

February/March 2019

Dear Prayer Partners,

"Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:6

There are times in our lives when we don't understand God's purposes in the situations He allows us to experience. But it is truly a blessing to know that He has all things under His control and will bring to pass those things He desires. We are only to continually trust in His perfect will and be faithful in His leading. These past couple of months have reminded us that it is God that is faithful, and will **perform** the works He desires. What a precious promise we have to be able to be confident of His faithful **performance**!

## **Physical**

In January, we spent a night in the ER as Sue had severe pain and vomiting. They treated her and sent her home in the morning with instructions to run further tests. After several weeks, they found many gall stones, so gall bladder surgery was scheduled in late February. Since they did a laparoscopic surgery, she went home the same day. Her recovery was good, and hopefully, the problem was solved. Our daughter, Joy had planned to visit with Kent as they came for a conference in Phoenix just prior to this surgery. Joy was able to stay for several days following the surgery to help. God showed His faithfulness in **performing** what we needed physically! Praise Him!

# **Participation**

What a special joy it was to participate in the special meetings held at the Native American missionary church in Camp Verde! We were asked to help with the music both with specials and congregational accompaniment. Most of our church folk attended also. We praise the Lord for allowing us to join with these dear brothers and sisters in these meetings.

We also were asked to help a dear Pastor in one of our supporting churches in Pennsylvania. We flew back so Mike could preach in their services in mid-March and be an encouragement to the folks there while the Pastor took a much-needed vacation. We had good services and enjoyed the people there. It is ALWAYS a joy to serve the Lord wherever He leads

#### Pleasures

During the time we were in Pennsylvania, we were able to go down to North Carolina to attend our granddaughter's wedding. Since Mike and Stephanie have been working at the Wilds Camp in NC, they were able to have their daughter's wedding nearby and the reception was held there at the campground! Everything about the wedding was lovely (including the bride, Sarah) and so very Christ-honoring. Sarah and Colton want to go as missionaries in an Arabic country such as Morocco if the Lord continues to lead that way. "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children (and grandchildren) walk in truth". III John 4. Four of our 5 children were able to be at the wedding along with most of their families. So it was a very special time to be together. It was a special blessing, too, to see Sue's brother's wife, Flossie. They have lived in Mexico over 45 years as missionaries. Sue and Flossie actually grew up together in the same church and had not seen each other for many, many years. What pleasures God performs for the joy of His children! Praise the Lord for these!

### **Progress**

It has truly been exciting to see a couple of new contacts coming to our little church in Rimrock! A few weeks ago, a young couple who had moved into our neighborhood recently began coming to our church. They have been coming pretty faithfully and have expressed sincere interest in the teaching of the Word! God's Word is what changes lives, so we are very thankful for this young couple and what the Lord is doing! We have had other visitors lately as well. So trusting we'll continue to see growth.

We have 6 of our ladies planning to attend our annual ladies retreat at the end of April. This is always a blessing as we fellowship with many churches in both Arizona and New Mexico. Many of them are Native American ladies and have found Christ! West Branch camp sponsors these retreats and always has wonderful, uplifting speakers for the ladies. We are thankful for so many ladies to go with us this year.

### **Planning**

We are excited to share with you the news that our son, Mike and his family, who are finishing up their work at the Wilds in NC, are planning to move to Rimrock area this summer to help with the work here! We know it will be a huge change for them, but Mike wants to be more involved with a church planting ministry and wants his Dad to mentor him in the pastoral duties. He is planning a survey trip here the first week in April and will be talking with a couple other pastors in the area about needs they also have with their buildings and expansion. They want to be a help to anyone who needs their assistance while helping with our church here in Rimrock. Please pray for them as they make this transition over the next few months.

#### Prayer

- + Pray for Vera a Catholic lady with whom we shared the gospel, but is committed to her own works
  - + Pray for coming services on Resurrection Sunday
- + Pray for Sue as she has taken on two more piano students, so now has about 13 students, some even through the internet! Looking toward having a student recital in May.
- + Pray for continued wisdom in future with new prospects, working with Mike and Stephanie, ministry.
- + Pray for good health and strength to continue the work where God has called us!

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 His **PERFORMANCE!** 



In His service.

Mike 🕲 Sue Smith

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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 3:8,9