



July-Sept 2023

Dear Prayer Partners,

***"Therefore as ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also... And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work."* II Corinthians 8:7; 9:8**

We truly apologize that it has been 3 months since we last wrote a prayer letter! We have just been super busy in the work God has given us, and we appreciate each one of you and your prayers for us and the ministry where we serve. We are humbled by the fact that God's "grace abounds" toward us and allows us to serve and "abound to every good work!" Thank you for your faithful prayers and support for us and the work here in Arizona.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Lord has opened up new areas for both of us to teach and serve at Living Waters Baptist Church. Mike is now officially the church treasurer as well as adult Sunday School teacher. Sue has been teaching Children's church as well as Ladies' Bible studies, with an average of 10-14 ladies in attendance. These teaching ministries demand many hours of study, but it has been rewarding to see folks respond to the truth of God's Word. As Mike has been teaching through Colossians, he spent several weeks discipling folks on Christ-honoring music as opposed to worldly philosophies. He has also had several opportunities to preach when Pastor Paul has had other responsibilities, as well as filling in for a neighboring church without a pastor. So he's kept very busy.

As Sue has taught the children on Pilgrim's Progress/the Christian's Armour (Eph. 6) and lessons on the Wordless Book, we have seen the class grow. We started with few children, (one

week we had none), to now having 12-14 regular children coming!

REFLECTION

It continues to be a blessing to see piano students of Sue's serving the Lord in church. One of the girls, now 11 years old, is the "co-church pianist" with Sue. When Sue plays the "Organ" (electronic keyboard), Ruthanne plays piano. Other times they swap! Sue recently began teaching two more children from church. Praying these will all serve the Lord with their music!

REBIRTH

One little boy accepted Christ a few weeks ago, but comes from very difficult home and is constantly being taught Native American culture, some of which is demonic. Naomi, our pastor's wife, also led a young teen girl to Christ. Please pray for these Native American children who battle not only the teaching of public education, but also false teaching from cultural perspectives.

REJOICING

We have also seen another family coming regularly to services, plus a single lady, as well as more Native American children. Almost every week, we have visitors in our morning services, and we praise the Lord for the church growth. We also had a group of 9 youth attend a youth conference down in Phoenix! Recently, we have had a couple of church social events allowing our people to enjoy fellowship with one another. What a blessing these times have been and well-attended. We rejoice over the grace God has given!

REBUILDING

As you may remember, several months ago our church fellowship building with kitchen and additional Sunday School space was torn down due to excessive black mold. As our attendance is growing and especially the children's work grows, we are in need of more space -- another building. Recently the pastor and other men have been investigating various options to replace the building that we are missing. Please pray for wisdom for these men, as they look further into rebuilding much-needed facilities.

REPORT

Since Legacy Trade College is one of the missionaries supported by our church, we were able to go with another couple, Bob and Natalie Holmes, to visit the amazing miracle that God has done there in Marysvale, Utah. The school opened with just 2 students in August, so we were able to not only tour the facilities, but see the actual daily routine. Mike preached in chapel for the students and faculty. Bob and Natalie are not only our lifelong friends, but also have been our faithful co-workers here in Rimrock since we first came. They took us to a BNB in Utah a couple of hours from the school, so it was a lovely getaway, as well as encouragement to be able to report on this work of God's grace in establishing Legacy Trade College.

REQUESTS

Pray for continued growth and souls to be won at Living Waters Baptist Church.

Pray for wisdom as the church moves forward on acquiring an additional building.

Please pray for guidance for us in our future. Our support level is dropping, and we are seeking God's help to know how to raise more support. We ask for your prayers in this matter.

Pray for upcoming trip to Maryland to speak in a church to close out their month of mission emphasis. It is a great opportunity for us to minister.

Thank you for your continued prayers and faithfulness as we labor for Christ here in Arizona!

In His service,

Mike & 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