

December 2023



"And I shall put enmity between thee and the woman and between thy seed and her seed, it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Genesis 3:15

"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14

"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him."

How thankful we are for God's promise of a Messiah -- a Savior! Even from the time when Adam and Eve sinned, God had a plan to redeem mankind by sending a Savior, that we might still have everlasting life with Him! All through the Old Testament, we see the blood of Christ pictured though the blood sacrifices given in the Law. The patriarchs and saints, through faith in the coming sacrifice of the Messiah, had hope! What an amazing Christmas truth we have!

It is truly a privilege to serve the Lord together yet another year, here in Arizona, and tell others of this wonderful hope we have in Christ Jesus, our Savior. Praise Him for allowing us to be used for His glory!

It has been a busy couple of months here in the Verde Valley of Arizona, with ministry through Living Waters Baptist Church. In October/November, we had our first children's outreach on the Yavapai-Apache Reservation and saw several children attend and hear the Gospel. We have seen an increase in Native American children's ministry since then. We've had opportunity for Sue to teach Ladies' Bible Study and had 12-15 ladies in attendance, several Native Americans, too. It has been a blessing to see God working in the lives of a number of folks in our ministry.

While we normally update you on our ministry in our prayer letters, our Christmas letter is primarily to let folks know what has gone on this past year in the lives of our family.



Melody and Jim Bjur

Rebekah, Jeremy, Joshua, Debbie



Our daughter, Melody, and Jim continue to serve the Lord in Arica, Chile. It has been exciting to hear how God has continued to bless and grow their church

there, as they have seen several people saved in the last few months. Attendance has grown especially among their youth.

Their oldest daughter was married in March, and now lives with her husband in California. Jeremy and Daniella continue to serve the Lord at the Wilds Christian Camp in NC, and are anticipating becoming parents in March 2024! Melody and Jim are excited to become grandparents, too! Joshua lives in SC, and works as a flight attendant for Delta Airlines. Debbie, their youngest, is in her Freshman year at Bob Jones University, preparing for ministry.

Joy and Kent Ramler

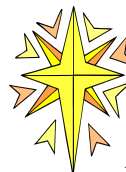
Ruth, Jonathan, Rose, David

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! They recently took a missions trip to Vietnam. A Vietnamese member of their church, has been very burdened for his people, so arranged for Kent and Joy to take this trip. Kent spoke multiple times in churches, both in the South and North. Joy also spoke to ladies groups, teens, and they both had opportunity to counsel several people. They are still in contact with some who often ask more questions about the Lord. Perhaps the greatest challenge in their family this past year was the passing of Kent's Dad, a long-time deacon and servant of the Lord at Marquette Manor Baptist Church in Chicago. Praise the Lord for his life and testimony. Their youngest, David, is in his 2nd year of Bible college, and has recently met a special young lady. Ruth and Justin live an hour away from Joy and Kent, and have seen the Lord working in their family as their girls have been telling classmates about Jesus! Jack and Lindsay live in Chicago, where Jack is a law student at Northwestern University. He had a surgery last summer that cleaned up scar tissue, etc., from previous colon surgery. But we would appreciate your prayers for him next week as he is undergoing still another surgery to reconnect the intestines. Praying for complete healing. Rose still lives in Chicago, and enjoys her job with an animal shelter.



Mike & Stephanie

Sarah, Rachel, Bethany, Drew, Katelyn



Mike and Stephanie have worked diligently to get Legacy Trade School up and running. There have been many new things to learn, hurdles to overcome, and many, many prayers have been answered! Praise the Lord for the first two students who came in August as

they opened the school, partnering with Maranatha Baptist University in academic subjects. They have been able to teach construction courses and welding this first year for the purpose of training young people in areas of ministry like Mike has done for the past 25+ years. We are so excited for this new ministry and would ask prayer for the school as they still have stringent requirements to meet for state approvals. They also are praying for more workers in the school. 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 is a blessing in so many ways in the ministry. Katelyn continues her studies in Special Ed at Maranatha Baptist University and Drew graduated from MBU in May and was married to Sarah Moore in June. They are serving in a church in Florida. Bethany and T.J. Lacock accepted the pastorate of a church in Delta, CO after T.J.'s graduation last May. They also welcomed Ember Leigh into their home just before moving. What a sweet baby girl she is! Sarah and Colton continue to serve in their church and Christian school in Brevard, NC and are enjoying Daniel Josiah, born in February. We are so excited to welcome these two new great-grandbabies into our family in 2023!

Jeff & Becky

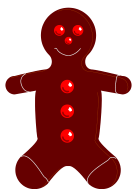
Jared, Joel, Jocelyn, Joanna, Jessica

Jeff and Becky continue to serve the Lord at their church in Colorado Springs, CO. Speaking of great-grandbabies, they, too are anticipating becoming grandparents. Their oldest son, Jared and, wife, Rose are expecting a boy in March! Joel and Savanah moved to Colorado Springs, as he is attending Seminary. Jocelyn lives and works in Greenville, SC in architectural design. Joanna now lives and works in Colorado Springs, and is very active in her church there. Jessica, their youngest, is a Sophomore in a Christian College in California studying architecture. We are just so thankful for each one who are pursuing serving the Lord.



Ed and Heather

Katie, Sophia, Tucker, Titus



Ed and Heather continue to live in Middletown. Ed continues his nursing career in Cincinnati, and Heather continues teaching Kindergarten at the Christian School where all their children attend. Katie graduated in June from high school and attends a Christian College pursuing a

nursing degree. God has been teaching her many things! Sophia is a junior in high school, and recently went on a missions trip with her Dad to Nicaragua, serving and learning new things. Tucker is growing up quickly, in 8th grade and Titus is in 2nd grade now. The family also decided to welcome exchange student this year into their home. He is from Spain. So they all have a very busy life!

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 are praying much for those in our family who still need to turn their lives over to Christ. 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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