



# Go WEST for God

Fall 2009

Dear Praying Friends,

Merry Christmas to all, and welcome to our first prayer letter as "rookie" missionaries again, 35 years after the original venture! We have certainly been busy right from the beginning of our sojourn in beautiful (and COLD at the moment) Colorado.

Our initial Mountain West Church Planting project, assisting Northrange Baptist Church in the Denver area, continues to go well. We were very encouraged in our property search just this week to have contact with a realtor who thinks it may be possible to find landowners who need a tax break before the end of the year. Attendance has been increasing (more fringe folks becoming regular), so we've had to set up more chairs the last several weeks. Pastor Jeff Smith is an able preacher of the Word, and it is producing healthy growth in the lives of our folks. Sue continues to play the piano for the services. Mike is the music director, and has also filled the pulpit several times in the pastor's absence.

Mike was also asked to fill the pulpit at Calvary Baptist in Northglenn, CO, one Sunday in August while Pastor David Chavez was on vacation, and the Lord gave us good services there.

Mid-September found us in NC, enjoying the chance to preach at Tri-City, our home church in Forest City. It was a joy to visit with many dear friends again, and to see many of our former student "kids" at Ambassador Baptist College. The following week we had the privilege of participating in the Missions Conference at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Kings Mountain with Dr. Charles Surret. Youth Pastor Jim Ogle's teams did a fantastic job of loving and serving the missionaries! We saw many old friends there, and made lots of new ones as well. We especially enjoyed meeting and getting to know Andy and Mimi Bonikowsky, fellow WWNTBM missionaries to Spain. The guest accommodations at Mission headquarters were a tremendous blessing as well.

In early October we were able to attend a Wyoming Pastors' Fellowship in Rock Springs, and establish a number of new contacts through introductions to the men there, and having our display and presentation set up to acquaint them with our Mission. A special treat was getting to fellowship with Dr. John Vaughn, with whom we will be traveling to Israel in February (courtesy of a dear layman friend).

At the end of the month, we headed back to NC for the Missions Recruitment Conference at Ambassador. Mike spoke in two classes, and we had a number of students and couples express interest in the possibility of becoming involved in Church Planting activities in the Mountain West in the future.

From ABC we drove to southeastern PA for the first weekend in November to be with Pastor Steve Rogers (one of our graduates) and family at Grace Baptist Church of Oxford for their Missions Banquet (presentation, challenge, and special music), and then teach and challenge on Faith Promise Missions Giving all day Sunday. **[Note: we just heard from Brother Rogers this week that the final Faith Promise amount will nearly double the church's giving from last year!]** Steve had also arranged for Mike to preach on Church Planting at a Pastor's meeting in Elkton, MD, which gave us opportunity for several new contacts there as well. Sue was also able to speak to a class of future preachers' wives in the Bible College there while Mike was in the main meeting.

After enjoying a few (too short!) days' visit with our daughter Joy and family in Frederick, MD (her husband Kent is pastor of Peoples Baptist Church there), we headed on back home for a week or so before driving over the mountains to Gunnison, CO. Pastor Ed Slaughenaupt at First Baptist Church had invited us to preach for their Faith Promise Missions Month on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. The fellowship there was extra sweet because our dear friend of almost 50 years, Brother Clay Shore, lives outside Gunnison and attends that church. Our son Mike and family drove up from AZ to be in the service with us before coming on to Denver to spend Thanksgiving with us, Jeff's family, and Mike's sister Chris from Greeley, CO.

Whew! It's exhausting just writing about all that. We are grateful to our Lord for providing these many opportunities to share our burden for Church Planting in the West, to make contacts with pastors and churches for both Church Planting team internship and training, and also deputation prospects.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY EARNESTLY FOR:

- ★ The sale (or rental) of our house in Shelby, NC, to eliminate that critical financial drain
- ★ The locating of suitable and affordable property for Northrange Baptist Church of Commerce City
- ★ Sue's direction of the children's Christmas program at church on Dec. 20th
- ★ Churches where we have presented this ministry to be able to have a part in our financial support
- ★ Ongoing deputation opportunities

WE PRAISE THE LORD AT THIS WONDERFUL SEASON FOR:

- ★ Spiritual growth in the lives of the members of Northrange Baptist Church
- ★ Continued good health
- ★ Safety in over 7000 miles of travel
- ★ A family of children, spouses, and grandchildren involved in the work of the ministry of the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ (III John 4)

May God richly bless each of you throughout this Christmas season, and give you a spiritually profitable and fruitful New Year if Jesus tarries His coming!

In His service,

**Mike & Sue Smith**

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*"But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."*

-- Galatians 4:4,5