

CHRIST IS BORN

Nov-Dec 2020

Dear Prayer Partners,

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a SAVIOR, which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11

Merry Christmas! What a wonderful time of year to remember the birth of our SAVIOR! Think of it! From the beginning of creation, God planned to send us a SAVIOR! He knew we would be helpless sinners, on our way to eternal condemnation in Hell, but “In that while we were yet sinners, CHRIST...” (Rom. 5:8) Yes, He sent a SAVIOR, CHRIST, the Lord! I trust that each of us will take time to reflect on this magnificent truth – yes, a mystery as Paul calls it, that God should love us enough to redeem us to spend eternity with Him! Oh, ponder that miracle and rejoice in our loving SAVIOR!!!!

REMINISCING

We praise the Lord for all He has done for us and our church folk this past year. The year 2020 will go down in history as a difficult and unusual year for many people. But we must rejoice in His grace to see how He has sustained us, blessed, and cared for His own.

We only missed a few weeks of services together in the Spring, and have been able to meet consistently in spite of various mandates, rules, recommendations and fears! While we have not seen much physical growth at Faith Baptist Church, we HAVE seen wonderful growth in the lives of our people! We praise the Lord for their dedication to the SAVIOR. And last week, we added a new person to our church family -- Catherine Elaine was born to Alex and Hannah! What a joy to see this family grow in the Lord and now are excited to teach another little one about their SAVIOR!

Since we had no immediate family with us for Thanksgiving (Mike and Stephanie went to Wisconsin to be with their family), we enjoyed fellowship with our church friends! What a delight to share good times with those who love the SAVIOR!

Mike was asked to preach a couple of times in the last couple of months for midweek services in another Arizona community. We are so grateful to serve in every way He chooses.

REFLECTIONS

What an amazing gift God gave us recently to be able to go to the “Homegoing services” for our dear

friend of many, many years, Dr. Carl Hodges. Both of us grew up under his ministry as teenagers in a youth organization. He introduced us, married us, and later we worked together in ministry. He was like our own Dad in many ways! We have a close relationship with his daughter and son-in-law in Houston, and rejoice that Dr. Hodges is with his SAVIOR and we had opportunity to honor His life and Lord last month. He was very instrumental in guiding us and teaching us to serve this wonderful SAVIOR!

RELATIONS

Since this is our Christmas letter, we want to share what the Lord has done in our family this past year.

MELODY AND JIM BJUR

They just celebrated their 27th year of service in the church in Arica, Chile. Just last week the ban was lifted and they are now allowed to go outside of their house without having government permission since March! They continue to have on-line church due to restrictions, but are planning home Bible studies. In fact, they just called and told me tonight, Dec 2, they are planning to meet in their church for the first time since March! But can only have up to 25. However, many souls have come to Christ through internet contacts during the past 9 months! It was just one year ago that they were here in Rimrock, on furlough, to spend the holidays with us! Then we saw them again in March at their son, Jeremy's wedding, at the Wilds in NC.



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They returned to Chile just two hours before the borders were closed due to the pandemic, and they've been closed ever since! God was in control. Their oldest daughter, Becky also returned to China following the wedding to continue teaching school. Joshua continues to work and further education in SC, while Debbie remains at home, just about to enter her senior year of high school.

JOY AND KENT RAMLER

Kent continues to pastor People's Baptist Church in Frederick, MD. They have definitely had their challenges with church ministry due to the pandemic, and just this past month, their family along with about 30 other church folks suffered the covid-19 virus. All have recovered, but their church is once again meeting via internet. Ruth and Justin and our two great granddaughters live in nearby WV. Jack and Lindsay moved to Chicago this summer to further Jack's education at Northwestern University in law. Rose is a Junior at Bob Jones University and David is a senior in high school at home.

MIKE AND STEPHANIE SMITH

As you know, they continue to serve with us here in Rimrock, AZ. What a wonderful blessing they have been! Sarah and Colton are working in NC, teaching in Christian school and working construction, while Sarah continues to pursue her Doula work and midwifery, still planning to go to mission field one day. Rachel, Sarah's "older" twin, is at home and has made huge strides this year with therapy, group assistance workshops, etc. She just got a new long-awaited wheel chair, too! Bethany and T.J. Lacock were married in May up in Wyoming, and now both serve at Maranatha Baptist University while T.J. finishes his graduate degree. Both Drew and Katelyn are also at MBU. Drew is a Junior and Katelyn, a Freshman.

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JEFF AND BECKY THORNBERRY

They live in Elbert, CO, near Colorado Springs, and serve in the church there. Jeff has been learning the aspects of roofing and works for a contractor in the Springs. Their oldest, Jared, continues to work in SC and has recently introduced a lovely Christian girl to his parents. Joel is planning to finish his degree at Maranatha Baptist University next semester, and also is very interested in a young lady there at MBU. We are praying for God's guidance in their lives as well. Jocelyn is a Junior at Bob Jones University, Joanna, a senior in High school, and Jessica, a Sophomore, are still at home, and face challenges of on-line schooling.

ED AND HEATHER SMITH

Ed continues in nursing, but this year the Lord opened up a position at the VA Hospital there in Cincinnati, OH. He is exposed regularly to the Covid virus, but we are trusting the Lord to keep him safe! Heather began a new position as a Kindergarten teacher in the Christian school across town where all of their children now attend. Katie is a Freshman in high school, Sophia is in 7th grade, Tucker is in grade 5, and Titus began Kindergarten! All are extremely busy in the school and their church, teaching, helping in every way when the Lord opens the door of opportunity.

We are so thankful for the grace of God in giving us a family who love to serve their SAVIOR!

REQUESTS

+ Pray for SOULS!!!

**HALLELUJAH! WHAT A SAVIOR!!!!
MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

In His service,

Mike & Sue Smith

Mike and Sue Smith
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