

July-Sept 2021

Dear Prayer Partners,

“Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.” II Corinthians 1:11

This verse truly expresses what is in our hearts as we write this letter. We are so grateful for those of you who faithfully pray and give to the work of the Lord! We feel, so often, that we are so undeserving of your love and faithfulness, but because of HIS grace and righteousness, we continue to follow His leading and serve Him the best way we know how. We apologize for the delay in writing this letter, but we have had many interruptions that have caused the delay. Thank you for your understanding and for your part in our ministry!

MINISTRY

We often have the idea that church planting and ministry is all about reaching people to build a church. While this is definitely a part of our ministry, these past months have offered a different kind of ministry, due to COVID and the needs of others in and around our community. Once again, due to several families being out of church for a number of weeks, we have been helping the mission church in a neighboring community. Mike has preached several times in at least 2 sister churches, and we continue to minister in music to assist the folks there. We also have been kept busy just ministering to families who have been very sick with COVID and other issues, by preparing and delivering meals, organizing meals with others, running many errands, hospital visits, counseling, etc. All the while, we have continued to meet with our own people not only as they have joined with us on Sundays at the mission church, but meeting faithfully on Tuesday nights for prayer and Bible study. Mike has been recently teaching a series of studies from Psalm 63. God's Word is alive and true, and we rejoice in the truths of His Word! It has been a blessing to have visitors sharing in this time as well.

While we are active (probably more than we've been in months), we ask you to pray with us about the future of Faith Baptist Church of Rimrock. Ministry as we've had in the past has definitely been altered due to the

pandemic and other issues of our times. But God is faithful, and He has us here for a purpose. We have some hopeful options that we cannot discuss at this point, but we are trusting the Lord to direct our paths both as a church and individually. Please pray for wisdom as we look towards the future. Also please pray the Lord will lead us to folks who are lost but open to the Gospel! We know our time is short, and His return is imminent, and we want to be faithfully giving the Word to those in need.

MUSIC

While it continues to be more difficult to play piano for services due to pain of arthritis, God continues to give opportunities, strength and a love for ministering in music. It is especially a blessing to continue to see Sue's piano students learning to be of service for the Lord in various churches, some as far away as 40-50 miles. We also welcome opportunities to sing, play, and organize music specials. This may seem very "mundane", but in our changing society we believe preparing Godly music that is honoring to the Lord is a huge part of ministry in our churches. We are very thankful that the Lord is still using us in this ministry as well as in preaching and serving.

MIRACLES

We have mentioned several times in the past how God has supplied specific needs as they arise. Almost three months ago, our income was lessened significantly. But God has been providing in so many different ways and each time we praise the Lord for HIS faithfulness! He has given us good health when so many of those around us have been seriously ill! He has provided extra gifts from God's people, and so much more. He provided us with a reliable car, and since we didn't sell our second car yet, He's allowed us to help others with difficulties, too. We were without internet for over a month, as the carriers in this area had serious outage problems. Have you tried to exist without internet? It definitely gave us challenges, but in the long run has helped us. (This was another reason for or delay in this letter, by the way.) We just have to say, God is faithful and continues to provide every need and adds many "wants" as well! Yes, God is still performing miracles today!

PRAISES

+ Our daughter and husband, Melody and Jim Bjur, have finally been allowed to have in-person services at their church in Chile. They have had on-line services for over a year and a half!

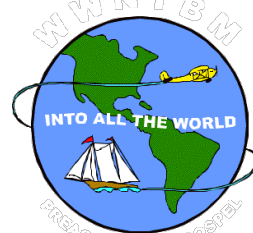
+ While our son and his wife, Mike and Stephanie, were denied access into Canada again, the Lord has directed them in assisting a pastor's family in Idaho with building needs as well as ministry. In January, they plan to come back in our area to assist the native-American mission church where we have been helping. The church was given funds to allow them to tear down and rebuild their modular building, so they have asked Mike to help with this project. We rejoice in this prospect! **God is good** to allow us to praise Him for answered prayer and see Him work in the lives of our children!

+ Praise the Lord for healing and sparing the lives of several of our people who have been seriously ill!

PRAYER

- + Pray for Gary, who had COVID, recovered, and now is back in hospital with pneumonia, fighting for his life. His wife is also recovering from COVID and is still on oxygen.
- + Please pray for physical need for our grandson who had 2 surgeries almost 2 months ago, and has struggled much with recovery. At present, he is back in the hospital.
- + Please pray for loved ones of THREE of our dear ministry friends who have gone to be with the Lord in the past few weeks!
- + Pray for future guidance and direction for Faith Baptist Church of Rimrock.

Thank you for your faithful prayers for these needs and others! You folks are so special to us, and we praise the Lord for you!



In His service,

Mike & Sue Smith

Mike and 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