



Sept/Oct 2019

Dear Prayer Partners,

“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that He counted (entrusted) me faithful (empowered), putting me into the ministry (employed).” I Timothy 1:12

There are times in the ministry when we have seen marvelous things that God has done, followed by times when we are vulnerable to the enemy's attacks through discouragement or disappointments. How blessed we are to know it is God Who has called us and kept us in His vineyard! He's the One who directs our steps and points us in the direction He wants. September and October have been weeks of "plodding", just asking for continued direction and strength. But GOD IS FAITHFUL!!!! I Cor 10:13 is a great reminder of that fact!

Enabled

God has continued to give opportunity to reach out into our community to make new contacts. We have attended the community pancake breakfasts to meet folks in the community. Recently, our daughter-in-law, Stephanie and her girls took on the task of having a table at our annual community Arts and Crafts Fair. We helped by providing printed materials for the church, tracts, and participated in the bake sale also. Stephanie set up her book, "Watching God Work", which is the story of Sue's sister and the missionary work among the Macushi Indians in Brazil. Although there were few sales, there were MANY contacts made, and we are thankful for those opportunities! Please pray for the contacts that were made that we might see fruit that would abound!

Entrusted

How thankful we are for the people God has entrusted to us. Even though we are few, and there are ups and downs in attendance, we are so thankful that God has given us the opportunity to care for, teach and preach to these dear folks.

We have begun a ladies Bible study once again, and have seen some a few new ladies coming. Praise the Lord for entrusting these dear ladies to our care.

Stephanie has accepted the challenge of teaching this session and we are so thankful for her to become involved in this way. It is very special to be able to work with Stephanie as she learns to work with these ladies.

Sue continues to teach piano to many students, and we are praying that this ministry will be used of the Lord as well. Mike has opportunities to preach in sister churches around the state from time to time, and we are thankful that the Lord entrusts us with these additional responsibilities.

Empowered

What a blessing it has been to have Mike and Stephanie and their two daughters, Rachel and Katelyn, to work with us here in Rimrock. They bring new energy to our church and the people have responded very positively to them! Besides the Ladies Bible Study, activities and fellowships, Mike is also beginning a men's prayer breakfast at the end of November. They have truly been a help to us personally as well and we praise the Lord for this "empowerment"!

Employed

Our ministry here in Rimrock is so different than any other place we have been, yet very much the same when we realized it is all about people. Getting the Gospel out whenever possible, teaching new believers

such as Alex who was saved just a few months ago, teaching about the New Testament church - all are a part of the ministry God has given us! Mike has been teaching each Sunday from the book of Acts, giving a complete understanding of the background and functions of the local church. He took a few weeks to just teach on the ordinances of the church and during that time, we had a baptismal service, and then another week, served the Lord's Table. The people are growing and learning what a church is all about and we are so thankful to be involved in that task!

Encouraged

God provided a very special blessing last month for us that we had been praying about for almost a year. Sue's family, 6 siblings and families, had planned a reunion the first weekend in October. Sue grew up in southern Delaware, and since two of her brothers (unable to travel) live there, the reunion was planned to meet there. The last time the siblings were all together for a reunion was at our parent's 50th anniversary celebration in 1986. So this was a very special occasion. It was amazing to see how God provided for each one to attend! All of the siblings know the Lord and some have been missionaries for a number of years. Some came up from Mexico also! So it was a "taste of heaven" to be together and reflect on all God has done for the Abbott family! God is SO GOOD and provided a special gift for us to be able to attend also! What an encouragement it was that God continues to provide for our needs AND this very special occasion!

Excitement

As we approach the coming holidays, we are especially excited anticipate having three of our five children with us for Christmas. Our daughter, Melody and her hubby, Jim and their daughter Debbie will be spending most of the month of December with us, as they are in the states on furlough. Then Jeff's family in Colorado, and children in college, etc. will be joining us the week of Christmas. Pray that the Lord will use this time to energize our people and continue to help build the work here in Rimrock.

Entreaty

- + Pray for Lyle and Tammy - made professions of faith, but have stopped coming to church
- + Pray for Della and David - Della has been taking a course in New Age concepts recently and has stopped attending the last few weeks
- + Pray for neighbors Becky and Dale - Becky has been coming to Ladies Bible Study, but not church. Dale works 7 days a week.
- + Pray for continued good health. Mike has had some illness this past month, but better now. He has a stress test scheduled with his cardiologist in two weeks.
- + Pray for more personal support.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and love for the Lord and His servants. There are times when we know the only thing keeping us going are the faithful prayers of God's people! We praise the Lord for each of you, and ask His blessing upon you.



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