



April-June 2024

Dear Prayer Partners,

***“A man’s heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps.” Proverbs 16:9***

We have learned the truth of this verse many times in our ministry and the last few months have certainly been evident of this very truth. We make plans, but sometimes the Lord directs us in a different way. Our times are in His hands, and although we want to be more actively serving the Lord, attend special events, such as our Family Week with our mission agency, WWNTBM, the Lord brought physical difficulties which prevented us from attending the conference, and kept us from being as active as we wanted. In March, Sue seriously hurt her back, causing her to significantly slow down, and have many appointments and tests. While she is doing better than at first, there are still some limitations. Mike has had 2 minor surgeries, which also limited some activity. However, praise the Lord, we are both doing much better and able to resume many responsibilities. We are so thankful for the Lord’s presence through some difficult weeks.

### **REJOICING**

In March, it was indeed a joy and privilege to have Jeremy Lockhart, our General Director of World Wide visit us. What an encouragement he was to us, as he was able to see and experience the ministry God has given us here in the Verde Valley of Arizona. We are so thankful for his leadership and encouragement!

We had a special blessing on Mother’s Day to have Stephanie Smith and Rachel speak at our Ladies Brunch. A physical therapist who had cared for Rachel when they lived here several years ago came to the brunch. After talking with Stephanie and Rachel and our pastor’s wife, Naomi Sondergaard, at the brunch, Nancy expressed an interest in learning more of what Stephanie had been talking about. After our Sunday service, Stephanie and Naomi went to visit Nancy. It was evident that the Lord had prepared Nancy’s heart and she was ready to accept Christ! What a rejoicing took place that night! Praise the Lord!

That same weekend, Mike (our son) presented an update on the Legacy Trade College in Marysville, Utah. Since Mike is supported by Living Waters Baptist Church, our people were excited to hear of the progress and miraculous things God has done for the college. Since that weekend, LTC has gotten full approval from both the federal and state governments to proceed this year with college status. They are operating full speed ahead with preparations for officially opening the college August 26. For further information about LTC, check out their website at [legacytradecollege.org](http://legacytradecollege.org). They are accepting students for the Fall semester now.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

Mike continues to teach the Adult SS class. He finished the study on the book of Colossians, and now has had a series on the responsibilities of believers to the church and the church to the believers. It has been a wonderful means of teaching new folks what the Bible actually says to the church.

Pastor Paul and Naomi were gone for two weeks at the beginning of June, so Mike preached all the services for Sundays and Wednesdays. It was a joy to be available to do that, but also revealed our lack of strength in doing all we did during that time. But it is so wonderful to know and experience that God gives more grace and strength at specific times of need!

Sue continues teaching Children's Church and has been using the life of Moses to teach Biblical principles.

We also continue to arrange special music for each service, and help in any area of ministry needed.

### PRIVILEGES

The week after the Pastor's family returned, we were privileged to attend the Annual FBFI (Foundational Baptist Fellowship, Inc.) in Denver. What a blessing! It has been many years since we attended anything like this, so since we missed our mission Family Week in April due to health concerns, the Lord opened this conference to us. It was an extra blessing to go because we were able to spend some time with three of our five children who also attended some or all of the conference. Then we were able to spend a few days with our son and family in Colorado Springs area. Although Sue got sick during that time, it was so nice to just rest and get well. Jeff and Becky were so gracious in their care for us! God is SOOO good to allow these special privileges!

### PRAISE

We are just finishing a 5-day conference here at Living Waters Baptist Church! It's the first conference of this type ever here. We have had several people attend from our "sister church" in Cottonwood, as well as visitors from around the community. A good number of our church people have also attended several services. We've had

meetings and workshops each day, with evening services and wonderful music also. What a blessing to have had this time with the Visser family, learning about building and maintaining relationships according to God's Word!

### PRAYER

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

Continue to pray for wisdom as the church moves forward on acquiring an additional building.

We are so humbled for the way God continues to take care of our financial needs. Thank you for praying about our support. God has sent some unexpected gifts through His people again 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 serve Christ here in Arizona! We appreciate your partnering with us in reaching the people here in the Verde Valley of Arizona!

In His service,

*Mike & Sue Smith*

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Sending church: Living Waters Baptist Church  
Camp Verde, Arizona



***"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**