Dear Praying Friends, Sept 06, 2021

Another three months has flown by and I look back and wonder where the time went! It has been wonderful being back at the Community Center as we are starting to see a little growth again. Around the time we opened back up, another couple felt burdened to come join us in our efforts of reaching this community. They have been extremely faithful in handing out flyers and helping Sundays run smoothly. At the end of July and into the beginning of August, we were delighted to have visitors from Tabernacle Baptist Church in Candor, NC. They worked hard for us getting out nearly a thousand door hangars. In normal urban neighborhoods that wouldn't seem like much, but out here where things are spread out on all dirt roads, it is a lot of ground to cover in over 100-degree weather. We are so grateful for their help that Saturday with our "Super Saturday" VBS where we were blessed to have 19 kids. It was nice to finally do something special for our kids.

Since returning to the center, we have had several new visitors. Isabelle came as a result of our door hangers but very shortly afterwards moved to an apartment in Victorville where she found a church that was much closer. However, it sounds like God really used her time with us to help her. Recently, we had another couple begin attending our church that had a burning desire to get back into church and get right with God. The dear lady was confused about salvation and after having the opportunity to discuss it with her made a profession of faith. We are looking forward to finally having several more baptisms!

I want to give a little update on some of the people I mentioned in the last letter. Sean is still doing well and growing. Through a difficult circumstance, I was able to meet his son and daughter in-law (Jacob and Emily) who profess to be atheists. Their heart is quite hardened against God. I thought it a great victory that after our conversation their heart was softened to me and the church. We are praying that the Lord will continue to work on their heart. Mark never came back to church as much as we tried, he made the choice to stay in the world and has made some very poor choices since. Jordan and her kids have continued to come when they can. I was glad to have had the opportunity to meet her husband who is a professing believer; unfortunately, church does not seem like a priority for him right now. Please pray that he will hunger and thirst after righteousness. We still have opportunities to speak with our neighbors whom we mentioned last time (usually when our dog gets out). Lionel has still not shown interest in visiting our church; we continue to pray that God will work on his heart.

Sean has a friend named Kenny who had seemed disinterested in the things of God but recently Sean was able to convince him to come to our church. After coming to a service on Sunday, he came back on Wednesday to our house Bible study. There he made the comment that the church was growing on him (meaning he was enjoying the services). He expressed to me that he was unsure of his salvation. As we talked, Kenny made the decision to receive Christ! On Sunday, we had another visitor who is also a friend of Sean's who is used to attending a Pentecostal church. She seemed to enjoy the teaching but at this point, we are not sure if she will be back again as she did not indicate she would be.

Ministry the past few months has very much reminded me of this passage: "Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. And they all with one *consent* began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room." (Luke 14:16-18,21-22) Please pray as there are still many in need of a Physician that we are still working to "compel" to come in.

Because of Calvary,

Stephen, Charity, Judson(6), Samuel(5), Noah(4) and Valiana(2) Jenney