



Jan-Mar 2017

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. 1 Cor. 15:58

There are times in any ministry when it seems “nothing is happening.” So often we have claimed this verse, knowing that anything we do for the Lord is NEVER in vain. In the past 2 months, we have seen God showing us this very truth! Praise the Lord for His strength, grace, and love!

Progress

We have had new visitors coming to our church services the past couple of months, which is truly a blessing for our small work. A couple of these have continued to come back, and we are praying the Lord will show them their need of having a church home. Here in the West, we find that even people who claim to know the Lord don't have convictions concerning being faithful in a local church or committing to serve. However, one couple in particular has truly changed their lives to become a faithful part of our church. Pray for David and Irene as they demonstrate interest in making the Lord first in their lives. Praise the Lord! They continue to surprise us with attendance in extra events like Ladies' Bible Study, Sunday evening service, and Irene has even signed up to attend our upcoming Ladies' Spring Retreat at the end of April. In fact, for the first time, we have 6 ladies planning to attend this retreat! While the growth here is very slow at times, truly the work here is not in vain!

The Lord has opened up several opportunities over the past few weeks for one-on-one counseling situations too. It is a blessing to see God working in hearts of His children.

Our hearts are also heavy for others like Tina who have attended services, asking for prayer and help with her addictions. Her granddaughter, Neveah, came a few times with her and desperately needs to find the Lord. She has such a horrible

home life and knows nothing of God's Word. Pray that she'll come back and we could work with this family.

The fifth Sunday in January we were privileged to host the area-wide Singspiration at our church. Other churches in the Verde Valley attended on Sunday night. What a great time it was to have the fellowship of so many (about 70) in our small church!

Personal

In February, we offered assistance to Mike's brother, Greg, in Tucson as he was having several weeks of radiation treatments for the newest tumor they found on his brain. We spent parts of two weeks there assisting with driving him to and from the hospital for treatment, making meals, etc. Each of the siblings took a week or two helping him at this time. He just had an MRI to see if the tumor has shrunk, and what the next step is for him. We would appreciate prayer for us and for him as the future is very uncertain. Thank you.

Prospect

We are looking forward to having two young men visit our ministry here in Arizona at the end of May. Pray for Daniel and Thomas as they make their plans for this trip. We met these students at Ambassador Baptist College back in November during Missions Conference. They expressed an interest in church planting here in the West. We

are excited that they are coming and for the prospect of working with them sometime in the future. Pray for wisdom as we introduce them to "Western culture" and the extreme needs here in Arizona.

Praise and Prayer

1. It is exciting to see how God continues to provide for our financial needs! We have experienced additional expenses these past two months with Dr. visits (cold and flu season), dental bills, unexpected car repairs and a very unexpected refrigerator repair. It seems these expenses come in "bunches." Yet, the Lord provided for each need through the extra gifts of His people! What a blessing to know God cares for each of these needs!
2. Praise the Lord for good health! We certainly had our share of bronchitis, colds, allergies, etc. during the month of January. But we are so thankful for God's continued care and healing.
3. Pray for additional monthly support. Several churches where we visited last summer who indicated possible support have not responded yet. Please pray the Lord will bring in more financial support.
4. Pray for individuals we are working with here in Rimrock. The needs are overwhelming

sometimes, and we depend on your prayers for wisdom for us. Thank you!

5. Pray for upcoming Easter services and that we'll see new people come to our church whom we can help.
6. Pray for the Ladies' Retreat at the end of April.
7. Pray for Daniel and Thomas coming in May.

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..." I Corinthians 3:8,9