

Jan-Feb 2023

Dear Prayer Partners,

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel." Ephesians 6:18. 19

Broken Arrow Drive, Pow-wow Pass, Peacepipe place, Navajo Lane, Hopi Way, Maybe Manana St., Gone Fishing Rd., Warrior Rest, Zuni Court, Dusty Moccasin Trail - These are actual street names around our community. Perhaps these street names might give you a little idea of the culture in our area that we face every day in trying to present Christ to our neighbors. We are reminded that many of you dear folks pray for us and the ministry here in the Verde Valley of Arizona where God has place us and we are so very thankful for each of you! It is indeed difficult to minister to folks whose lives have been permeated with hundreds of years of idolatry, witchcraft, drugs, alcohol, and demonism. Yes, we are talking about the culture surrounding our community and the Native Americans who live in our area. Our hearts break on a regular basis to learn of the emptiness and disillusionment of people around us who are steeped in tradition and forsake the true God and loving Savior, Jesus Christ. Thank you for your prayers, and please continue to pray for wisdom and compassion as we work among these people.

## **CHURCH**

We continue to serve at Living Waters Baptist Church in Camp Verde. Mike has been teaching through the book of Colossians in the Adult Sunday School class. Sue has had opportunity to teach the children concerning the authenticity of the Scriptures. We also help to plan all the special music, and of course, participate in music each week. Mike also has had opportunity to preach in other churches from time to time for which we are thankful.

As for the building progress, the demolition of the adjoining modular building to the church (which had the black mold) took place last week! Praise the Lord! Also, our sons, Mike and Jeff took a week in February to come and help in construction of a pavilion on the church property, making it available for Sunday School space and potential social activities as well. There is still much to be done on it to make it useful with heating and cooling, etc., but praise the Lord for the progress. We would like to see a new building

to replace the modular that was just torn down, but as of now we need more funds to make that happen. Please <u>pray</u> for the Lord's guidance in all of this and how we can be used as well.

## CELEBRATION

We are praising the Lord for another addition to our family! Our first great-grandson, Daniel Josiah Lingle, was born about 3 weeks ago, giving us a total of 4 great-grandchildren. We are so thankful for these little ones who have been given to our grandchildren to teach them about the Lord Jesus. It is really hard to think of our "Little Mike" being a "Pop-Pop" now.

We are also excited to be preparing to attend our oldest granddaughter's wedding at the end of March. Praise the Lord for the way He has orchestrated this coming marriage and also for our plans to attend the wedding in South Carolina.

Because of preparing to attend this wedding, it will enable us to be in two of our supporting churches as well as participate in Family Week with World Wide New Testament Baptist Mission in April. We covet your <u>prayers</u> for this coming trip as we'll be gone for about 3 weeks. <u>Pray</u> for our church also during our absence.

## PRAYER

+ Please continue to <u>pray</u> for the Native Americans who have not been attending our church these past few months, due to situations on the reservation. The Native American culture truly has a stronghold on their lives, and we are praying that the Lord

will enable us to see them commit themselves wholly to the Lord. Also, please <u>pray</u> that we'll have wisdom to know how to reach them. We praise the Lord for allowing Mike to lead Lorenzo, a Native American, to Christ one Sunday after church when we went to eat lunch at a Wendy's restaurant. He seemed to be so ready to be saved!

- + Please continue to <u>pray</u> for us as we seek to know what God wants us to do in the future. He has been burdening our hearts more for the Native American people in our area, as well as the lost people all around us.
- + <u>Pray</u> for continued good health so we may serve Him better.

Thank you again for your faithfulness in remembering us in <u>prayer</u>, financial gifts and encouragement in the **WORK** of the ministry here in Arizona!



In His service,

Mike & Sue Smith

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