

December 2022



"And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, {and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." John 1:14

We are more focused this time of year of the wonderful plan of redemption our Father prepared for those who accept His Son, the Word, and His shed blood on the cross as payment for our sins. How grateful we are that He became flesh, Mary "brought forth her firstborn Son, and laid Him in a manger", and dwelt among us! What an amazing Christmas truth we have!

It is truly a privilege to serve the Lord together yet another year, here in Arizona. Praise Him for allowing us to be used for His glory!

While we just sent a prayer letter a couple weeks ago in November, in which we shared what God has allowed us to do recently in ministry, we still wanted to send a Christmas letter, primarily to let folks know what has gone on this past year in the lives of our family. We believe our first mission field God gave us was our own children. Even though they are far away from us now, we still have a responsibility to be active in their lives and those of our grandchildren, too. Most of the time, the main activity we share is through prayer. But God is faithfully answering prayer on behalf of our children and we'd like to share some of this with you in our Christmas letter.



Melody and Jim Bjur

Rebekah, Jeremy, Joshua, Debbie



Our daughter, Melody, and Jim continue to serve the Lord in Arica, Chile. Because of the pandemic, and the way they had to use zoom for services and Bible Studies, God opened up many avenues of service in many Spanish speaking countries for Melody to speak to ladies groups. It has been wonderful to say the least, to hear of all that God has done both in Chile in their own church where they have been for 30 years now, as well as other South American countries.

They became "empty nesters" in August when Debbie graduated from high school, and soon after left to work on staff at the Wilds in NC. Since Jeremy and Daniella (her brother and wife) continue

to serve the Lord at the Wilds Christian Camp in NC, it helped her transition to be a little easier. Joshua lives in SC, and recently graduated from Delta airline school to become a flight attendant. Becky, their oldest, now lives in SC, but commutes several times a year to California to see a certain young man.

Joy and Kent Ramler

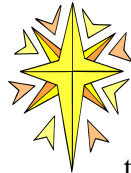
Ruth, Jonathan, Rose, David

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 also have become "empty nesters" this past September as their youngest, David, has entered Bible college. Ruth and Justin live an hour away from Joy and Kent, and the Lord gave them another little girl in August, Dahlia – they call her Dahhly! Jessi and Stella are now excited to have a new little sister. 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. The Lord graciously spared his life on two occasions this past year, as he battled with serious infections. He still needs to have reconstruction surgery in January and we would appreciate your prayers for him. Amazingly, he has resumed his studies at in Law this past semester. Rose still lives in Chicago, working and also helping to care for her grandfather.



Mike & Stephanie

Sarah, Rachel, Bethany, Drew, Katelyn



Mike and Stephanie have continued to help churches, especially in the West, with building needs. However, the Lord has finally opened up his long-time dream of pursuing the opening of a Christian Trade School. God has already performed many miracles to direct in this endeavor, and Legacy Trade School is hoping to open in 2023, for the purpose of training young people in areas of ministry that Mike has done for the past 25+ years, and others he wants to add to these trades, all for the glory of God. We are so



excited for this new ministry and would ask prayer for the coming year as there is much to be accomplished, and many needs to be met. If any of you would like more information about Legacy Trade School, please let us know and we will give you their contact information.

Their family has grown also. Rachel remains home, helping in so many ways. Katelyn went back to Maranatha Baptist University and Drew is a senior and a dormitory supervisor at MBU; Bethany and T.J. are also at MBU, while T.J. is finishing a grad school degree. They are asking the Lord to direct them to pastor a church in the West after graduation in May. They are also expecting their first baby in June. YAY! Sarah and Colton continue to serve in their church and Christian school in Brevard, NC and are soon to be parents in February of a little boy! We are so excited to welcome these two new great-grandbabies into our family in 2023!

Jeff & Becky

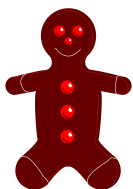
Jared, Joel, Jocelyn, Joanna, Jessica

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 and, wife, Rose live in Logan, Utah where they are helping in a new church plant! Joel married Savanah in July in Grand Junction, CO and are both teaching in a Christian school in Wisconsin. Jocelyn graduated from BJU in May and continues to live and work in Greenville, SC. Her sister Joanna lives with her. Jessica, their youngest, also went to Christian College leaving Jeff and Becky in an "empty nest". We are just so thankful for each one who are pursuing serving the Lord.



Ed and Heather

Katie, Sophia, Tucker, Titus



Ed and Heather are probably experiencing the busiest days of their entire lives right now. Ed recently was promoted in his nursing duties, now an assistant to the nurse administrator. This has enabled him to work regular hours and have weekends and holidays off. Heather continues teaching Kindergarten, full time this year,

at the Christian School where all their children attend. Katie is a Senior this year and was privileged to go to Dominican Republic with her Dad this past summer to help on a medical mission team. Katie is now driving and has her own car as well. Sophia is not far behind, and soon will be driving as well. Tucker is now in middle school, playing sports, and loving it. Titus is in 1st grade and loving it.

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

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

Serving with World Wide New Testament Baptist Mission

