

December 2021



“But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoptions of sons. ... and if a son, then an heir of God.” Galatians 4:4,5,7b

How thankful we are for the wonderful plan of salvation that God made available to us and to all who believe on His name! What an amazing concept to be an heir of GOD! And all made possible because of what was done that first Christmas when the Lord Jesus visited the earth!



What a privilege has been ours to serve the Lord together yet another year, here in Arizona.

Due to the pandemic primarily, we spent a number of weeks during the summer months helping the neighboring church in Camp Verde instead of meeting in our facility in Rimrock. Our regular church folk were in total agreement to helping this Native American mission church, as they were struggling as well. Pastor Gary Messick and their people have welcomed us and we were able to help them every week.

In our last prayer letter, we asked prayer for Gary and Tenna, an elderly couple in our church in Rimrock, who had COVID-19. Just a few days after that letter was sent, we were blessed to be with Gary as he entered in the presence of the Lord. So October and November were difficult months, helping Tenna with many details surrounding her loss. But God has given multiple opportunities throughout this whole process to give the Gospel to many unsaved friends and relatives in the family.

After our church had begun meeting again in Rimrock, it became apparent that new people in our community were reluctant to visit due to fresh COVID outbreaks and that perhaps we should consider helping once again at Living Waters Baptist Church in Camp Verde. After much prayer, and discussion with our people, we decided to serve in helping however needed at Living Waters Baptist Church for the next year, but maintain our weekly Bible Studies in Rimrock, continue to support the missionaries we were committed to, and reevaluate the situation in one year. We then discussed this with Pastor Messick and Paul Sondergaard (assisting the pastor), and they were thrilled with our decision. They talked with their church folk and all were in agreement. Since we made that decision, we have been busier than ever. Sue spoke at a ladies' Bible Study, and Mike has been teaching Sunday School, preaching often in the morning or evening services. Also we and our Rimrock people have been very

active in all the music. Recently, Pastor Messick has been very ill with COVID-19, so Mike has been preaching much more, and we both are working with the people to have a Christmas program, etc. We are not sure how long the Lord will have us serving at Living Waters Baptist Church, but at least for now we truly believe the Lord is using us in the way He wants and the folks at Living agree. And we are just so thankful that He is using us to serve Him!

Mike's part-time Amazon business has ceased since September, so our income has diminished significantly. But God has provided every need through extra unexpected gifts, etc. Sue continues to give piano lessons, mostly to those who want to learn hymnplaying to serve the Lord. She just had her Christmas recital (after not having any recitals since the pandemic began), and it was exciting to see the progress of these students! We are so thankful for His continued provision and guidance in our lives and ministry! He never fails and we anticipate great things in the coming year. This may be the year of our Lord's return!!!!???



**Melody and Jim Bjur
Rebekah, Jeremy, Joshua, Debbie**

Our daughter, Melody, and Jim continue to serve the Lord in Arica, Chile. They have had wonderful blessings this past year in using Facebook and Zoom to proclaim the Word of God in the Spanish language and have had extra opportunities to speak in numerous countries over the internet. They have also had a new ministry this past year ministering to a number of Venezuelan refugees and have seen many accept Christ. We were especially blessed when the Lord worked out details for Melody to come for a brief visit for Thanksgiving! What a surprise and blessing it was for us and also for our son, Jeff, Becky and Jessica, who also joined us.

They have only Debbie at home now, and she is now a Senior in High School. Joshua lives in SC, and works a new position with an airline company. Jeremy and Daniella continue to serve the Lord at the Wilds Christian Camp in NC. And Becky left China after living there 6 years, and now resides in SC.

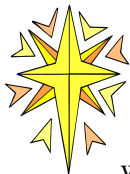
**Joy and Kent Ramler
Ruth, Jonathan, Rose, David**

Kent and our daughter, Joy, continue their ministry pastoring at People's Baptist Church in Frederick, MD. They have seen the Lord working in the lives of their people, and souls are being saved! Kent is also



active on several organization's boards, including the American Association of Christian Schools, Fundamental Baptist Fellowship, and mission boards. Their own Christian school is a thriving ministry and has actually grown since the pandemic! They are now experiencing an "almost empty nest", as their youngest graduated last May from High School, but chose to take courses at local community college while working to prepare for further education. Ruth and Justin live an hour away and can make frequent visits with their two little girls, Jessi and Stella. Jack and Lindsay live in Chicago, where Jack is a law student at Northwestern University, but has had serious health issues that has interrupted his education this past semester. Rose is in Chicago working and also helping to care for her grandfather.

Mike & Stephanie



Sarah, Rachel, Bethany, Drew, Katelyn

Mike and Stephanie left Rimrock in April to pursue working in High Level, Alberta, Canada, as the church needed help with their church building project. After trying to cross the border 6 times, they were finally allowed passage as long as they left tools in the states, and promised not to do any building. So they were a blessing to the people there for about 6 weeks, preaching and teaching so the pastor could spend time on the building with his men. They left Canada to fulfill preaching responsibilities in Colorado and other churches, fulling intending to return to Canada in a couple of months. However, this time they were permanently denied passage. So they have been in Idaho helping a pastor with a building project, then in Utah, Wyoming, Colorado and Wisconsin, preaching and teaching. Their family has grown also. Rachel remains home, as is Katelyn. Drew is a senior at MBU; Bethany and T.J. are also at MBU, while T.J. is working on grad school degree. Sarah and Colton continue to serve in their church in Brevard, NC while Sarah recently got her degree as a Doula. They are continuing to prepare for mission field.

Jeff & Becky

Jared, Joel, Jocelyn, Joanna, Jessica

Jeff and Becky continue to serve the Lord at their church in Colorado Springs, CO. They use their beautiful home from time to time as a haven for God's servants, and Becky has developed her own business with soaps and lotions and uses it as a tool to witness to many in their community. Their oldest son, Jared was recently married and we welcome Rose into our family! They are preparing to move to Utah to help



in a new church plant in January! Joel is currently dating and lives at home while he works long hours nearby. Jocelyn is a Senior at BJU, Joanna is a Sophomore at MBU and Jessica will graduate from High School this coming spring!

Ed and Heather

Katie, Sophia, Tucker, Titus

Ed and Heather are probably experiencing the busiest days of their entire lives right now. Ed enjoys his nursing duties while Heather teaches Kindergarten at the Christian School where all their children attend. Katie and Sophia are in High School, Tucker is in middle school, and Titus is in his Mom's kindergarten class and loves it! Their family has a new addition to their family for this school year as they welcomed Raphael, who came to live with them as an exchange student from Spain! What a special opportunity to share God's message with this young man! We are praying for the Lord to use this year to draw him to the Savior!

How thankful we are that each of our children are serving the Lord and now several of the grandchildren are preparing for ministry! Only GOD can do such wonderful things! We praise Him for His gracious love! And we are very thankful for the wonderful friends and loved ones He has given us and for the prayers of each one.



Wishing you a Blessed Christmas as you reflect on what our Wonderful Lord has meant to you and your family this past year!

Mike and Sue Smith

parsonsmitty@juno.com • parsonspianist@juno.com
www.GoWestForGod.org

Sending Church: Tri-City Baptist Church, Forest City, NC

Serving with World Wide New Testament Baptist Mission

