



Jan-Feb 2024

Dear Prayer Partners,

“But I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more. My mouth shall show forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day; ...I will go in the strength of the Lord God.” Psalm 71:14-16

We have seen God show forth his righteousness and salvation throughout the past couple of months since our last letter. So much has happened in the work here in the Verde Valley of Arizona, and we truly “hope continually” in what God is doing and we “go” day by day “in the strength of the Lord God.” Thank you for your faithful prayers and support for us as we continue to serve however the Lord directs and with the **strength** He gives us! We are seeing exciting things happen at Living Waters Baptist Church as we move forward after the transitions we had in 2023.

PROGRAMS

December was extremely busy with Christmas programs, both with the children and also music with the adults! Because our daughter and family came to spend Christmas with us, we took advantage of their gifts to share with the people! Melody used her ventriloquist figure, Andy from Chile, to tell Christmas stories, etc. to both the children and adults. Their family also helped with some of the special music. We were also able to use them to have a first-time Spanish service, as Melody's husband, Jim, preached in an evening service and Melody translated. They also sang some in Spanish. Our one Spanish family who attends regularly invited others. We didn't have many Spanish folks, but it was a blessing to all.

PERSONAL

Besides our daughter and husband joining us for Christmas, their daughter came from college, daughter and husband from California joined us as

well as their son and daughter-in-law from the Wilds in NC were all here for a couple of weeks surrounding Christmas. Then the day before Christmas, Sue's nephew and family joined us for Christmas day! We certainly had a houseful, but we rejoiced in all God is doing in our family's lives. And once again, God gave **strength**!

PRIVILEGES

Since Mike recently became the church treasurer, he was asked to give the “first annual” financial report to the church family in January. It became a long process of reorganizing and updating the financial records from many years of the church's mission status. We are so grateful for the faithfulness of the previous pastor and his wife for all their work and care of the finances.

We also have had the privilege recently in dealing with Native Americans and their challenges.

Ida, a dear lady who has battled alcoholism for many years, and had been clean for the past year or more, went to her relatives over Christmas and sadly, went back to her old life-style of drinking. She called for help one night a few weeks ago, and we were glad she called! It has continued to be a difficult time for Ida, even after we visited, prayed and continue to keep in contact with her. Please pray she will allow Christ to rule once again in her life!

Drugs and alcohol are extreme problems for our Native Americans, and our hearts are very burdened for them. But we are so thankful for opportunities to minister to them.

Sue recently finished the series she was teaching in Ladies' Bible Study on the Christian's armour. Our last session together we had 16 ladies join us for Bible Study, and several were Native Americans! Praise the Lord for this opportunity.

Mike is on the last chapter of Colossians in his study with the Adult Sunday School. It has truly been a privilege to teach through this book!

PRAISE

God gave us a special blessing this past month that we never would have dreamed! A couple was referred to us by one of Sue's piano students who had a baby grand piano they were wanting to donate to our church. It is a Kawai baby grand, and is absolutely beautiful! Since our church is small, our platform did not extend the full width of the building. But God even had that all worked out. Each year a retired couple from Iowa has visited the church for the purpose of helping with building needs, repairs, etc. This year, the Beebouts came just before we were having the piano moved to our building. With the assistance of a couple of our men, they were able to extend the platform and even had enough of the same carpet to make it uniform! Just a few days later, we had the piano moved to our auditorium. What a delightful addition it has been to our services!

In addition to the remodeling of the platform, they also helped to install electricity in a small building behind our church building so we may use it for additional Sunday School space. And there were other things the Beebouts helped with while visiting our church. How thankful we are for these servants!

PRAYER

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.

We praise the Lord for the way He continues to take care of our financial needs and we thank you for praying about our support. God has sent some additional gifts through His people this past month, and we are so grateful! We ask for your continued prayers for our support.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and love 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