



January 2020

Dear Prayer Partners,

***“From the end of the earth will I cry unto Thee: when my heart is overwhelmed;
lead me to the Rock that is higher than I.” Psalm 61:2***

How often have we been reminded of this verse when our hearts become “overwhelmed”! Both during times that are extreme blessing, as well as times of desperate need and discouragement. He is our constant – our Rock – our stability and purpose for life and ministry! We had hoped to send out Christmas greetings, but instead we are sending wishes for a blessed New Year!

PLEASURES

Family is truly one of life's greatest pleasures God has given us. What a joy it was to have our daughter, Melody, and Jim and Debbie visit for the entire month of December while on furlough from their ministry in Chile! Debbie, now almost 16 requested to be with “Grandmom and Pop-Pop” for Christmas, since it had been 12 years since we celebrated this special time together. Their son, Jeremy, who is the main chef at the Wilds Christian Camp, and his fiancée, Daniela (whom we hadn't met before this) joined us as well. Then our son, Jeff, and family, including those from college, etc. joined us for the week of Christmas along with Mike and his family who now live here. Mike's other children in college, married, etc. also came. So we had over 30 family members for Christmas dinner. What a blessing it was on Christmas Eve to have our “traditional” family time where each one told what God is doing in their lives! Truly we were “**overwhelmed**” by God's goodness and grace to hear how each one are learning to put Christ first in their lives, preparing and serving Him! What grace God has shown us in guiding our children and grandchildren to love Him and glorify His Wonderful Name! Surely, “. . . at Thy right hand there are pleasures evermore”. (Psalm 16:11)

It was also a pleasure to have our children and grandchildren participate in our Christmas morning service by providing special music and then share the same with Living Waters Baptist Church in Camp Verde on Sunday Evening. We often fellowship with the folk there, and it was a special pleasure to serve at Christmas! Our hearts were “**overwhelmed**” by God's goodness in allowing us this opportunity! What a thrill to have two sons and a son-in-law preach in various services during this time, too.

PARTNERSHIP

It has been a joy to partner with Mike and Stephanie and begin sharing some of the responsibilities of the ministry. Young Mike has been teaching some during our midweek Bible Studies, as well as preaching in some Sunday services. Stephanie has helped so much with teaching ladies' Bible studies, music ministry, and just taking on some of the busy work of fellowship dinners, fellowships, etc. What a blessing it is to share in the ministry!

PROGRAM

In the 6 years we have been here, we have had one service on Sunday mornings, mainly due to ministering in

small sister churches in the evening, and having few or no children attending.

Recently, partly because we have additional help with Mike and Stephanie, we have begun having Sunday School with a break time in between, then our morning service. It seems to be going well and all of our regular people have come to both services. Praise the Lord!

PROTECTION

We are "overwhelmed" by God's faithfulness in protecting us especially when accidents occur. Just two weeks ago, Mike tripped over uneven pavement in a parking lot nearby. He "planted" his head in the cement and scraped off a good portion of skin. After having a CT scan at the ER, and having bandages covering a large part of his head, we were so thankful that although Mike is on blood thinners (due to recent echocardiogram results), there was NO injury to his head, NO broken bones elsewhere, and God demonstrated how He protects us daily! Praise the Lord! Thank you to those who pray regularly for us and especially for God's protection!

PROVISION

We were "overwhelmed" this past month over the extra ways God provided for us, especially with added expenses that came our way. Thank you for praying for God's continued provision for our needs!

PROBLEMS

As with all types of ministry, we, too, experience various problems. Especially since Christmas, it seems the devil has brought us some areas of discouragement. It is during these times of being "overwhelmed" with the cares and trials of this world, that we are driven once again to the "Rock that is higher than I". Please pray with us for wisdom from the Lord in dealing with some of these situations.

PRAYER

- + Pray for wisdom concerning Ladies' Bible Study.
- + Pray for Men's Prayer Breakfast
- + Pray for Della and David
- + Pray for neighbors Becky and Dale
- + Pray for our health and ability to continue to serve here in this ministry.
- + Pray for more personal missions/financial 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