life, and now has moved back to Rimrock. He began coming to services in March and has been faithful almost every Sunday since. God is working!

Andrew has recently moved near our church building and has been looking for a home church. He too started coming recently and has been faithful in attendance as well. Both of these men give clear testimony of their faith in Christ. We are so happy to have them. **God is working!!**

Carol came a week ago for the first time, saying she was looking for a church family. She put on her visitor card that she wanted our church to be her church "if we would have her!" **God is working!!**

Just this past Sunday, Deborah came looking for a church. She said a neighbor of Bob and Natalie (our right-hand helpers) told her of our little church. She indicated that she would be back. The neighbor who told us about her has come once and keeps saying she'll come to our midweek Bible Study but has not made it yet. At least she told someone else! **God is working!!**

Expectant Plans

As July is quickly approaching, we are excited to anticipate the arrival of Mike, Stephanie, Rachel, and Katelyn Smith. They are moving to Rimrock to help with our work and ministry, as well as help various ministries in the surrounding area with building needs. However, after they arrive, they technically will not be available to help until August, because of deputation meetings, a camp they are attending, and preaching engagements in Colorado. But we are still excited about their arrival!

As we are writing this letter, we are in Colorado for a granddaughter's graduation celebration and then will be flying from Denver to Washington D.C. to attend Family Week in Virginia with our Mission Agency. Mike will also be preaching on Father's Day in two different churches in the area; one is a supporting church. We are so grateful for this opportunity and will return to Arizona around June 26th. We appreciate your prayers for this trip!

Encouragement and Praise

It was truly a blessing to have nine of my 12 piano students participate in the first **piano recital** I have held in Rimrock! God has been so good to allow me to have these students to prepare them for His service.

We are praising the Lord for the excellent **health** He has given us these past few months since Sue's surgeries. Mike's recent echogram showed better results than ever. We are so thankful to be able to serve the Lord as long as He enables!

Essential Prayer

+ We would appreciate urgent prayer on behalf of our neighbor, Carol. We have asked prayer that she would come to church. She had been coming several times since through April. However, last week she was

diagnosed with cancer that has attacked her organs and gone into her bones. Just since last Tuesday, she has declined rapidly. I talked with her on Wednesday and asked her pointedly if she would share with me how she knew she was saved. She gave me a clear testimony, and I truly believe she is a child of God. Her grown daughter and son live with her, and we are praying for more opportunities to witness to them. God is working in their lives too, and we have had good conversations with them just this past week. Please pray for these neighbors, Carol, her daughter, Becky, and son, Dale.

+ Pray for Sue's brother's family, the Abbotts in Mexico, who lost four members of the family last month in a terrible car accident. Sue's nephew's daughter, Pearl, survived and is still facing more surgery on her leg, but is recovering well. Sue's niece's granddaughter (age 3) also survived, although she lost both parents and older sister. She is living with her mother's sister and is recovering from multiple injuries.

+ Pray for wisdom in discipling new converts and new prospects.

+ Pray for Mike and Stephanie as they move.

+ Pray for the beginning of a children's ministry.

We thank the Lord for the faithful folk who pray and give financially to see this work established and God's plans fulfilled! Praise the Lord for showing us HE IS WORKING!



In His service,

Mike & Sue Smith

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4557 E. Cliffside Trail

Rimrock, Arizona 86335

Mike's Cell: 704-466-5594; Sue's: 704-466-5595

Mike: rimrockparson@gmail.com

Sue: rrpianist@gmail.com

website: www.GoWestForGod.org

Sent out from:

TRI-CITY BAPTIST CHURCH, FOREST CITY, NC

"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