



Mar - Apr 2018

Dear Prayer Partners,

“Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.” Psalm 147:5

As we have been focusing our recent Bible studies on God's power, wisdom, and understanding, the Lord has been showing us more and more how **He is in control of all things**, and “works things together for good.” It continues to amaze us that this God loves us and cares about every detail of our lives! How we rejoice in the truth of Him! He encourages us when we need it, He leads us in the directions He wants us to go, He blesses us with multitudes of blessings, He understands our thoughts and desires, and He cares for us personally. What a wonderful God we serve!

Ministry Experience - In His Control

The last two months have offered a variety of ministry opportunities and experiences. God led in each one! Mike was asked to preach in a church across the mountain in Dewey-Humboldt, about an hour away, when the pastor took a group of teens on a college trip. It was a joy to minister in that church, and also hear one of Sue's piano students playing for the service!

Sue just finished up the study with the Ladies' Bible Study she has had this past year on “God is More Than Enough”, by Dr. Jim Berg. We had several new ladies attend this past year, and one of our neighbors, Carol, came faithfully. We continue to pray for God's leading in her life.

We were blessed in April to take some of our ladies to the retreat in Flagstaff, AZ, sponsored by West Branch Christian Camp. What a joy it was to take new ones to this challenging and encouraging event!

We continue to help in the music in one of our sister churches about 20 miles away, and in any other way we are asked to help. Here in the West, we have seen the importance of helping one another in the work of the Lord. God is in **control** of using us in His way!

Music Expression - In His Control

What a special thrill it was to hold a Hymnplaying Seminar in April! A pastor contacted us about possibly helping the pianists in their church with their hymnplaying. Their church sponsored the seminar and invited a number of churches to participate. We had 12 attendees, even a couple from a church in the Phoenix area. Praise the Lord for working it all out!

Our small church hosted the 5th Sunday Sing in April. Other churches participated, and we had over 60

in attendance! What a privilege it was to have a veteran missionary couple, working in translation ministry among the Navajo Native Americans, bring the special music and message! We praise the Lord for the way God was in **control** of this entire evening!

Sue has recently had the privilege of helping some other young pianists learn hymnplaying techniques. These have just come about through God's **control**!

Medical Encounters

Even when we experience “set-backs” due to medical difficulties, we see God's hand in complete **control**! Recently, Mike was afflicted with shingles. While it was painful at times, uncomfortable to say the least, and difficult to diagnose in the beginning, we saw God's hand throughout the weeks of this experience. It was a special blessing that he had a very mild case with only a few sores, etc., but also it didn't last as long as many others have experienced. He did not miss a single service at the church, and has had very little ongoing effects. Thank you for your faithful prayers!

Mike is scheduled to have cataract surgery in July, but we are confident God is in **control** of all that too. We would ask you to remember him in prayer.

Missing Encouragers - In His Control

Over the last couple of months, we have sadly lost 5 dear friends and loved ones who have been a huge encouragement to us. The Lord called them “HOME” to be with Him! Two of them were individuals who faithfully prayed and supported our ministry. While they are missed greatly, God was in total **control** of the timing and events surrounding their deaths. David was a wonderful neighbor and attended our church regularly. We have

had the privilege of working with him and his dear wife, Irene, for the past several years. As his health declined, Irene came to our home often for counseling, guidance, and spiritual encouragement. It was a joy to see how God was in **control**. Mike was able to give a clear, bold Gospel message at the memorial service recently. Dave shared the gospel with countless people in our community by making heart shapes out of horseshoes, telling folks of the love of Christ in John 3:16. We are praying that unsaved family members, former co-workers, and neighbors will continue to be influenced by the Word that was shared with them. Please pray for these folks!

Meeting Expectations - In His Control

We were so excited to have the Ambassador Baptist College Quartet team scheduled to be with us! We invited the other churches who fellowship with us to enjoy them as well. Again, this was all in God's **control** as the dates for their visit opened up even when we did not plan it! Praise the Lord for this opportunity!

We are planning to attend our mission Family Week in June in North Carolina, and the Lord has opened the opportunity for us to be in two of our supporting churches while in the area. It is truly a joy to see God showing us He is in **control** of this trip. And we would ask

your prayers for us during the weeks we will be away in June. Also pray for our church during this time.

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...” 1 Corinthians 3:8,9